Book reviews

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Orthopaedic knowledge update: musculoskeletal tumours

Edited by H. S. Schwartz

Pp. 440. Illinois: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, 2007.

ISBN: 978-0-89203-408-63. £93.50.

This book has been co-written by 60 authors and is an up-to-date text covering both the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal tumours from a North American perspective. It has been produced by the AAOS in conjunction with the North American MSTs with a view to being the authoritative text for the final boards examination, but it goes well beyond this brief and provides a reliable source.

The book starts with a section on basic principles before dealing with benign and then malignant bone tumours, and does the same for soft-tissue tumours. It also deals with normal variants and pseudotumours, emphasising their presenting features and aspects of management. The final section deals with the management of metastatic disease to bone.

There is an admirable consistency throughout the book with few contradictions which can sometimes occur in multi-authored texts. Each section contains both annotated and classical references which are comprehensive, albeit predominantly North American. The illustrations are crisp and relevant but the CD, inside the back cover, seems a little superfluous, merely containing a few extra images and a short video of someone doing a soft-tissue biopsy. Some of the old chestnuts both in diagnosis and treatment are properly affirmed, for example the differentiation of large enchondromas from low-grade chondrosarcoma, and whether to use an allograft or prosthesis following resection of bone tumours. This book is a welcome addition to the currently rather sparse collection of texts on musculoskeletal oncology and will be welcomed by trainees and tumour fellows alike.

R. Grimer

Surgical techniques of the shoulder, elbow, and knee in sports medicine

Edited by B. J. Cole and J. K. Sekiya

Pp. 789. Philadelphia: Saunders, Elsevier, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-4160-3447-6.

£155.00.

This beautifully illustrated book and accompanying DVD is divided into three sections: the shoulder, the elbow and the knee. The shoulder section is introduced by two chapters on patient positioning, arthroscopic portal placement, normal arthroscopic anatomy and

diagnostic arthroscopy. This is followed by knot tying and suture-passing techniques. Many of the 28 chapters cover arthroscopic techniques but some describe open procedures. The chapters vary in quality; some are excellent, others are incomplete. For example, the only operation described for winging of the scapula is transfer of the sternal head of the pectoralis major muscle whereas a variety of other operations have been described including teres major transfer.

The section on the elbow also starts with a chapter on patient positioning and portal placement. The remaining chapters are devoted to surgical techniques, the majority being arthroscopic. Although there is a chapter devoted to distal biceps repair and a further chapter (in the shoulder section) on management of pectoralis major muscle injuries, triceps injuries were not included although they do occur in athletes.

The third section addresses the knee. The first chapter is on patient positioning, portal placement and normal arthroscopic anatomy. The remaining chapters are devoted to invasive techniques. The emphasis of the chapter on distal re-alignment for patellofemoral disease is on tibial tuberosity transposition although it is acknowledged that a patellofemoral problem is rarely resolved by a single surgical procedure. Tibial tuberosity repositioning should be examined with an appreciation of proximal soft-tissue balance, limb rotation and articular cartilage disease. It is curious that the only operation described is anteromedialisation of the tibial tuberosity.

The operations are well described and illustrated but the question arises as to whom the book is aimed. In their preface the authors note that "while the term 'Sports Medicine' has a broad reaching connotation, the vast majority of the surgical armamentarium required of the orthopaedic surgeon who practises sports medicine involves arthroscopy of the shoulder, elbow and knee." The majority of surgeons who carry out these procedures are likely to be either shoulder and elbow specialists or knee surgeons. It is unlikely that this book will appeal to either because of the combination of the two. The general orthopaedic surgeon, who does not specialise in knee or shoulder and elbow surgery, and who requires an operative textbook covering his or her more generalised practice, will probably be better served by a more general operative text.

C. Galasko

Master techniques in orthopaedic surgery

Edited by V. T. Tolo and D. L. Skaggs

Pp. 512. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-7817-9124-3. \$235.00.

