

Book Reviews

Critiques de livres

ATLAS OF ADULT FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY.

Lowell D. Lutter. 342 pp. Illust. Mosby-Year Book, Inc., St. Louis. 1997. Can\$211. ISBN 0-8016-6280-X

Overall rating: Excellent

Strengths: A well-written and well-illustrated atlas that reduces the broad field of foot and ankle surgery to easily understood procedures

Weaknesses: Too simplified for the foot and ankle subspecialist

Audience: Residents, general orthopedic surgeons and aspiring foot and ankle surgeons

This text is inclusive in covering most of the commonly seen problems in foot and ankle surgery. The language is clear, concise and complemented by beautifully detailed illustrations.

The book is divided into several sections. The initial section, chapters 1 to 3, is devoted to general considerations. These include a description of the standard surgical instruments for the foot and ankle surgeon, appropriate skin incisions for the foot and bone grafting techniques.

The second section, chapters 4 to 13, deals with reconstruction problems. Included are chapters on the forefoot and hallux deformities, lesser toe deformities and arthrodeses in the hindfoot. Later chapters deal with tarsal coalition, posterior tibial dysfunction and Achilles' tendon problems.

The last section covers trauma of the foot. Once again this section is well planned and divided into chapters dealing with forefoot, mid-foot and hindfoot trauma. Also in this section are chapters dealing with chronic ligamentous instability of the ankle, peroneal tendon subluxation and ankle arthroscopy. The final chapter describes disorders of the toenails.

In my practice I see a broad range

of foot and ankle problems. Within the community of foot and ankle surgeons there are wide-ranging opinions regarding procedures of the foot. This book presents a well-balanced approach. Lutter gives several surgical options for common problems such as hallux valgus without presenting the 150 procedures described for bunion surgery. He does not attempt to justify why one procedure is more valuable than another or why one opinion is correct. He presents the options and the surgical techniques and allows the reader to proceed at his own discretion. Each operation described is accompanied by a visual presentation of the procedure.

I highly recommend this book to all general orthopedic surgeons and all residents-in-training for a broad, well-balanced perspective on foot and ankle surgery.

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HANDBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY. SECTION 13: COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY. Volumes I and II. Edited by William H. Dantzer. 1824 pp. Illust. Published for the American Physiological Society by Oxford University Press Inc., New York. Oxford University Press Canada, Toronto. 1997. Can\$421.95 (2 volumes). ISBN 0-19-507419-X (2 volumes)

Overall rating: Excellent

Strengths: Authoritative and up-to-date reference book on comparative physiology, covering organ systems of interest to surgeons of all specialties

Weaknesses: Relevance to clinical surgery is indirect

Audience: Surgical scientists, departmental and medical school libraries

These two volumes represent Section 13 of the updated *Handbook of Physiology* series published for the American Physiological Society. This massive series of books represents a critical, comprehensive presentation of physiological knowledge and concepts and has for years served as an authoritative reference source in physiology. The authors chosen to write various chapters are leaders in their field, and this is reflected in the quality of their presentations. The books contain well-drawn figures, and the lists of references are extensive. For example, the chapter on vertebrate locomotion, which is of potential interest to orthopedic surgeons and rehabilitation specialists, contains 2219 references.

This is not a book for a surgeon to look up answers to a clinical problem so that it can be quickly applied to the next patient. However, for a more profound understanding of the pathophysiology of the problem, he or she may wish to turn to this book. In the chapter on the vertebrate gastrointestinal system can be found such topics as "Matching pulsatile patterns of food intake to continuous-flow digestive system" (think of continuous versus intermittent tube feeding); "Microbial habitats in the gut" across species; and "Mechanisms of dietary modulation." The phylogenetic development often represents nature's experiments, and an understanding of the biologic evolution of the organ system you deal with daily can significantly deepen your understanding of its normal and abnormal functions.

This book is of particular interest to