

## Book reviews

### *Lovell and Winter's pediatric orthopaedics, 4th edition*

Raymond T Morrissy and Stuart L Weinstein (editors), 2 vol, 1488 pages, Lippincott-Raven Publishers, Philadelphia 1996  
ISBN 0-397-51397-6

The first edition of this textbook was published in 1978 and it has become a classic in pediatric orthopedics. The third edition came in 1990 and it is impressive that the tremendous task of a revision has already been carried out. In the introduction, the editors state that the latest advances necessitated this new edition and they are to be commended for their efforts. A substantial amount of basic and clinical information from many references after 1990 has been incorporated. The numerous articles included in the reference lists—more than 400 in some of the chapters—provide a valuable source for those who wish to go into further detail.

This is a comprehensive multi-authored account covering all aspects of pediatric orthopedics. As in the previous editions, the authors have focused on the decision-making process as a basis for selecting the optimal management of the numerous orthopedic disorders seen in clinical practice. With more than 1400 pages, the information is overwhelming, if one reads the text continuously; it is more rational to study the various sections in connection with daily clinical work. All the chapters have been revised and updated, in most cases by the authors from the previous edition, but 16 new authors have made valuable contributions. They are all from USA and this naturally is reflected in the text as well as the references, but the recommended guidelines are in accordance with the best European practice.

Two new chapters—one dealing with pediatric orthopedic examination and one about fractures—have been introduced. There are also new sections on injuries to the hand and the cervical spine. Since traumatology was very little covered previously, this represents an interesting and useful renewal. "Management of fractures and their complications" by Devito has become the most voluminous chapter of the book and represents a concise and brilliant account of this important field.

Several chapters have been reorganized, two have been omitted, and some material has been condensed in this edition. Why the valuable chapter on partial growth plate arrest had to be left out is somewhat dif-

ficult to understand, whereas the omission of head injuries seems natural. The description of Sprengel's deformity has unfortunately been excluded. Some disorders like Larsen's syndrome, fibrous dysplasia, and hemangioma are described twice in different chapters.

In a reference work like this, illustrations are important for visualizing the multitude of rare disorders and demonstrating new imaging techniques. In that respect, some MRI illustrations should have been included in the chapter on tumors, especially showing soft-tissue tumors. As compared to the previous edition, the reduction in illustrations from 62 to 11 in the chapter on neuromuscular disorders seems too drastic, as also is the reduction of figures from 32 to 9 in the chapter on cerebral palsy. The instructive drawings by Mercer Rang, showing various clinical relations in cerebral palsy will probably be missed by many.

Every reader will look for information on matters of special interest, and the present reader is no exception. Thus, I do not agree with Harcke who states that ultrasonography is not reliable for assessing femoral head coverage after 1 year of age; nor do I agree with Moseley that leg length discrepancy less than 2 cm has no clinical significance.

Some spelling errors are probably difficult to avoid in such a large book. However, the systematic discrepancy between the numbering of references in the text and in the reference list in the chapter on sports medicine should have been detected and corrected.

In spite of these minor objections, the 4th edition of Lovell and Winter's convincingly defends its position as one of the best orthopedic textbooks. It provides comprehensive and updated information on pediatric orthopedics and is essential reading not only for residents but also for all practicing general and pediatric orthopedic surgeons.

#### **Terje Terjesen**

*Department of Orthopedic Surgery, The National Hospital, N-0570 Oslo, Norway*

## **Atlas of pediatric orthopaedic surgery**

Raymond T Morrissy, 858 pages, Lippincott-Raven Publishers, Philadelphia 1996  
ISBN 0-397-51515-4

This atlas supplements *Lovell and Winter's Pediatric Orthopaedics* (4th edition), which focuses on basic and clinical knowledge. The first edition of the atlas was published in 1992 and the reason for a new edition was the desire to synchronize the publication of the atlas with the textbook, as Morrissy also is one of the main editors of the textbook. This gave him an opportunity to develop and improve the atlas further.

The atlas is divided into 7 chapters (the upper extremity, the spine, the pelvis and hip, the femur, the knee, the tibia, and the foot) and contains descriptions and illustrations of 105 surgical procedures. The main change in relation to the first edition is that 29 additional operations have been included. This has increased the value of the atlas because several of them are commonly performed procedures, such as operative treatment of certain types of fractures in children and adolescents. The described methods reflect common practice in North America, which does not differ much from sound practice in Europe. However, a few relevant operations are lacking—for instance, intertrochanteric valgus osteotomy of the femur, excision of physeal bars, correction by the Ilizarov technique of complex deformities of the lower leg and foot, and split anterior tibial tendon transfer. Hopefully, these will be included in the next edition. Hand surgery in children is not completely covered, which is natural

because this field is usually taken care of by hand surgeons.

Morrissy is the author of all the chapters. Based on his great surgical experience, the operations are concisely and clearly described and the many technical details have been emphasized. He also explains the reasons for his specific choice of procedures in cases where alternatives are available. This is a great help to the reader, who will get a better understanding of the indications and the technical performance, thus probably improving the results of the surgery. Another advantage is the excellent and detailed illustrations of all steps of the procedures by Bernie Kida. The illustrations closely follow the text and have been further improved by labels marking the principal anatomic structures.

In conclusion, this atlas represents a valuable source of information for all who work with surgical treatment of orthopedic disorders in children. Morrissy's atlas defends its position as one of the most useful books in this field.

