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.

This is particularly useful for presentations. There are also links to resources on interactive surface anatomy, case studies and self-assessment multiple choice questions. These are a useful means of re-inforcing anatomical concepts in preparation for examinations.

The clarity of expression of its text, colour artwork and layout is excellent. Anatomy is such a difficult discipline and many textbooks include complex drawings that complicate the subject.

This book is thorough and yet succinct in its expression, without loss of relevant detail. It is not only to be recommended as an excellent companion for undergraduate medical students but also for candidates of the intercollegiate MRCS diploma.

Expert Guide to Pain Management

BILL MCCARBERG, STEVEN PASSIK

EXTENT P/H	358 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£25.95 1930513615
PUBLISHER	American College of Physicians (Philadelphia), 2005
REVIEWER	Ian Waite
STAR RATING	***

This is one of the latest titles from the American College of Physicians 'Expert Guide' series, aimed at primary care physicians. Other titles in the series include *Allergy and Immunology*, *Infectious Diseases*, *Oncology*, *Otolaryngology* and *Rheumatology*.

The first point of note is the obvious, but important, fact that this is an American book intended for an American reader. The information offered, therefore, has a very American slant to it and will need interpreting with this in mind. Advice about the basic clinical management of patients is largely transferable but areas covered by the book involving social, economic and organisational issues will require careful interpretation and possibly further reading.

The book starts with a detailed discussion of the pathophysiology of somatic, visceral and neuropathic pain under the

chapter heading 'Chronic Pain as Disease: The Pathophysiology of Disordered Pain'. In the first chapter the authors quickly address the concept that chronic pain is a disease rather than just a symptom. This sets the tone for the whole book in that we are constantly reminded about the multidimensional nature of pain, particularly chronic pain.

The second chapter covers the management of low back pain with particular emphasis on how to assess patients who present with new-onset symptoms. The chapter makes reference to the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research guidelines on acute low back problems in adults, published in the 1990s. British readers, however, will be more familiar with the report on back pain published by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group in 1994. The guidance is broadly similar but cross-reference will need to be made with the UK guidelines.

The book goes on to cover further clinical areas such as headache, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, neuropathic pain, pharmacological treatments and injection-based treatments. The latter part of the book is devoted to issues such as disability management, psychosocial factors, addiction in pain management and specific areas of US practice, for example appropriate documentation and Drug Enforcement Administration investigations.

Each chapter is supported by many references that guide readers needing to research the subject matter in greater detail. The text is illustrated by a small number of black and white figures that are adequate but, ideally, I would have appreciated more illustrations. An example of an opportunity to include further illustrations is the chapter on fibromyalgia, which would have benefited from a diagram identifying the 18 potentially tender points of this condition.

Overall, I feel that this book is an up-to-date, informative addition to the ever-expanding literature on pain management. I would recommend it to practitioners who already have a basic understanding of the topic in the UK as the American context of the book needs to be frequently taken into account. The intended audience of primary care physicians will include the new cadre of general practitioners with a special interest (GPwSI), which are being appointed all around the country. I would expect these GPwSIs to find the more in-depth sections to be of particular value.