Paediatric orthopaedics as a specialty is a rather small constituency (*vide infra*) with a limited, some would say austere, textbook literature. For this reason any new material is stimulating. This volume comprises one of the set entitled 'Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery'. The main editors span two generations and are prodigious contributors in their own right. The individual

chapter editors are well respected North American surgeons and this majestic book is very North American.

The section on trauma is presented impeccably with crafted illustrations that do more than illustrate. At last, there is a definitive account of the greater trochanteric entry point for an intramedullary nail. This is a master technique and describes exactly what is expected. On completion of the section there is, however, a strange sense of disorientation and confusion; for whom is it written and at whom is the book targeted?

The expert in Europe and the United Kingdom is familiar with elastic stable intramedullary nailing and may point out that end-caps may obviate the necessity for submuscular plating. The enquiring generalists would probably seek advice on the Monteggia fracture rather than encounter an admittedly comprehensive lesson on radial neck fractures, which probably does not merit a 'masterclass'; and what about triplane ankle fractures? There is a notable absence of a section on obstetric brachial plexus palsy, which would be an ideal subject.

The section on cerebral palsy is for the informed, not for the novice, while the hip section is unimpeachable, although the choice of the shelf arthroplasty technique may raise some eyebrows. The foot section is comprehensive but in a master technique volume I would expect help with Ponseti casting in congenital vertical talus and arthrogryposis.

Although the editors have attempted a similar template for each section 'making it easier for readers to quickly find the section that they are looking for', there are in some sections long, rather unpalatable tranches of text which exceed those in the standard textbooks. The next two sections feature the knee and the spine. There are 150 pages (a third of the book) devoted to advanced techniques in scoliosis. Historically of course children's orthopaedics embraces the paediatric spine in North America and some of Europe but not in the United Kingdom. The section is frankly breathtaking in its clarity but it will not inform many paediatric orthopaedic surgeons who are not engaged in the full North American spectrum. It is this point which is difficult to address when the target audience is considered.

Paediatric orthopaedics is at a crossroads as far as the preservation of the specialty is concerned. I can envisage paediatric spinal surgeons looting the spinal chapters. When I read the knee section, I was even more cynical. These are chapters which will certainly enthuse adult knee surgeons, with matters such as anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction and discoid meniscal stabilisation. Can we really expect even master paediatric orthopaedic surgeons to be experts across the breadth of field? I suspect not, but they

should all read the most seminal account of congenital dislocation of the knee and reflect on the diversity of the specialty. In short there is something for everyone. The paediatric orthopaedic expert will need this tome and so will his fellow.

N. M. P. Clarke

A-Z of musculoskeletal and trauma radiology

Edited by J. R. D. Murray, E. J. Holmes and R. R. Misra

Pp. 344. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008. ISBN:978-0-521-70013-9. £40.00.

The authors, a radiologist, an orthopaedic surgeon and an A & E consultant, offer this book as a "useful aid to medical students, radiographers, radiology trainees, surgeons in training and general and emergency physicians seeking to increase their knowledge of musculoskeletal trauma imaging". The book's 344 well-illustrated pages succeed in the aim.

The text is concise. There are 360 pictures, mainly radiographs, but also scans and line diagrams. In a book addressed to such a wide readership its contents must be limited to a broad overview of its various topics. The authors achieve this, but also provide some insight into the perspectives and approach of their specialties. It does this by looking at each condition under the four headings of 'Characteristics, Clinical features, Radiology, and Management'. A good example of bringing together the three specialties is the nine-page section on cervical spine injury.

The book is divided into two main sections, the first on musculoskeletal radiology and the second on trauma; the latter is subdivided into general trauma, spine, upper limb and lower limb. The problem with the A-Z format, as distinct from the more frequently used topographical layout, is that the narrative becomes disjointed. For example information on the flail chest and haemothorax is separated from that on pneumothorax and rib fracture by other topics according to their initials. Similarly, radial shaft fractures are separated from ulnar shaft fractures by wrist, scapular and shoulder injuries.

I would give this book to trainees in radiology in order to encourage them to take an interest in trauma and orthopaedics. As a ready reference guide it deserves a place in the library or rest room of the radiology, A & E and orthopaedic departments.

J. Challis