image set in the middle of an A4 page, it is unclear why larger images are not used.

The book is made up of sections: thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas. The sections are composed of several chapters, each detailing an area of surgery for that gland. The chapters have been well chosen and are written in an accessible style following the subheadings: clinical considerations, pre-operative, operative and postoperative. There is excellent coverage of all the surgical themes, especially laparoscopic and minimal access surgery. The adrenal section has chapters on open (cancer) surgery, trans-peritoneal and posterior approaches, reflecting modern practice. At the end of each chapter is a 'pitfalls and pearls' section, which distils the main messages from each chapter.

The chapter on nerve monitoring is one of the book's many high points, crammed with evidence and a wealth of personal experience. Other highlights are the adrenal and pancreatic sections, in which the book's format really comes into its own. In the thyroid section cancer strategies are divided between small and locally advanced cancers, which is a novel and intuitive approach.

The reader can access the text and reproductions online after registering. This enables one to see the very small images from the book at a more suitable size. Such an atlas would benefit from videos of the techniques, which the online facility does not incorporate; this is a real shame. However, unlike some other Elsevier texts, the online access is free. I really enjoyed this book even if the size of some of the reproductions was frustrating. It is well thought out and will be a useful reference text.

Organ Donation and Transplantation after Cardiac Death

DAVID TALBOT, ANTHONY M D'ALESSANDRO, PAOLO MUIESAN

EXTENT P/H	322 pages, Hardback
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REVIEWER	Neville Jamieson
STAR RATING	****

Technical refinements, improved immunosuppression and long-term care have transformed transplantation from an

experimental procedure to an established life-saving and life-prolonging treatment with good survival rates in both the short- and long-term. However, the issues surrounding organ donation remain one of the most difficult areas in transplantation and the shortage of donor organs is the major limiting factor, with growing numbers of patients on waiting lists world-wide. A variety of factors including improved road safety and changes in neurosurgical management have led to a decreased number of conventional heart-beating brain-stem-dead donors in some countries and has prompted a resurgence of interest in donation from donors after cardiac standstill – originally called 'non heart beating' donation but now more commonly referred to as 'donation after cardiac death' as in the title of this book.

This volume is, therefore, extremely timely, addressing a rapidly developing field. Both editors have long track records in this area and they have chosen a wide range of international experts as contributors. On the whole, they have succeeded in covering the field comprehensively. Like any multi-author volume there is some degree of repetition of material from chapter to chapter but this leaves the virtue that chapters can be read as a complete source by those only wishing to dip into the volume for specific topics. Areas covered include techniques of retrieval, organ preservation, resuscitation after retrieval, organ assessment and the outcomes of transplantation in kidneys, livers and lungs retrieved from such donors.

The commonest (but not the only) form of donation after cardiac death is retrieval of organs from patients where supportive treatment has been withdrawn in an intensive-care setting. Some of the thorniest issues in such donations arise in the management of these patients prior to their death and in the immediate period after cardiac standstill. These issues are remarkably well rehearsed and reviewed in the chapter on legal and ethical issues by Sam Shemie and Michael DeVita, who have managed to put together an impressive review of the situation and the relevant legal framework across the world.

This book will be of interest and value to all working in the area of solid-organ transplantation. It contains information relevant to established consultants in transplantation, trainees and both recipient and donor-transplant co-ordinators.

For a listing of *Books Received by the Library* between November 2009 and September 2010 please see online *Table of Contents* for the November issue