Book Review

Bernard F. Morrey (2014). *Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery: The Elbow, Third Edition*. Wolters Kluwer, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 595 pp. RRP: £167, ISBN 9781451173093

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This is an excellent textbook for the experienced elbow surgeon but particularly for the upper limb surgeon who is asked to undertake the complex trauma and elective elbow problems that present to their orthopaedic department.

The book comprises 40 chapters written predominantly by American surgeons who are experts in the field of elbow surgery. Each chapter has a similar format with a brief introduction, indications and contraindications for surgery, preoperative planning, surgical technique, results and complications. The text is kept to the essential minimum and each author concentrates on providing high-quality operative photographs and diagrams that demonstrate the modern management of elbow disorders. There is a short section at the end of each chapter that has the most relevant references. This allows further study for the surgeon who wishes to research a topic in greater detail.

In addition to describing the appropriate technique for acute elbow trauma, the book also explains how to deal with the complications of elbow trauma, including the management of wound problems, surgery for non-union and the treatment of postoperative elbow stiffness. On the elective side, the varied range of conditions covered include the treatment of lateral epicondylitis, surgery for elbow ligament injuries and total joint arthroplasty including revision surgery.

I particularly enjoyed the last section of the book on postoperative management because this is a surgical area that is often poorly described in text books.

By textbook standards, this is not a massive book. It is, however, a very useful text on techniques in elbow surgery. I would regard it as an essential addition that, ideally, should be available in the surgeon's room within the operating theatre complex. This will allow the surgeon the opportunity to refresh his knowledge when faced with a patient who has a difficult elbow problem. Highly recommended.