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**Kenneth J. Kowall (ed): Orthopaedic Knowledge Update, 7th edition,
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It is here again – Orthopaedic Knowledge Update – and now it is number 7. These comprehensive updates are styled and authored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons but are read in most places where orthopaedic surgeons gather.

It has been the custom to have an update 2–3 years apart. This time, it is 4 years since number 6 was published, and more faithful readers had a slight fear that the updates had come to an end. Fortunately, this was not the case.

The size of the book is unchanged, with approximately 750 pages. The five sections are named as previously, as are most chapters. However, a whole new forum of orthopaedic surgeons from the American continent, under the editorship of Kenneth J. Koval, New York, has authored the book.

As far as I can see, there are three new chapters. Charles H. Epps, Jr., has given his opinion on selected ethical issues, of which some are of special interest to Americans while the majority have general appeal. Mathias P.G. Bostrom and Joseph A Buckwalter have written a new chapter on the physiology of ageing, and David S. Feldman has summarised his experiences on evaluation of lower extremity deformities.

Although this is a very American publication primarily written for American orthopaedic surgeons, it will serve to give orthopaedists outside the United States and Canada a basic level from which to judge different surgical options. The chapters are, as usual, well written, with a thorough list of recent as well as classical references – mostly of American descent. This is not a book one reads from beginning to end, but a syllabus where selected topics can be studied before eventually seeking more detailed information in the available literature. This book should be available in the library of any orthopaedic department.

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