

tomy, pelvic lymphadenectomy and adrenalectomy; stomach — 6 chapters on gastrectomy, gastroenterostomy, vagotomy, peptic ulcer complications, gastroesophageal reflux surgery and access for enteral feeding; colon and small bowel — 7 chapters on colon resection, anterior resection, endoluminal rectal surgery, ileostomy and colostomy, small-bowel resection and appendectomy; hernia — 4 chapters on intraperitoneal, retroperitoneal and extraperitoneal approaches of inguinal hernia and repair of ventral hernia. These sections are followed by a section on thoracoscopy, which contains 6 chapters on exploratory thoracoscopy, dorsal sympathectomy, lung resection, esophageal surgery, pericardiectomy and cardiomyotomy for achalasia. The final single-chapter section on future technology focuses on future directions in robotics, virtual reality and remote surgery.

The editors claim that this book contains the latest clinical procedures and will aid the beginning as well as the most experienced laparoscopist. The book is written by many of the leading experts and pioneers with extensive experience in this field. The chapters are fairly uniform in quality; and the drawings and colour photographs are generally excellent. As such, this book of operative laparoscopy and thoracoscopy will be a useful addition to the established literature on the subject.

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REVIEW FOR SURGERY: SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. 2nd edition. Edited by Lazar G. Greenfield, Michael W. Mulholland, Keith D. Lillemoe, Keith T. Oldham and Gerald

B. Zelenock. 515 pp. Illust. Lippincott-Raven, Philadelphia. 1997. US\$39.95. ISBN 0-397-51582-0

The *Review for Surgery* is a question and answer-style manual, designed to accompany the second edition of the text *Surgery: Scientific Principles and Practice*. It should be noted, however, that this review book can also stand alone as a source of information and as a study guide. It is designed to be a self-assessment and education tool for surgeons at all levels of training and practice. Both the resident-in-training preparing for qualifying examinations and the established practising surgeon taking recertification board examinations are the intended readers.

The book is divided into 114 topics, dealing with basic issues such as inflammation, wound healing, gene therapy and tumour biology, as well as clinical topics such as gastric neoplasms, thyroid disease, pancreatitis and colon cancer.

The categories cover all areas of general surgery, including pertinent aspects of other specialties (e.g., pediatric, vascular, orthopedic and gynecologic surgery). For each section a selection of multiple-choice questions, their answers and a brief explanation of each response are included. The answers are cross-referenced to the chapter in the main surgical text.

The style is concise yet thorough and covers a broad range of important areas. Its content is factual, accurate and up to date. The presentation is enhanced by the addition of diagrams, graphs and tables, although these are infrequent. Minor problems include the omission of a few topics I would consider important, such as pharmacology, ethics and clinical epidemiology. A helpful addition would be additional references, either accompanying each question or as a list at the end of each section.

For those who prefer it, the text has also been placed on computer, and the diskette is included with the printed textbook on purchase. This allows you to read and answer your questions on screen in a study mode or a test mode. If you prefer interacting with a computer screen instead of a book, this may be a welcome adjunct, although a technical problem with this caused me some minor frustration. It was impossible to enlarge the working window such that the whole question could fit on the screen at any one time. This necessitated frequent movement of the cursor, which became quite irritating.

In summary this is an excellent, comprehensive review program and a helpful tool for the surgeon who wishes to study for examination or update his or her knowledge base.

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THE STANFORD MANUAL OF CARDIOPULMONARY TRANSPLANTATION. Edited by Julian A. Smith, Patrick M. McCarthy, George E. Saris, Edward B. Stinson and Bruce A. Reitz. 306 pp. Illust. Futura Publishing Company Inc., Armonk, NY. 1996. US\$65. ISBN 0-87993-637-1

This is the first edition of a multi-authored book from one of the leading centres in thoracic organ transplantation. The editors have achieved their stated goal: to present the surgical and medical management strategies in patients who undergo thoracic organ transplantation in a clear, precise and easily retrievable format. "The target audience is not only physicians and nurses working in a

cardiopulmonary transplant unit, but also medical students, house staff, other physicians, and paramedical personnel who may occasionally deal with thoracic organ transplant patients.”

