

Most residents look to a handbook to provide specific therapeutic regimens and algorithms for commonly encountered problems. This handbook, unfortunately, lacks specific recipes for anticoagulation or thrombolysis, algorithms for common problems like deep venous thrombosis and thrombosed grafts, or postoperative management strategies, which could help residents treat patients with vascular disease. The vascular resident can find these topics covered more completely in other handbooks. The handbook could be used as a quick reference for medical students and allied health personal caring for patients with vascular disease. Clearly the stated objective of the editors would have been better served if the contributing authors had followed a uniform format for a defined target audience.

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#### **Vascular and endovascular surgical techniques**

R. M. Greenhalgh, New York, 1994, WB Saunders, 526 pages, \$80.

The current, third edition of this atlas on vascular surgical techniques is motivated by the substantial developments within endovascular techniques, as reflected by the modification of the book title. This book is based on the Annual Charing Cross Vascular Symposium, as were previous editions. This book is more firmly constructed than the usual symposium book. In addition to a section on endovascular techniques, a number of standard procedures are reviewed, including surgery of the extracranial arteries, the aorta and visceral arteries, and upper and lower limb arteries. Amputations, portal hypertension, and venous procedures are covered in addition to an excellent section on vascular trauma. The section on endovascular procedures, accounting for approximately one sixth of the pages, draws attention because it is authored by the pioneers and the leaders in this area.

The clear and illustrative drawings heighten the journey in this new world of fascinating techniques. The chapters on more traditional procedures are nicely illustrated with black-and-white drawings and pictures of various imaging techniques. Although drawn by various artists, the black-and-white drawings add to the impression of a uniform layout. Unfortunately some of the illustrations have been turned upside down, diminishing somewhat the impression of meticulousness. The 65 chapters are authored by vascular surgeons, mainly from Europe and the United States, but authors also from South America, Australia, and Africa are making this a truly international publication. In spite of this multiplicity of authors, the editor has succeeded in creating a relatively uniform book as a result of adherence to a consistent outline in the chapters. After a short introductory paragraph, including some preoperative considerations, most of the pages are devoted to technical details of the particular procedure. Each chapter ends with a short paragraph on complications. Contrary to standard textbooks on vascular surgery, results are presented in a cursory fashion, and there is no discussion. I consider the latter a weakness, particularly in situations where more than one procedure is applicable. A review of the options at the start of each section would have corrected this. Another weakness is the lack of an index, especially considering that the atlas is intended as a reference book.

In summary this excellent atlas conveys the current state of vascular and endovascular procedures. The abundant number of clear and easy-to-understand drawings makes the text comprehensible. However, pathophysiologic aspects, discussion of the various procedures and results are not included to any great extent. The book is recommended to vascular surgeons in training, as well as to the interested student and the surgeon who occasionally are confronted with patients undergoing vascular surgery.

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Interventional cardiology is the subspecialty of cardiology that deals specifically with the catheter- based treatment of heart diseases. The field includes the diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease, vascular disease and acquired structural heart disease. For pediatric interventional cardiologists, congenital heart defects are the major focus of diagnosis and treatment. Interventional cardiology has grown to bridge many specialties, which were traditionally seen as somewhat isolated from one another. For example, endovascular techniques mastered within the small- caliber and bifur