BOOK REVIEWS

James O. Menzoian, MD, Book Review Section Editor

Chronic venous insufficiency

J. L. Ballard, J. J. Bergan; London; 2000; Springer; 200 pages; $265.00.

Venous surgery remains a Cinderella specialty, done by general surgeons and trainees, arguably to a lower standard than the more appealing major arterial surgery. Surgical specialization, which is creeping around much of the globe and, in particular, affluent Western countries, has raised the profile of venous disorders and arguably should go on to improve the standards of management.

From the title of this book, I expected that it was going to deal with the more complex issues in venous surgery, but in fact, it is a comprehensive text aimed at surgeons at all levels of experience. It contains four sections: one on the basic pathophysiology of venous disorders, a review of the management of varicose veins, a discussion on the complex issues associated with chronic venous insufficiency, and finally, a section on the management of deep vein thrombosis. The overall standard of the chapters is high, and the contributors list reads like a who's who of current experts on venous disease. The two senior editors bring a wealth of experience, and they have written a commentary at the beginning of each section. I liked this, and other editors might copy and even expand this idea. The text is clear and edited to an even standard; the chapters all contain a number of helpful tables. The illustrations are mostly black-and-white, but there are a number of color plates that certainly help to brighten up the text. As so often in a multiauthor book, the references are a little old (and mostly North American). Fortunately, progress is slow in venous disease, and little science of importance has been missed.

So for whom is this book written? Students will find the basic science chapters helpful; venous anatomy, pathogenesis of venous insufficiency, venous thromboembolism, and risk factors are described clearly. Surgical trainees may benefit from the descriptions of the CEAP classification and the various techniques in varicose vein surgery. Practicing surgeons will enjoy the chapter by Darke that outlines the causes of recurrent varicose veins and perhaps learn new tricks from the descriptions of ambulatory phlebectomy and injection sclerotherapy. It seems this book has something for everyone, but perhaps that is one disadvantage: by covering so much at different levels it risks appealing to few. There are a few criticisms. There are two nonanalytical chapters on subfascial endoscopic perforator surgery that reflect the enthusiastic approach of the editors. These fit less than comfortably next to the excellent chapter on methods of deep venous reconstruction by the Hawaii group. The latter chapter purports to be evidence based, but the authors acknowledge in their comprehensive review that there is very little science on which to base firm conclusions. Finally, the chapters on active management of deep venous thrombosis could also have benefited from a more critical analysis; indeed, it is some time since urokinase has been withdrawn from use as a thrombolytic agent.

I enjoyed reading this book and could recommend it as a comprehensive textbook on venous disease for surgeons and others working in vascular surgery. It deserves a wide circulation, but I hope the authors are not disappointed by the final circulation figures. The cost of $265 may deter many individuals from purchasing a copy, although one will surely be available in all good libraries.

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Current techniques in vascular surgery

James S. Yao, William H. Pearce; New York; 2001; McGraw-Hill; 551 pages; $160.00.

Current Techniques is a concise yet extensive review of new modes of therapy in vascular surgery. The editors have compiled chapters that span the breadth of clinical practice. The text begins with a chapter on the status of vascular surgery performed without conventional arteriography. This chapter covers the utility of color flow duplex and magnetic resonance angiography for both carotid endarterectomy and lower extremity bypass. The next five chapters review the utility and challenges that face the implementation of endovascular therapy. Sections on aortic endografting include a nice review of some of the clinical trials, use in ruptured infrarenal aneurysms, pararenal aneurysms, and thoracoabdominal aneurysms. The chapter on cerebrovascular ischemia reviews the current status of carotid angioplasty and stenting from the Cleveland Clinic.

In the chapter on complex upper extremity vascular problems is an update on the management of thoracic outlet syndrome and the management of vascular access complications. Unique topics in this section include discussions of finger gangrene and upper extremity injuries in athletes. Complications related to percutaneous closure devices are reviewed in the succeeding chapter. The final chapters review such topics as the workup for hypercoagulable disorders, the evaluation of the swollen leg, and the treatment of incompetent perforating veins. The text is small enough to be easily read by busy surgeons on the fly. I found it to be a nice, concise review of a wide variety of topics. I think that all vascular surgeons will find it useful, easy to reference, and convenient to use.

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Oxidative stress and vascular disease

J. F. Keaney, Jr; Boston; 2000; Kluwer; 373 pages; $220.00.

Oxidative Stress and Vascular Disease, edited by John F. Keaney, Jr, MD, is an exhaustive review of how the process of oxidation contributes to the development and progression of atherosclerosis, diabetes, and hypertension. The chapters are authored by experts in specific areas of oxidative stress and vascular disease. Each chapter is extensively and thoroughly referenced.

Oxidative modification of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is a key step in the atherogenic process. A constant theme throughout the book is the interplay between oxidative stress and inflammation.

The book contains an exhaustive, if not somewhat, redundant discussion on the use of antioxidants to treat cardiovascular disease. So far, clinical trials with antioxidants (such as vitamin E and C) have given mixed results; the general consensus is that increased intake of antioxidants may reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease. There is clear evidence that vitamin C improves vascular endothelial function in human subjects. There are ongoing trials of antioxidants for the management of cardiovascular disease that should provide more definitive information. Until that time, antioxidants represent a promising but as yet unproven therapeutic adjunct in the treatment of vascular disease.

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BOOK REVIEWS
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Dr. James Menzoian, MD is a vascular surgery specialist in Farmington, CT and has been practicing for 44 years. He graduated from New York State U, College of Medicine - Downstate in 1969 and specializes in vascular surgery. Overview Reviews. 2. About Me Locations Hospitals Compare. Dr. Menzoian's Reviews. Likelihood to recommend Dr. Menzoian. 5.0. Based on 2 reviews.

Biography. Dr. James Menzoian, MD is a vascular surgery specialist in Farmington, CT and has been practicing for 44 years. He graduated from New York State U, College of Medicine - Downstate in 1969 and specializes in vascular surgery. Specialties.