The book is divided into 12 chapters with 2 major sections. The first section deals with cardiac transplantation. In concise, easily read text, all major aspects of cardiac transplantation are outlined: recipient evaluation and selection; cardiac donor evaluation and retrieval techniques; mechanical circulatory support in the bridge-to-transplant patient; routine postoperative care; and early and late postoperative problems and their management. Immunosuppression and rejection are covered in adequate detail in a separate chapter.

In the second section, heart-lung and lung transplantation are covered together. Evaluation and selection of recipients and donors for these procedures are outlined. The reader should be cautioned that considerable interinstitutional variability exists in choosing the most appropriate procedure. Recipient respiratory-tract colonization with a pan-resistant organism does not necessarily constitute an *absolute* contraindication for lung transplantation in other institutions. Furthermore, with the current shortage of donor organs, other programs routinely utilize donor lungs with a PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio less than 400 with good results. The next chapter outlines the preoperative evaluation, anesthetic management and operative technique of heart-lung transplantation, which is beautifully illustrated. Details of single-lung and bilateral sequential lung transplantation are sparse. Routine postoperative care along with early and late postoperative complications and their management are covered in adequate detail. Results of heart-lung and lung transplantation and future directions in cardiopulmonary transplantation are covered in the final chapter.

This manual is well written and informative. The world-renowned experience of the Stanford University School of Medicine in thoracic organ transplantation justifies the bias of presenting a single institution's viewpoint. This book would be a valuable addition to the library of any surgeon or surgeon-in-training involved in thoracic organ transplantation.

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SURGERY OF THE CHEST. Volume I and Volume II. 6th edition. David C. Sabiston, Jr. and Frank C. Spencer. 2174 pp Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; W.B. Saunders Canada, Toronto. 1996. \$428 (2-vol. set). ISBN (vol. 1) 0-7216-5757-5; (vol. 2) 0-7216-5758-3; (2-vol set) 0-7216-5271-9

This classic cardiothoracic surgery textbook was last updated in 1990. The significant advances made in both fields are well represented in this 2-volume, 2174-page sixth edition.

The first volume is devoted to thoracic surgery, and the second covers cardiac topics. The first few hundred pages are apportioned to introductory physiology and perioperative care issues, which are reviewed in accurate detail but which leave less room for the essentials of general thoracic surgery and cardiac surgery. Nevertheless, the chapter on mechanical ventilation and tracheostomy is incomplete and out of date. For example there is no detailed discussion of mechanical ventilation,

and tracheotomy is recommended after 24 or 48 hours of endotracheal intubation. Although there is some movement toward earlier tracheostomy, this recommendation is clearly dated. The chapters on lung cancer and coronary artery revascularization are, of necessity, brief, as an attempt is made to cover the wide range of both disciplines as comprehensively as possible. Adequate attention is paid to pediatric issues, particularly congenital heart disease, but some of the more recent controversial innovations, such as surgical management of diffuse emphysema and minimally invasive cardiac procedures, are not discussed. Individual chapters are well written, and there are some interesting components, such as the engaging chapter on computer applications in cardiothoracic surgery. The book contains hundreds of useful photographs and diagrams, and the section on thoroscopic surgery is particularly well illustrated (although there is no mention of laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication).

Overall, this is a comprehensive book, covering the breadth of cardiothoracic surgery, although its key subjects are less detailed than one would expect. With the shift in Canada to separate the two specialties, Canadian trainees and surgeons may find it more practical to purchase a book dedicated to their respective specialty. Nonetheless, this book has stood the test of time and remains a valuable reference guide when information is sought on a topic in either discipline.

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