

Book Review

Mercer's Textbook of Orthopaedics and Trauma Tenth Edition

Editors: Sureshan Sivananthan, Eugene Sherry, Patrick Warnke and Mark D Miller
Hodder Arnold, 2012, 1598 pp
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I was attracted to this book when it was on the display shelf of our library recently. This is a hefty tome with 1,598 pages and weighing 5 kg! One hundred and seventy-six international authors contributed to this book including authors from Malaysia, Singapore and India.

This appealing book has 138 chapters which are divided into 12 parts. These are Introduction; Musculoskeletal structure, function and healing; Basic Science; Trauma; Paediatric orthopaedic surgery; Sports Medicine; Musculoskeletal Oncology; The spine; Adult reconstruction surgery; Hand and Upper Limb; Foot and Ankle; New technologies and best clinical practice.

Most chapters are short and easy to read. The national board standards set the study objectives at the beginning of each chapter. The illustrations are clear and the key learning points highlight the salient facts at the end of each chapter.

The initial chapters cover research and the basic sciences including anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, biomechanics and biomaterials. The final part is equally interesting as this is on new technologies and best clinical practice. Topics covered include computer-assisted navigation, tissue engineering, ethics, joint registries, informed consent, work-related injuries and evidence-based medicine. The last chapter is an apt reminder on strategies to prevent burnout which include having a positive approach to work and a better work-life balance.

The attractiveness of this book was somewhat marred by errors in the captions. These were in Figure 2.10 where Froment's test was misspelt as Frament's test. In Figure 20.1 depicting Volkmann's ischaemic contracture of a hand, there was no description of the second photograph showing extension of the fingers following wrist flexion. In Figure 33.3 on Garden's classification of fracture neck of femur, Garden was misspelt as Gardner. The caption in Figure 64.2 described a blade plate fixation of the proximal femur but has an additional radiograph of a distal tibia fixed with a T-plate. Figure 64.3 showed a radiograph of the femurs following varus derotation osteotomies but labelled as distal tibia derotational osteotomies. The radiograph in Fig 64.4 showed bilateral femoral head resection and valgus osteotomies that was described as a periacetabular pelvic osteotomy.

Overall this is still an excellent book for orthopaedic trainees but the glaring errors have to be rectified in the next reprint.

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