23–27 Oct American College of Rheumatology meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Mark Andrejeski, Executive Vice President, 17 Executive Park Drive, NE, Suite 480, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

In 1995

26–31 Mar Fourth international conference on systemic lupus erythematosus, Jerusalem, Israel
Contact: Fourth International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel

18–24 June 13th European congress of rheumatology (EULAR), Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Contact: EUROCONGRES, Koningslaan 52, NL-1075 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31(0)20 6793411. Fax: 31(0)20 6737306

30 July–3 Aug 3rd World congress on myofascial pain and fibromyalgia, San Antonio, Texas, USA
Contact: Jon Russell, MD, PhD, Chairman, Organising Committee, Department of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78284-7874, USA. Tel: (210) 567 4661. Fax: (210) 567 4654

Book reviews

Surgical Repair and Reconstruction in Rheumatoid Disease. A Benjamin, B Helal, S Copeland, J Edwards. (Pp 251; DM280.) Heidelberg: Springer, 1993. ISBN 3 540 19727 3.

Orthopaedic surgery plays a major part in the management of patients with rheumatoid arthritis and is likely to do so for the foreseeable future. This book has four respected authors: three of them orthopaedic surgeons and the fourth a rheumatologist. Chapters are devoted to the general principles of synovectomy, osteotomy, arthroplasty, and arthrodesis, and then individual chapters describe the use of these procedures for specific joints including the spine. This does tend to lead to some repetition which extends to duplication of a figure illustrating the optimal placing of a bedside locker after different approaches to hip arthroplasty, but in general this is not excessive. There are also chapters on selection of patients and procedures, perioperative care, including splinting, aetiology and pathology of rheumatoid arthritis, and medical management. A useful final chapter on 'the rheumatoid in society' includes discussion of aids and appliances, joint protection, work, recreation, and sexual aspects. There is implicit recognition throughout that successful results depend upon close liaison between orthopaedic surgeon, rheumatologist, and paramedics. As one would expect from this publisher the quality of radiographs and illustrations is high.

This is not a manual of operative technique, but it provides an overview of the procedures available and the advantages and problems associated with each. The style is didactic and opinions are expressed freely, but the text is fairly sparingly referenced. This makes for provocative reading and there are probably few who will not find some areas of disagreement. However, this book clearly reflects a wealth of hard won experience and sound judgment on the treatment of this disease and it forces one to re-evaluate one's own opinions and practice.

I feel that this book should be read by all orthopaedic surgeons and rheumatologists, both established and in training. The price will probably discourage individual purchase to some extent, but it should certainly be available in every hospital library.

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ROBIN BUTLER

Techniques in Therapeutic Arthroscopy. Ed J Serge Parisien. (Pp 385; \$157.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1993. ISBN 0 7817 0054 X.

A comprehensive description of arthroscopic surgery of the majority of joints is provided by this textbook. It is divided into six sections and includes chapters on the knee, hip, shoulder, carpal tunnel, wrist, and ankle. The authors have carefully described the indications for each arthroscopic procedure, the surgical technique, and postoperative complications. The arthroscopic photography is excellent and the accompanying figures clearly produced and labelled, providing a useful refresher in musculoskeletal anatomy.

This textbook is obviously written for orthopaedic surgeons but includes two chapters describing the more rheumatological problems. In the chapter on arthroscopic procedures for synovium and joint capsule of the knee there are good synovial photographs of villonodular synovitis, rheumatoid disease, and crystal arthritis. It is suggested that when rheumatoid disease is resistant to medical management for a period of at least six months, synovectomy is indicated, and the technique of arthroscopic synovectomy is clearly described. The final chapter on arthroscopy of the temporomandibular joint gives a brief description of connective tissue disease as it may affect that joint.

Overall this textbook is for the arthroscopic enthusiast. I am not sure that many rheumatologists will read this beautifully produced book and persuade their orthopaedic colleagues to take study leave to learn the next generation of microsurgical techniques.

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T D KENNEDY

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