I read with great interest the above text on maxillofacial trauma and reconstruction. It provides both an American and British perspective on these two interesting and important fields within the maxillofacial speciality. It comprises 4 sections, starting with principles, to definitive management of both hard and soft tissue trauma, then onto secondary surgery and reconstructive procedures and finally discussing innovations in treatment and techniques.

In addition it has within the sections chapters based on topics of wider import, such as medico-legal implications and psychological support for the victim of trauma, supplemented with examples from practice.

There is plentiful use of coloured pictures of high quality, surgical illustrations and diagrams to help further elucidate the text. The use of coloured text boxes also holds the readers attention and brings home the main and important points of the chapters.

One would have thought that having so many different contributors from various specialties might have resulted in a loss of consensus but actually I found in general the book easy to read with a good sense of continuity from one chapter to the next.

The book provides much information to benefit one’s training and education in maxillofacial surgery. I found enlightening the first chapter discussing the varying trends in maxillofacial trauma from country to country and how interpersonal violence has overtaken road traffic accidents (RTAs) as the primary aetiological factor of trauma in the UK. A table is provided comparing the UK to various other countries, such as India and Tanzania, where RTAs are still the predominant cause of facial injuries.

The chapter on the principles of soft tissue repair provides a logical step-by-step process for the management of this type of injury. The chapter on radiographic assessment provided just the right level of detail and was very well supplemented with labelled pictures of scans and films. Other chapters emphasised the importance of referral and team work with other specialities, such as Ophthalmology and Neurosurgery. The topic of facial scar management was of particular interest to me and although the chapter on it provided a good overview, it lacked greater depth and detail. It would have also benefited from more pre-operative and post-operative pictures to illustrate various scar revisions. However, all chapters benefit from having a large list of reference sources at the end to promote further reading.

In conclusion, I found this book to be highly recommendable as a reference source and for those training in maxillofacial surgery. I feel that all contributors have helped to produce a book which is indeed quite easy to read, logical and with a great deal of relevant clinical information and well-illustrated text.

The Manual of Aesthetic Surgery is divided into two volumes with volume 1 covering rhinoplasty, rhytidectomy, eyelid surgery, otoplasty and adjuvant therapies including laser surgery. While Volume 2 contains material on liposuction, breast surgery, hair transplantation, aesthetic surgery of the extremities, abdominal wall and adjuvant therapies. Each volume costs £164.50 and comes with a DVD video.

This book sets to serve as a manual on how to perform the 10 most important and frequent operative procedures in aesthetic plastic surgery. The two volumes are aimed at aesthetic and plastic surgeons, dermatologists, ENT and maxillofacial surgeons. The scope of the book is wide and one suspects the demand for such a book is relatively high. This subject is usually a minor chapter in a plastic surgery text, yet deserves to receive individual attention because of the wide range of specialists who carry out an increasingly diverse range of cosmetic procedures.
The book displays each technique using large colour anatomical diagrams and illustrations. In total, there are 171 illustrations, 9 plates of surgical instruments and 32 photographs. The text is certainly concise and describes each technique in clearly organised bullet-point fashion. This book will not change the way existing cosmetic surgeons practice, it is pitched more at those just starting out in this field, perhaps a keen trainee or new consultant surgeon in a specialty where little aesthetic surgery formed part of the training.

My criticisms of the book are that it does not use pre and post-op photos to good effect. There are few photos of real people before, during and after these procedures. The anatomical diagrams are excellent, but they could have been more supported by real people with aesthetic anxieties or “problems” going through the process. There is little mention of the complications or contraindications of these procedures. The principles of aesthetics also receive minimal attention - this is a real problem of many texts in this genre. Many authors are happy to describe the procedures but not the principles which lie behind them. For example, only two diagrams in the whole rhinoplasty section are used to illustrate the important nasal angles (such as the nasofacial angle and the nasolabial angles). However, there is no discussion as to why these angles are the optimum angles, the common mistakes made and how people should measure them. Good use of real-life patient photos could have been made when discussing these principles, indicating the aesthetic flaws and outlining the design of the appropriate aesthetic procedure. It would have been nice for the presumed trainee or young consultant to have such principles discussed at the start of every chapter and then to move onto the techniques of how to achieve the desired outcome, following thorough discussion with the patient. Little attention is also paid to importance of the patient interview, psychological aspects and how to select patients. This book should be used in conjunction with texts which help to make up for these short falls.

However, I don’t believe that this book sets out to achieve everything. The authors state that it is essentially audiovisual medium to get across the main technical aspects of the procedures. The accompanying DVD is also a real bonus as this contains a video film of each operation. The price of £164.50 for each volume is a little steep, but considering that each book comes as hardback, with plenty of full colour illustrations may could make this a worthwhile long term investment for the budding aesthetic surgeon.

In summary, this is a good manual for common aesthetic operations and will provide a concise step-by-step guide on how to perform them in a clearly organised and anatomically instructive manner.

Mr Riaz Agha
Editor-in-Chief
The Journal of Surgery

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

International Surgical Week ISW 2005
Dates: August 21-25, 2005
Venue: International Convention Centre, Durban,
South Africa
Abstract Deadline: December 15, 2004
Main Subjects: General Surgery, Endocrine Surgery, Trauma
Surgery, Breast Surgery, Surgical Nutrition, Pediatric
Surgery, Military Surgery, Laparoscopic Surgery, Burns
Congress language: English
(no simultaneous translation)
Expected Attendance: 3’000 delegates (surgeons)
Technical Trade Exhibition: Yes (approx. 100)

Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons
57th Annual Meeting
2-5 June 2004
Hamilton, Ontario

Contact:
Karyn Wagner
Executive Secretary
Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons
cspscscp@sympatico.ca

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This operative manual in two volumes with accompanying DVDs focuses on the 10 most important and frequent operative procedures in aesthetic plastic surgery. Techniques are displayed in a step-by-step manner with instructive drawings and pre- and post-operative photographs and only as much text as is absolutely necessary to support the illustrations. The book and DVD will enable the user to easily figure out the most appropriate technique, the tricks and pitfalls and eventual complication management for each indication. The manual covers operative procedures in the fields of: Rhinoplasty, rhytidectomy, eyelid