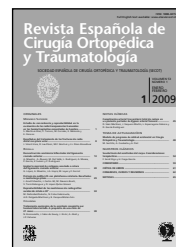




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BOOK REVIEW

***Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*, by Michel Mansat**

The book is part of a collection devoted to the surgical techniques currently employed for the different joints addressed by the several branches of Orthopedic and Trauma Surgery.

The volume has been edited by a renowned and prestigious French surgeon, with vast experience in shoulder surgery especially, who was capable of bringing together a group of specialists not only well versed in their specific topic but also—as mentioned by the editor in the Preface—with great didactic capacity. This explains that the book is chiefly geared to training resident physicians, although it can also be of great use to specialists whose professional activity is not based so much on shoulder and elbow surgery and even for specialists in these anatomic regions, who may find in the book a helpful reference for areas that they do not treat regularly or that they are not overly familiar with.

Since the book is devoted exclusively to surgical techniques, one is struck at first glance by the large amount of color illustrations, which didactically spell out the different steps of the surgical techniques covered, laying special emphasis on those that are key to obtaining a good result. The volume also includes real images from surgery as well as schematic drawings aimed at facilitating the identification of anatomic landmarks.

As regards the contents, the book deals separately with shoulder and elbow pathology, devoting an equal number of chapters to each Joint. Both sections have a similar structure. For specialists reading the book, the shoulder section contains a detailed description of open surgical techniques that not long ago were carried out systematically to treat many conditions that can now be addressed

arthroscopically, such as the subacromial syndrome, rotator cuff tears and instability. It is often important to know where one comes from in order to understand the foundations of current minimally invasive techniques. The book includes chapters dealing with usual topics like fractures, arthroplasty and arthroscopic surgery but, in my view, the most interesting chapter is the one devoted to the loss of soft tissue volume and to the ways to manage the problem (fasciocutaneous and muscular flaps). This is a topic that is often cast aside or, at best, discussed sketchily in most classical treatises.

The elbow joint is addressed similarly to the shoulder in a similarly structured section. Nowadays, the treatment of elbow conditions is following the same steps taken by the management of shoulder pathology. We currently not only understand and treat fractures, but are fully aware of the symptoms and the disability that in apt to follow an untreated instability (generally resulting from a dislocation) or an incipient or advanced osteoarthritis; we are also aware of the risk of damaging the nerve structures that cross the elbow joint. For this reason, the authors—as they do for the shoulder—include a series of didactic sketches and surgical images that illustrate the treatment of these injuries, both by means of open and arthroscopic surgery, depending on the condition to be treated.

In a nutshell, this book is a treaty aimed at enhancing practical training of shoulder and elbow surgery, which supplements the theoretical knowledge imparted by the classical Works, which often do not address in such a clear and didactic manner the main surgical techniques used for treating the most common conditions affecting these joints.

J. Fernández González
E-mail: julianfergon@telefonica.net
(J. Fernández González)