Techniques in Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery with DVD. A Personal Tutorial

JEFFREY A NERAD

EXTENT P/H	502 pages, Hardback, DVD
PRICE/ISBN	£129.00 9781437700084
PUBLISHER	Elsevier (London), 2009
REVIEWER	David Ward
STAR RATING	★★★★

The author's stated aim is to teach the principles and techniques of oculoplastic surgery that can be used in daily practice. He has based it on a book that he wrote in 2001, appropriately updated and revised. It is accompanied by a DVD with a running time of approximately 2 hours 10 minutes.

The book is well produced and illustrated. It is written in a conversational style as if the author is standing at the reader's side, which may not be to everyone's taste. There is thus some longwindedness but this is compensated for by the detail given, particularly when describing specific operations. Throughout the text there are boxes that usefully summarise key aspects such as operative details and post-operative management, with at the end of each chapter a box listing the key points and a reading list that does include some references to British texts.

The book consists of 16 chapters. The first is on basic surgical techniques and although it would undoubtedly be useful for medical students and trainees in the foundation and core surgical training years, surgeons interested in oculoplastic surgery will find it too basic. More useful is the second chapter on surgical anatomy of the orbit, peri-orbital area and the face, which links well the anatomy with clinical aspects.

The other 14 chapters describe the diagnosis and treatment of commonly encountered conditions. Some chapters are weaker in content than others. The chapter on the diagnosis of lid lesions is superficial, with little about pathology, and includes advice to use an incisional rather than an excisional biopsy for the diagnosis of malignant melanoma; the chapter on eyelid reconstruction does not give enough detail about commonly used flaps or, crucially, their planning.

The DVD shows 20 operations. These are clearly described and are a very useful adjunct to the book. Overall the book would be useful reading for a UK higher surgical trainee studying for the FRCS examination in a relevant specialty and would be an asset in a departmental library.

Operative Orthopaedics: The Stanmore Guide

TIMOTHY BRIGGS, JONATHAN MILES, WILLIAM ASTON

EXTENT P/H	314 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£49.99 9780340985007
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2009
REVIEWER	Fares Haddad
STAR RATING	★★★

This is the latest product from the Stanmore Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) teaching programme. The book covers a number of broad facets of operative orthopaedic surgery broken down into regions. For each section, a trainee and a consultant from the RNOH have come together to give a brief synopsis of the relevant techniques and of the typical exam questions with which they might be challenged. The green colour is at times painful and the size of the book is too big for it to be easily portable but it is still within the range that can be carried in a briefcase.

The book summarises the basic principles well without going into great detail. The formatting is similar throughout. The x-rays and diagrams are very clear. It could prove to be a very useful guide for junior trainees who were starting out on their orthopaedic rotation and wished to have a quick update on the operation that they are about to see or participate in. It is a tremendous practical guide to issues such as consent and the typical risks that can challenge the young operator. There are some unfortunate spelling mistakes such as patella tendon instead of patellar tendon. Some details are lacking; there are limited data on posterior cruciate reconstruction. The information, although accurate, is at trainee rather than consultant level; this book will be very useful for the FRCS (Orth) exam but not beyond it. The text is nicely illustrated and the material is simplified appropriately. The authors have provided appropriate basic references and a useful index. The structure is uniform and sensible.

This book is to be highly commended to the trainee who wants broad exposure to orthopaedics for an exam rather than practical purposes.