### **Terje Terjesen**

*Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, The National Hospital,  
N-0570 Oslo, Norway*

## **Knee arthroplasty**

Paul A. Lotke (editor), 379 pages, Raven Press, New York 1995  
ISBN 0-7817-0032-9

This book on knee arthroplasty edited by Paul A. Lotke from Philadelphia is one in a series of 9 volumes, entitled *Master techniques in orthopaedic surgery*. It is divided into 5 parts: surgical exposures, total knee arthroplasty, revision total knee arthroplasty, techniques for the treatment of unicompartmental arthritis and techniques for other reconstructions. Most of the 22 chapters end with illustrative cases.

Only standard surgical procedures are described. This makes the book especially attractive to residents, but experienced knee surgeons will also benefit from the emphasis on many important details, which all must be mastered in the theater. The book is generously illustrated with color photographs of operations and schematic drawings, both of high quality. The text is extensive, but easy to read. There are special "tips and pearls" sections where experienced surgeons present special comments. Certain repetitions are unavoidable, since there are many contributors.

No specific prosthetic design is mentioned and in this respect the book is "neutral" to the market. One important difference from many other books on surgical techniques is the inclusion of references.

The chapters on surgical exposures describe the initial preoperative planning and draping of the limb. The medial parapatellar incision, as well as the subvastus approach, are thoroughly presented. This is also true of the lateral approach, although many of the photographs in this chapter are not detailed enough to show the objects of interest. The difficulty of exposing the lateral femorotibial compartment by a medial parapatellar incision is recognized, but the way to do it could have been better clarified. I greatly appreciated the chapters on total and revision knee arthroplasty and I agree that "the patient should have realistic goals. Even a well-placed total knee will neither feel nor function like a normal knee."

It seems that most authors in this book favor cement fixation, although they do not dispute the uncemented principles. Special ways of avoiding cement pieces posteriorly are described. The risks of malposition are explored and explained, as also the handling of fixed deformities. Especially the staged soft tissue release of the demanding valgus knees is extensively presented, however with different preferences by different authors. Autogenous bone grafting is described in an excellent way, but the possible drawbacks of fragmentation and loosening of the graft are only referred to but not discussed in the text.

It is stated that incorrect surgical technique is the commonest reason for failure of a total knee arthroplasty! Arthrodesis after a failed knee arthroplasty is sometimes difficult and the technique of using a long intramedullary nail is demanding, as it is accompanied by a 50% complication rate according to one reference!

Certain blank statements in the book can be disputed, especially many of the detailed operative technical solutions of soft and hard tissue handling, which probably never will be scientifically proven. They merely represent the opinion of an experienced surgeon. Sometimes also principles are presented too dogmatically, as in the chapter on revision of the infected total knee describing the two-stage procedure.

Nevertheless, this book on knee arthroplasty really is a masterpiece on operative techniques described by a group of well-known US orthopedic surgeons. The combination of text, photographs and drawings brings the reader almost into the operation theater. The editor must be congratulated.

### **Anders Lindstrand**

*Department of Orthopedics, Lund University Hospital,  
S-221 85 Lund, Sweden*

## **Atlas of open knee surgery**

Dominique G Poitout (editor), 182 pages, Chapman & Hall Medical, London 1996  
ISBN 0-412-58550-2

It is with great interest that one approaches a French textbook on orthopedics. Due to language barriers, this literature may not be so well known to the wider orthopedic community. This book was originally published in French in 1992 and now in 1996 in English. Already the title distinguishes it from arthroscopic knee surgery. All but two of the 25 authors come from France or French-speaking communities.

This detailed atlas of orthopedic surgical techniques is easy to follow as the main part of the pages comprises surgical illustrations with colored drawings of high quality. The text is short, sometimes almost telegraphic. The contents are divided into osteotomies, operations on the patella, ligament repairs, prostheses and grafts. Each author illustrates schematically his way of performing a certain operation and therefore the atlas definitely fulfils the intention of the editor, as outlined in the preface.

A major shortcoming is the lack of references confirming the value of any of the surgical procedures described. A minimum prerequisite for the author of a text on surgical techniques should be that the result of the operation described by the author is universally known or documented by references to himself or to others using the same technique. As many of the authors have presented their results, why not add these references in the same way as they are presented in the *Orthopaedic Knowledge Update (AAOS)*, which is used for educational purposes by residents. For example, the chapters on ligament repair and operations on the patella would definitely have benefited from data on the results. Moreover, many of the bone graft-

ing techniques are clearly investigational and require long-term follow-up studies.

The chapter on guide instruments for endoprosthesis replacement is interesting and may be regarded as dealing more with general principles in operative technique than with the specific use of instruments for a certain prosthetic design. However, no instruments are shown in the drawings evaluating the overall alignment of the operated limb.

The most valuable part to me was the chapter on osteotomies, especially the different osteotomies described by the pioneer, P. Maquet. These include traditional valgus tibial osteotomy, varus femoral osteotomy, tibial extension osteotomy and distal femoral correction of flexion, extension and rotational deformities. The chapter on osteotomies is concluded by E. Radin describing anterior tibial tuberosity osteotomy, with medial advancement; this much debated procedure, however, is also presented without any reference to results or complications!

This surgical atlas presents the possibility of different types of knee surgery rather than detailed instructions on how to perform them. Nevertheless, the atlas has definite merits, as it describes open knee surgery from the French view point in a simple and elegant way. Despite the lack of references, it fills a gap in the bookshelf.

### **Anders Lindstrand**

*Department of Orthopedics, Lund University Hospital,  
S-221 85 Lund, Sweden*