

Book review

Foot and ankle in rheumatoid arthritis

Bouysset M, Tourné Y, Tillman K (eds), 246 pages, Springer 2006
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Correct surgical treatment of the arthritic foot is a prerequisite to obtaining optimal walking capacity, especially after hip and/or knee replacement in the rheumatoid patient. The title of this book therefore arouses interest. However, one's initial enthusiasm vanishes rapidly after starting to read it. The text is unstructured. Different authors present their theories on the pathogenesis of foot deformities with a great deal of repetition. There are numerous spelling errors and the translation from French is sometimes totally incomprehensible. Here are some examples: "the midhinfoot", "the lower ankle joint", "stabilization of the metatarsal head alignment-resection".

The radiographs and CT images are of low—sometimes ridiculously low—quality, most of them being impossible to analyze.

In the chapter on corticosteroid injections, much is written about the dangers. The chance that a doctor will see a patient with septic arthritis due to an intraarticular steroid injection is, however, very low (the authors themselves state that the frequency is about 1 in 30,000!). The sentence "anaphylactic shock is very rare but extremely serious" is accompanied by 4 references! The reference list in this chapter has 35 entries, the oldest one being from 1951. It is followed by 9 additional modern (but unnumbered) references not referred

to in the text. Probably this is an old chapter that has been refreshed only by the addition of some new references. The same system with additional unnumbered and un-referred-to references is found in other chapters also.

In the chapter on hindfoot surgery, all the figure legends are missing. The chapter on forefoot surgery is one of the shortest, which is a pity, as forefoot surgery is the most frequent procedure in RA feet. Also in this chapter, all the figure legends are missing and one figure is shown twice.

The end of this opus is abrupt. There is no index. Probably the task of indexing this text would have been unconceivable.

It is a great shame that an old and famous publisher like Springer lacks control of proofreading and language editing, and has allowed a publication with such severe deficiencies to reach the market. For the orthopedic surgeon looking for information on the rheumatoid foot, there are several better alternatives on the market. No one can be recommended to spend any money on this book.

Urban Rydholm

*Department of Orthopedics, Lund University
Hospital, SE-221 85 Lund, Sweden
urban.rydholm@ort.lu.se*