

Book reviews

Paediatric orthopaedics and fractures

W J W Sharrard, 1550 pages in 2 volumes, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, 1993
ISBN 0-632-03457-2

This is the third edition of the single-authored book by Mr Sharrard, the first edition having been published in 1971.

The first volume gives a description of the normal development of the musculoskeletal system, followed by general, and finally regional developmental disorders. The chapters on general disorders are comprehensive and well illustrated. The author's advice on management is given even for very rare conditions. In the chapter on developmental dysplasia and dislocation of the hip, there is a detailed well-illustrated description of the ultrasound technique, and an updated review of the experiences with this method.

The second volume starts with a chapter on abnormalities of the epiphyses and limb length inequality. Modern limb-lengthening techniques are described; Mr Sharrard seems to have personal experience with both the de Bastiano and the Ilizarov methods. He uses the unipolar system for femoral lengthenings and the circular frame for more complex deformities. In the 300 pages that follow, there is a substantial presentation of neuromuscular disorders and the author's outstanding experience of the orthopedic management of

these conditions. The last part of the second volume covers tumors, infections and inflammatory joint conditions, as well as fractures and joint injuries.

The work is well illustrated throughout, with clinical photographs, radiographs and a large number of line drawings. Each chapter has an extensive, updated reference list. Other authorities' opinions are frequently presented and discussed, giving the text a good balance between Mr Sharrard's own experience and conclusions drawn from the literature.

In his preface, Mr Sharrard stresses that single authorship has the advantage of consistency of philosophy and experience. When the single author has such a tremendous experience and wise philosophy of treatment as Mr Sharrard has, one must agree. The book is highly recommended and should be available for everyone dealing with pediatric orthopedics.

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Outcome measures in orthopaedics

Paul Pynsent, Jeremy Fairbank, Andrew Carr (Eds), 273 pages, Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd, Oxford, 1993
ISBN 0-7506-0520-0

This long overdue book should be welcomed by authors, reviewers and editors. Two thirds of the book contains detailed presentations of outcome measures, divided into chapters on the spine, the shoulder and elbow, the hand, the hip, the knee, the foot and ankle. The more commonly used measures are discussed critically and compared with their competitors. For example, the Merle d'Aubigné and Postel hip scoring system is traced to one published in 1931 by Fergusson and Howorth and another by the brothers Judet in

1952. The Charnley modification is then introduced, and Anderson's 1972 comparison of these methods is quoted; the Judet system was the most optimistic and Merle d'Aubigné's the least. The Harris, the Iowa, and the Mayo hip scores are commented on, and, finally, a summary is given of a group discussion on the general problem of hip scores. It is rightly pointed out that it may be erroneous to use a system devised for slipped capital femoral epiphyses in the young to assess the outcome of treatment for the fractured hip in the eld-

erly. The problem of lifestyle is further discussed with reference to poor results of hip arthroplasty in the young, and the lack of validity of certain scores is deplored. The lack of consistency in scoring amongst different authors is exemplified by quoting the widely varying results following Girdlestone resection arthroplasty in respected orthopedic centers on either side of the Canadian border.

In the knee chapter, the limitations of aggregating different weighted indices to a single score is illustrated by pointing out that most scoring systems rate a pain-free fused knee as a good or excellent result of an arthroplasty—different variables should be reported individually to provide a knee profile rather than a single score. However, the authors have failed to discuss different combinations of variables, for example in terms of Venn diagrams, as has been popularized by Alvin Feinstein. The chapter concludes that separate assessments are required for ligament and knee replacement surgery of the knee. For this purpose they recommend the International Knee Documentation Committee and the American Knee Society evaluation forms, respectively, even though both require validation. The inadequacy of a single, aggregate index has recently been convincingly demonstrated by Bryant et al. (1993).

In a short but delightful foreword, John Goodfellow, the editor of JBJS(B), expresses his hopes that “the 1990s will be the decade in which orthopaedics comes of age”, notably to exercise “a more critical frame of mind.” The hip chapter exemplifies this need by devoting 7 pages to arthroplasty scores vs. a single page to the outcome after hip fracture. Considering the socio-economic importance of these fractures and the utter confusion with which this problem is handled in the developed countries, one can only hope that this omission may inspire further efforts to bring the fracture to the same level of documented experience that has made arthroplasty for arthrosis in the elderly one of the most predictable of major operations.

Preceding the regional chapters, the book provides a series of general chapters on the analysis of outcome

measures with useful sections on stratification, bias, survival analyses, etc., patient satisfaction and quality of life, complications and trauma scores. These introductory chapters are really well written, concise yet comprehensive, the text is eminently understandable. Due honor is given to E.A. Codman, surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, sorely misunderstood by his colleagues when in 1910 he suggested a 1-year recall on all patients to see if their treatment had achieved the initial objective. It was Codman who started the National Cancer Register in the USA. Homage is also paid to Florence Nightingale, and recent articles by Feinstein are quoted. Regrettably, his pioneer opus, *Clinical Judgement*, has not been included in the reference list.

The book has been prepared in a somewhat unconventional fashion. The introductory chapters are written by invited authorities, whereas the regional sections were composed by senior residents or relatively young consultants and then discussed at a 2-day convention, hence the discussion sections. This method has given the book an atmosphere of unbiased freshness. On the other hand, with all authors ensconced in traditional British orthopedics, one may wonder whether in their daily practice and teaching they will subject their patients to comparison with patients from neighboring units ...

This book is a must for all orthopedic surgeons, who will find it a useful reference for many commonly quoted outcome measures and ratings. As a fringe benefit they will be exposed to an ideology that may eventually produce a paradigm shift in our speciality.

Reference

- Bryant M J, Kernohan W G, Nixon J R, Mollan R A B. A statistical analysis of hip scores. *J Bone Joint Surg (Br)* 1993; 75: 705–9.

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