

Book review

The foot & its disorders

Leslie Klenerman (ed.), 454 pages, Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd, Oxford, 1991
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This is the third edition of a book which is well known to most surgeons interested in foot surgery. Despite the fact that it has been expanded by chapters in several new areas, it is still a comprehensive book of relatively small format which covers the diseases of the foot adequately. As previously this book works very well as a reference volume but it also has the advantage of being of a size and format which invite the reader to peruse the book as a whole, a fact which must certainly be appreciated by anyone planning to engage himself more fully in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the foot.

The first chapter on functional anatomy has good basic information including a gait cycle description presented in such a way as to be easily understood. The second chapter on mechanics gives a concise and thorough presentation of the most recent innovations in methods on measuring including reflective units and various types of force plates. One misses, however, a mention of the new in-shoe sensor soles; the EMED system, mentioned for its force plate, has had them for several years now. The authors give some indication of how to interpret pathological prints. The information is interesting, but I am not quite sure this can be substantiated by the literature. The chapter on hallux valgus and hallux rigidus gives a good review supported by 112 references, only 10 are dated after 1980, however. The chevron osteotomy which has become very popular is perhaps mentioned a little cursorily. A small section on salvage procedures is included.

I found the chapter on diabetes a modern and well balanced presentation of the problems encountered, including total contact casting and vascular surgical possibilities.

The chapter on fractures of the foot by Derek Wilson has been expanded and is, as previously, a comprehensive and superb summation of the state of the art. This chapter must be recommended to all surgeons dealing with foot fractures. One can only commend Mr. Wilson for pointing out that fractures of the foot must be treated according to the same principles as other fractures, that is with the aim of restoring anatomy and function as well as possible.

The chapter on sports medicine complements the fracture chapter by including stress fractures of many different bones as well as tendon injuries.

Several chapters cover areas which are not directly part of foot surgery but should be of interest to most foot surgeons. The chapters on radiology and radiography are informative, with excellent and abundant illustrations and many recent references. The chapters on shoes and orthotics complement the more surgically-oriented chapter. Our patients can only be served by our being able to communicate with the shoemaker and the bandagist. Pediatric problems are covered in a common sense, interesting manner as previously.

A very important chapter in this book is that on principles and complications of surgery of the foot by Mr. Klenerman. We can never be reminded enough of the abundant opportunities for complications which our procedures entail.

New for this edition is also a chapter covering dermatological problems of the foot, an area which may be quite new to some foot surgeons but which is very often encountered in general practice. The more common nail disorders are covered as well as other more unusual diseases, such as malignant melanoma and Kaposi sarcoma. For most disorders there are good illustrations.

In short, this book with completely manageable format covers the diagnosis and modern management of foot problems in a concise and easily understood way with a very common sense approach to foot surgery. It can be especially recommended to the general orthopedic practitioner who is developing an interest in foot surgery.

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