BOOK REVIEW

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**Orthopaedic Knowledge Update 6 – Home Study Syllabus
J.H. Beaty (ed) 1999; 784 pp ISBN 0-89203-211-1
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This is an updated comprehensive text on orthopaedic issues with an impressive list of contributors. Newer aspects of the orthopaedic specialty are dealt with such as: soft-tissue physiology and repair, bone healing and grafting, biomechanics and gait, biomaterials in total joint arthroplasty, blood transfusion, coagulation and thromboembolism, perioperative medicine, clinical epidemiology, practice guidelines, outcome assessment, bone metabolism and metabolic bone disease, connective tissue disorders, genetic disorders and skeletal dysplasias. Apart from these are the more classic topics such as trauma and disorders to the specific regions of upper/lower extremities and the spine, including sports medicine, tumor and paediatric orthopaedics.

The individual chapters are well-written and edited. You will find newly updated information with references to figures from the literature underlining the messages, and at the end of each chapter there is a good annotated and classic bibliography. The single issues are briefly described, but nevertheless there is room for a short discussion on controversies in the approach to the specific matter. You will not find detailed descriptions of operative techniques but that is not the purpose of this book.

There are of course some shortcomings. I find that there are too few figures and images to illustrate the text and that the text following the illustrations and the markings in the illustrations are inadequate. I would have liked to see a reference to the bibliography when figures are mentioned. In some chapters I find that the topics are only briefly touched upon, for instance in the chapter on imaging where computed tomography just mentions spiral CT. But this is how it must be, when so much information is included in a single textbook.

I find it is a scoop to have a chapter on Epidemiology with topics such as sample size and power, diagnostic testing and meta- and decision analysis. This, and the chapters on Practice Guidelines and Outcome Assessment, are important subjects today regarding to quality control.

I find this book a very useful tool for providing the latest updated information necessary in daily practice. It provides a quick overview of the latest knowledge in orthopaedics.

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