

Book reviews

ACL made simple

Don Johnson, 213 pages, Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany 2004
ISBN 0-387-40146-6

For anyone engaged in sports medicine in general, and knee injuries with ACL ruptures in particular, a single book with a wide coverage of this topic is of great interest. This is such a book. Richly illustrated, it is an overview of the “total concept” of managing patients with ACL injuries and associated injuries, with emphasis on ACL reconstruction.

A short history of ACL reconstructive surgery is given, followed by brief views of anatomy and biomechanics of the ligament. The natural history of ACL injury is recapitulated, and mechanisms of injury and individual variations according to anatomical constitution are discussed. Further on, diagnostic tools as well as treatment options are thoroughly described, considering different patient factors.

When it comes to graft selection, different choices of grafts with pros and cons for each are discussed, including biomechanical properties. The methods of graft harvesting and graft fixation are illustrated with many examples, and surgical approaches and techniques are shown in several images. Treatment of associated injuries such as suturing a torn meniscus is also covered.

Finally, the important topic of postoperative rehabilitation is described, followed by a chapter on complications, with examples and suggestions for solution and prevention. An instructional, easily browsed CD with full motion video clips is included.

The book is clearly written with good and logical organization. The figures are mostly excellent, and the author appears to be well updated in this area of research. It may not be possible to completely cover a field such as “ACL injuries” in one book, and this is probably not the intention of the author. However, the clinically most relevant situations are well represented and my belief is that anyone dealing with these patients will have something to gain from reading this book, either from a learning point of view or from the discussion aspect, regardless of their previous experience or surgical skills.

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Master techniques in orthopaedic surgery—the shoulder, 2nd edition

Ed. Edward V Craig, 720 pages, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 2004

ISBN 0-7817-3590-4

Excellent presentation of basic knowledge and techniques

This book is really what the title states—a didactic presentation of well established techniques, based on both experience and research. Almost all problems, both less frequent and common, are presented—with surgical solutions to go with them.

In 200 pages, the book shows arthroscopic ways of dealing with subacromial problems and instability. In the 400 pages that follow, open techniques for all common shoulder problems are described. Each chapter is followed by about a dozen references covering the topic. The list of contributors includes 55 well-known authors and here the editor has chosen to include 7 European contributors!

Each procedure is presented graphically with a full description. The authors combine drawings and photographs (both open and arthroscopic) in a very useful way. Thus, every part of each procedure is very well illustrated, from draping to closure. This way of presenting the procedures is the best reason for buying the book.

For every problem, preoperative assessment including indications, contraindications, clinical evaluation, preoperative planning, and also post-operative management and complications are presented.

Some details are surprising and reflect perhaps a somewhat old-fashioned way of thinking. Open Bankart repair is presented showing the use of osteosutures, whereas anchors are widely used today. When anchors are discussed, bioabsorbable anchors are shown arthroscopically but metal

anchors are used during open procedures. Since absorbable devices slowly disappear, these are always preferable.

When arthroplasty is discussed, old designs such as the Neer prosthesis are usually shown. It would be better to discuss modern, modular designs for both elective cases and for acute fractures. However, surface replacement is well presented, thanks to Stephen Copeland of course.

There are a few topics missing which could be included in the next edition. A not uncommon reason for failure following anterior stabilization is bone deficiency of the glenoid. The Latarjet procedure should therefore be included. In unreparable cuff tear, muscle transfers are becoming used more frequently. Latissimus dorsi transfer is described, but the pectoralis major transfer should also be included. Various ways of performing osteosynthesis should be discussed. Pinning, not only plating, of clavicular nonunions should be included. The stable plate and screw constructs, such as AO LCP design, should also be discussed.

Despite these few shortcomings, I think this book is very worthwhile reading—both for the beginner and the more experienced shoulder surgeon. It has something to offer everyone. I recommend that you should buy it.

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