

## Book reviews

### Operative arthroscopy

John B. McGinty, 995 pages, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 2003  
ISBN 0-7817-3265-4

This is the third edition of McGinty's text originally published in 1991. Since then this book has become the 'bible' for all orthopaedic surgeons who are interested in arthroscopic surgery. It is also the main reference in operative arthroscopy for residents and medical students. To those familiar with the second edition, the division of the opening sections has been completely revised and is clearly subdivided into history and development, basic science and arthroscopic anatomy. The text of the chief sections has been considerably revised, while the section on arthroscopy of the temporomandibular joint has been deleted.

The goal of the third edition of 'operative arthroscopy' is to provide a satisfactory and thorough reference for operative arthroscopy during the next 5 years. The first sections form an introduction to the basic principles of arthroscopy. Section one surveys the history of arthroscopy, anesthesia and arthroscopic instrumentation. The topics discussed in section two include the function of diarthrodial joints, cartilage repair and joint proprioception. In this section, the quality of the illustrations varies and is poorer than in the rest of the book. Section three 'arthroscopic anatomy' reviews the anatomy, but unfortunately the chapters on the shoulder, elbow and wrist lack illustrations with arthroscopic views.

The main sections of the book describe in minute detail procedures for repairing disorders of the knee (14 chapters), shoulder (17 chapters), elbow (6 chapters), wrist (8 chapters), hip (5 chapters), foot and ankle (6 chapters), and spine (1 chapter).

Each chapter is generously illustrated to show relevant anatomy and step-by-step procedures.

Apart from state-of-the-art techniques, the latest data are given concerning meniscal repair, arthroscopic knot tying, adhesive capsulitis, shoulder and hip surgery in athletes, arthroscopic radial head resection, arthroscopic arthrolysis and subtalar arthroscopy.

The various chapters are relevant and easy to consult. Most of the references in each chapter have been updated to give the latest ones, but they have been published almost solely in American journals. This may be because only 4 of the 105 contributors are from outside USA/Canada.

Finally, the index is very complete and accurate.

This third edition is a necessary update in a field that is thriving and changing very quickly.

In summary, apart from some minor comments, the third edition of the book has been brought up to date and improved. It is systematic, comprehensive and well written. The strongest points are the organization, the straightforward explanations, the drawings and arthroscopic illustrations of very recently developed techniques.

This book should serve as a cornerstone for every surgeon who practices arthroscopy.

#### **Denise Eygendaal**

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## Shoulder arthroscopy

Stephen Snyder, 350 pages, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia 2002  
ISBN 0-7817-3501-7

This book is really different. It is educational, personal and very hands-on. It is also commercial, biased and unscientific. However, I really enjoyed reading it!

The author is very well known for his work in shoulder arthroscopy. He is very generous with his experience and presents it in a very didactic way. He describes various procedures, how they should and should not be done. All procedures are clearly shown with good use of text, drawings and arthroscopic photos. This combination of drawings and photographs is really necessary, because some photos of the latter can be difficult to interpret. His preferred methods are well presented. He writes not only about the function of various tools but also gives each product's name and manufacturer.

A beginner will find much advice about how to perform arthroscopy of the shoulder, as also will a trained shoulder arthroscopist on how to solve tricky aspects of different procedures.

This book presents the author's way of dealing with different pathological conditions of the shoulder. Even if this way is excellent, it would have been nice to be able to compare it to other solutions. There is no discussion about why these procedures should be done or whether there are other

ways of dealing with the patient's problem. The scientific basis for these procedures is only briefly given—many chapters have no references.

This is a book on arthroscopic surgery and it is perhaps only natural that open techniques are deprecated and pictures of unsightly scars after open procedures are shown as a terrible warning?

It seems obvious that the author has an affiliation with at least one company selling surgical tools. The name of this company is given every time a specific instrument is mentioned.

Snyder's book on arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder is elegant and very nicely demonstrates his superior manual skills, while also giving the reader much helpful advice. If you want to know how to perform arthroscopic surgery and the tricks of the trade, this book really presents them. On the other hand, if you would like to know why you should perform arthroscopic surgery, perhaps another, more traditional textbook will suit you better.

### **Rolf Norlin**

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