In summary, this is a dense but readable book which, although lacking in consistency and comprehensiveness, should still be regarded as essential reading for all vascular surgeons, radiologists and scientists who wish to keep abreast of the recent advances in vascular technology.

J D BEARD
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This is the first in the Studies in Surgery series to be published from the Royal College of Surgeons of England and based on College study days involving topics of current surgical practice. This volume records the proceedings of the conference held at the College in November 1991 and provides the reader with the most up-to-date information available regarding HIV and the AIDS pandemic. Of particular interest to the surgeon are those sections concerning the practical considerations to be faced in managing the HIV positive patient who requires surgery or any invasive diagnostic procedure. The ethical and moral issues concerning HIV are also fully explored and the book concludes with the revised statement on AIDS and HIV infection issued by the College in March 1992. Each chapter concludes with a transcript of the conference discussions which are of considerable benefit and answered many of this reviewer's questions which had arisen while reading the text. This volume is brief enough to be read in one evening and as such should be a mandatory exercise for all those actively involved in surgical practice.

MICHAEL LAVELLE-JONES
Clinical Lecturer/Senior Registrar
Ninewells Hospital and Medical School
Dundee


This report sets out to quantify the risk to health care workers of occupational acquisition of HIV-1 infection and the risk of transmission of the virus to patients from infected health care workers during invasive procedures. The report is based on an analysis of documented cases of occupationally related HIV-1 infection in the context of the known epidemiology of HIV-1 infection. Potential and practical methods of reducing the risk of HIV-1 transmission are outlined and the report concludes with a list of recommendations to minimise the risk of HIV-1 infection, both to health worker and patient, based on the current prevalence of HIV.

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This is a multi-author book which fills a void in the market for a surgically orientated review of immunology. The first chapter is a readable overview of the immune system. This is followed by specific chapters in relation to transplant immunology, cancer and the immune response, trauma, sepsis, and nutrition. The final three chapters cover therapy and the immune response, autoimmune disease, HIV and the surgeon, the principles of immunological assay and recombinant DNA technology. There is an excellent glossary at the end to define those abbreviations and eponyms common in immunological terminology.

The style of the book is in places didactic, but I feel this is appropriate to the subject matter. The book covers certain topics in relation to transplant and tumour therapy in a more informative way than I have found in other books. The chapters on HIV and DNA technology are instructive and likely to be of value to many surgeons, reflecting areas of likely continued expansion in the coming years. There are useful tables on tumour-associated markers and autoantibody significance.

This book represents excellent initial reading for trainees embarking on research in surgical immunology, and covers topics which one may not previously have imagined to have had an immunological component. It should also appeal to established surgeons who wish to update themselves on surgical immunology. It is a useful and objective source for looking up the background to new therapies which have an immunological basis.

This is a readable book covering a complex and continually expanding subject which is not too long-winded and should become a useful addition to surgical libraries.

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