Each chapter is written clearly. An evidence-based view is taken and the sensitivities, specificities, negative and positive factors are widely quoted, particularly in the infection section. Each chapter has a current and classical bibliography with a small summary on each of the most important papers relevant to the subject. This would be particularly useful for SpR trainees planning to take the FRCS trauma and orthopaedic examination and is clearly set at a level for residents undertaking the American in-service examination.

The information quoted appears to be up-to-date and accurate and the format is easy to read. It is very much in a factual style crammed with information but with good illustrations – photographs, line drawings and algorithms. There are many clinical photographs featuring deformities, which are of good quality. These break up the text effectively, making the book easier to read.

Most chapters are broken into aetiology, clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, investigations and treatment both surgical and non-surgical. The book is obviously written from an American perspective though the views are evidence-based, quoting the world's, rather than just the American, literature. The opinions appear balanced and non-controversial.

In summary, this is an excellent paediatric update book, which quotes the current literature as well as covering the classical literature in each of the subsections. Every hospital library dealing with children's orthopaedic conditions should have a copy of this text book. It is useful to both the non-specialist orthopaedic surgeon who wishes an update of the common conditions that may be encountered when 'on-take' and the paediatric orthopaedic surgeon who is more involved in the care of a child with rarer paediatric orthopaedic conditions. This is very much an up-to-date complement to standard paediatric orthopaedic text books.

Internal Fixators: Concepts and Cases using LCP and LISS

MICHAEL WAGNER, ROBERT FRIGG

EXTENT P/H	868 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	€349.95, 9783131435514
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2006
REVIEWER	Henry Dushan Atkinson
STAR RATING	*****

This is the latest offering from the superb AO Publishing series, which has been educating and guiding orthopaedic surgeons and traumatologists for four decades. It builds on the original AO internal fixation philosophies and details the evolution of fixation methods and techniques, which have continued to develop

in response to scientific investigations and clinical observations.

The manual consists of 868 pages, 800 clear illustrations, 2280 pictures and X-rays, with an accompanying DVD-ROM (which is compatible with both PC and Mac). It is well referenced and has a comprehensive list of contributors, each of whom is internationally recognised in his or her own right. It is also apt that the two editors, Wagner and Frigg, are in fact the designers and developers of the 'combination hole', the screw hole that accommodates both standard dynamic compression cortical screws and locking head screws and which has led to the versatility of the locking compression plate (LCP) systems, providing new hope in the treatment of articular and osteoporotic fractures.

The 'Concepts' section, divided into four subsections, deals with the background of internal fixation, surgical reduction techniques, the techniques of the less invasive stabilisation system (LISS) and LCP together with pitfalls and complications of surgery. The chapters on methodological principles and surgical reduction techniques are particularly useful for the novice surgeon. I feel that the LISS and LCP techniques and procedures sections should be mandatory reading before embarking on the use of these fixation systems.

The 'Cases' section is divided into body regions and gives 117 step-by-step orthopaedic case descriptions, including in most cases the surgical indications, approaches, reduction and fixation as well as rehabilitation regimes. There is also a pitfalls and pearls table for each clinical case. The technical descriptions are good, with very useful concise preoperative planning guides together with information on patient positioning, C-arm placement and equipment requirements. This makes an ideal operating theatre and examination reference guide.

The DVD-ROM is also an excellent resource, with a lot of the screen texts benefiting from animations. In addition, there is a multitude of good technical videos to complement the text in the manual although these are performed on plastic bones. I would have far preferred that those same 117 cases be recorded on the DVD. An interesting additional feature on the DVD is the ability to have one's own 'personal favourites' basket, where videos and text can be stored for repeated easy and quick access. My criticism of the DVD lies with non-user-friendly menus, which are slow to scroll and, irritatingly, one has to return to each title heading when attempting to change sections. Also, on first use, the DVD would not automatically load up with Windows Vista and the QuickTime application had to be downloaded separately from the internet.

These small factors aside this publication certainly does not disappoint. I believe that it is essential reading for both the new orthopaedic trainee, trainees preparing for supervised surgery and those surgeons already involved in trauma surgery needing to refresh their practice. Despite the high price tag I would not hesitate to purchase a copy.