BOOK REVIEWS

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Emergency Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Practice (2nd edn)

AIRES BARROS D'SA, ANTHONY CHANT

EXTENT P/H	602 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£149.00 0340810122
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2005
REVIEWER	John Mosley
STAR RATING	***

About 30% of vascular surgical cases present as emergencies and this would be considerably higher were it not for the fact that most venous emergencies are admitted under the care of physicians. Ruptured aneurysms, acute limb ischaemia, strokes and trauma represent most of these surgical cases. This is a multi-authored and international book that attempts to provide, within a single volume, an account of the management of acute peripheral vascular problems.

It would be extremely difficult for a single author to produce such a comprehensive work but the skills needed by the editors to bring multi-authored chapters together are demanding. Unfortunately, unnecessary repetition is difficult to avoid. The most salient parts of chapter 5 are repeated in chapter 11, while chapter 42 ('Emergency aspects of Buerger's disease') is substantially repeated in chapter 43 ('Acute limb vascular inflammatory conditions').

A further set of problems arises with an international authorship. American authors have less experience than we have in the UK with the various low molecular weight heparins, while UK authors rarely use cryopreserved artery and vein.

The book does not start well. There are three very self-opinionated chapters: the first on how vascular surgery should be organised into a small number of specialist centres in the UK, without addressing the inherent problem of removing vascular surgery from many district general hospitals; the second applauding Danish vascular training that excludes all general surgical exposure; and the third a chapter on the management of vascular surgery in a single unit in southern California.

The content then improves dramatically with chapter after chapter of clear prose, providing state-of-the-art, helpful advice on a plethora of vascular emergencies including graft maintenance and graft failure, graft infections, venous emergencies, ruptured aortic aneurysms and visceral aneurysms. The complications of endovascular aneurysm repair and complications of drug abuse are also covered. The chapter by the Belfast team on its experience during the harrowing troubles in Ulster is a seminal text describing what are now, fortunately, rare events. Sadly, rather more common problems, in my experience, arise on the

orthopaedic wards, for example brachial artery and popliteal artery injury associated with after fractures and popliteal artery injury after total knee replacement. These are hardly mentioned. Similarly, there is scant attention given to acute occlusion of popliteal artery aneurysms.

The chapter on limb re-implantation seems out of place. Few vascular surgeons will attempt these procedures while those plastic surgeons performing them will not turn to a vascular textbook for advice. Why cold injuries are included but burns are not also seems rather odd.

This is important work that should be available in all theatre suites where emergency vascular surgery is performed. With more diligent pruning of duplicated topics and inclusion of a few vascular emergencies that have been omitted, this could become an outstanding text that would be essential reading for vascular surgeons, new and old.

Gray's Anatomy for Students

RICHARD DRAKE, WAYNE VOGL, ADAM MITCHELL

EXTENT P/H	1150 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£39.99 0443066124
PUBLISHER	Churchill Livingstone (London), 2004
REVIEWER	Roger Stevens
STAR RATING	***

With its international editorial board, this book is the first edition of *Gray's Anatomy for Students*, which is based on its established and successful parent volume *Gray's Anatomy*. As in many modern anatomy books, the subject is covered regionally. The book is organised into eight sections: anatomy and imaging, back, thorax, abdomen, pelvis and perineum, lower limb, upper limb, and the head and neck. For each region, the section includes a conceptual overview of the region, its functions, component parts, relationships to other regions and its key features before covering the anatomy in detail. The editors are to be applauded for these particularly useful features as many anatomy books often neglect function and how many regions of the body, such as the thorax and abdomen, are related. Where relevant, embryology is also covered.

The clinical relevance of topographical anatomy, together with surface anatomy, is highlighted throughout. At the end of each chapter there are clinical scenarios and ten short questions demonstrating clinical applications of anatomy, allowing the readers to test and apply their knowledge.

The book provides a unique access code for <<http://studentconsult.com/>> with free online access to additional learning resources including the entire collection of images, which can be downloaded from an image library.