Book Reviews


This book was inspired by the rapidly advancing techniques in arthroscopic shoulder surgery over the past 25 years. The authors aim to provide the reader with a description of arthroscopic shoulder surgical techniques in a straightforward manner that can be applied in clinical practice. Insight is provided from leading experts in the field, including international expertise from over 60 contributing authors. This text provides descriptions of all of the more common techniques, including arthroscopic treatment of impingement, acromioclavicular joint arthritis, rotator cuff pathology, instability, labral pathology, biceps pathology, calcific tendonitis, ganglion cysts, and frozen shoulder. The text also provides descriptions of more advanced arthroscopic techniques, such as in the treatment of subscapularis tears, inflammatory synovitis and tumors, osteoarthritis, and scapulothoracic conditions.

This hardcover book is divided into a total of 40 chapters, organized into 6 sections, including glenohumeral instability, impingement pathology, acromioclavicular joint arthritis, rotator cuff pathology, and specialized arthroscopic techniques. Also included are independent sections on the history of arthroscopic surgery, basic diagnostic arthroscopy, and approaches to arthroscopic knot tying. An optional CD-ROM is also available, containing video clips for many of the procedures described in the textbook, that provides a multidimensional approach to learning. This large-sized, hardcover book is very pleasing to the eye and includes over 600 images (arthroscopic images, color photographs, and line drawings) which effectively illustrate procedural steps. Each chapter is concisely organized using a consistent format, including an introduction, surgical principles and technique, postoperative protocol, and a comprehensive reference list. Multiple techniques that address the same clinical condition are often discussed to provide the reader a broad perspective.

Overall, this book provides straightforward and comprehensive descriptions of both basic and advanced arthroscopic surgical techniques, and serves as an invaluable resource for both the novice and accomplished shoulder surgeon. I highly recommend it not only as a reference for all orthopaedic residents, but also as a welcome addition to the experienced shoulder surgeon’s library as well.

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This text is a second edition, revised since the primary text was published in 1997, now grown to 49 leading authors from 31 original contributors. While the format is largely the same as the original, this new text is more thorough, expanding on the prior knowledge base and author experience in the intervening 8 years.

As Dr. Gerber points out in his introduction, many revision situations are rare enough so that extensive literature review is not available. This is how the editors tap into the experience of an international community of broad, respected, and thoughtful contributors.

There are 6 primary sections: instability, rotator cuff tears, stiffness, fractures, arthritis/arthroplasty, and miscellaneous problems (which include chapters on nerve lesions, scapular disorders and deltoit injuries). Within each section, the authors provide a short introductory segment, emphasizing diagnostic tools and clinical examination pearls.

With the growing experience on arthroscopic techniques, there are ample descriptions of arthroscopic management methods, especially in instability, rotator cuff disorders, and stiffness. This is not a text focusing on basic shoulder arthroscopy, but rather for the experienced shoulder surgeon who regularly deals with complicated and/or revision situations. Knot-tying techniques, portal placement, and injury recognition are emphasized in these sections with color, step-by-step figures. Because so many intricate steps are involved in many arthroscopic procedures, a DVD would be a welcome future addition.

With the evolution of our knowledge of shoulder disorders, and the increasing demands placed on this joint in our active and aging population, this text is a must for consultation on a complicated topic of revision shoulder surgery. I have found the first edition helpful in many situations, and welcome and congratulate the editors and authors for their meaningful contribution to the literature over the years in journals, and through this new addition to our library.

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