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Book review

Mastering Orthopaedic Techniques-Total Hip Arthroplasty, in: Rajesh Malhotra (Ed.), 1st ed. Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd., Hardbound, 2012, p. 642, ISBN: 978-81-8448-898-2.

Total hip arthroplasty has gradually evolved over the last century from an exotic unusual surgery in the early twentieth century to be hailed as the “Operation of the Century” now, becoming a standard of care surgery for advanced hip arthritis. The editor has been successful in providing a diversity of opinion about this surgery with a galaxy of eminent authors from all over the globe, quite a large number of them enjoying international reputation. At the same time, there are fairly large number of authors from India who maintain the emphasis on clinical problems quite unique to India.

The book successfully provides the readers the complete range of perspective from the full range of surgical approaches to the hip to the wide variety of implants in current usage, including latest in the implant market as well as some devices which still remain under development. The early chapters explain the principles, design rationale, tribology, pre-operative planning, soft tissue balancing and almost all surgical approaches used in hip arthroplasty. At this stage, one does feel that probably a chapter on hip biomechanics and revision of some unique features of hip anatomy would have provided a strong basis on issues being covered in these early chapters. About one fourth of the book (Ten chapters) has been dedicated to explain the surgical techniques of various manufacturer specific implant systems. The unique problems of difficult primary hip arthroplasty in hip dysplasia, protrusion, inflammatory arthritis, acetabular fractures and bony ankylosis have been described in detail. Emerging role of robotics and navigation in total hip arthroplasty has also been adequately covered.

The book remains a good guide for orthopaedic surgeons doing primary hip arthroplasty only. This book can only be an

adjunct to revision hip arthroplasty surgeons with its sections on periprosthetic fractures and infections. But the book is targeted at orthopaedic surgeons at the beginning of their hip arthroplasty practice and those who are targeting only primary hip arthroplasty. This targeted reader group will definitely find excellent information to provide a solution to the challenging problems they face in their practice.

The final two chapters are written by international authors primarily based on the practice conditions and environment in their respective countries of origin (United Kingdom & USA). It would be quite difficult to implement any of these ideas in India with absence of any joint registry or any long term data in most of the institutions. Quality and safety can be improved only if one can analyze own results with long term follow up data. It definitely brings to attention the burning requirement of a joint registry in India, starting at an institutional level and going to national level. Perhaps, armed forces can once again take a lead in this field by setting up a joint registry.

To conclude, the editorial team of this book needs to be commended for their special efforts to bring out a comprehensive textbook on total hip arthroplasty with a team of authors who are internationally recognized authorities in the field. This book will surely adorn the shelves of the library of all institutions where total hip arthroplasty is being practiced.

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