

Book review

The elbow. Master techniques in orthopaedic surgery

Bernard F. Morrey, 464 pages, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia 2002

ISBN 0-7817-1991-7

The first volume in this series Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery was published in 1994 and this is the second edition. The editor, Bernard F. Morrey, and his colleagues at the Mayo Clinic are well known to every orthopaedic surgeon dealing with the elbow and therefore this book should be of great interest to these surgeons. It is designed to share special personal experiences of "master orthopaedic surgeons" in the field of elbow surgery.

Bernard F. Morrey has succeeded in editing a very stimulating book which focuses on various problems of the elbow. The format is user-friendly with 23 chapters written by 20 authors, 15 from North America and 5 from Europe. It is educational in an American style with very detailed descriptions illustrated with an almost bewildering number of drawings and pictures. The efforts to produce these high-quality drawings and pictures is obvious. The headings and their arrangement in four parts is somewhat confusing, but the index at the end of the book facilitates the finding of data. There are no traditional reference lists, but at the end of every chapter you can find recommended readings.

A book on the elbow is supposed to start with developmental anatomy or biomechanics, but the special character of this book is made clear as early as in the first chapter which deals with "Limited and Extensile Triceps Reflecting and Exposures of the Elbow". For many orthopaedic surgeons, the dorsal Bryan/Morrey incision has become a very useful approach to the elbow and this incision and its relation to the lateral Kocher and the medial Hotchkiss incisions is described in detail.

Although one part of the book has the heading "Trauma" and another "Soft tissue injury", we detect no intention of the editor to cover these topics completely. However, a lot of hints are given about ways to treat problems with relatively

common injuries and whole chapters are devoted to discussing less common aspects, such as how to use an articulated external fixator. Unusual subjects such as the treatment of ulnar collateral ligament injuries in athletes and surgical reconstruction of the lateral collateral ligament are thoroughly examined. Injuries of the elbow frequently occur in children but in this book they are dealt with only briefly in a description of percutaneous pinning of supracondylar fractures.

There are many procedures for the management of a damaged elbow, depending on the diagnosis, age, activity level of the patient as well as the condition of the bone and ligaments and this is covered in 131 pages. Although many elbow prostheses are dealt with in this book, the unconstrained prosthesis of Souter and of Kudo are described as well as primary arthroplasty and revision arthroplasty with the semiconstrained Coonrad-Morrey prosthesis. Morrey's description of his debridement procedure, called ulnohumeral arthroplasty for the degenerative elbow, is very interesting. The Mayo experience with capsular release for flexion contracture and the interposition arthroplasty for young patients is also very informative. To read about an exclusive subject, such as the anconeus arthroplasty for radiohumeral and radioulnar impingement, is stimulating.

This is not a textbook dealing with elbow injuries and problems of general character, it is intended for the very specialized elbow surgeon, with a focus on particular problems and new techniques. The numerous high quality drawings and pictures is impressive and, as said in the introduction, this is an invitation to peer over the shoulder of the surgeon at work.

Per Olof Josefsson

Department of Orthopedics, Malmö University Hospital, SE-205 02 Malmö, Sweden