COLOR ATLAS OF VASCULAR DISEASES

C. Diehn, J.-R. Allenberg, K. Nimura-Eckert, F. J. Veith; Berlin; 2000; Springer; 396 pages; $189.00.

When I initially perused this book, I was unimpressed by its contents and thought that the subject matter was very elementary and would not be very interesting to vascular surgeons. However, when I began reading in more detail, I realized the information contained was very valuable to anyone caring for patients with vascular disease.

This book is unique in that it contains numerous (1035) color photographs and other figures of common lesions in patients with arterial and venous peripheral vascular disease. It includes numerous angiograms that correlate with the photographs of vascular lesions. The text, by design, is brief in explaining the pathology. It includes angiograms and photographs of common operations such as carotid endarterectomy and aortic reconstructions. There is an excellent section on the vasculitides complete with photographs of physical findings seen in these disorders and a more complete yet concise description of each separate disorder. Since these disorders are rather uncommon, this book is a superb reference for those seeking to learn more about these inflammatory vascular diseases. For example, if the reader had read about but had never seen a "butterfly rash," there is a photograph of this finding and other unusual clinical findings in this book. The extensive use of color photographs and selected figures provides the reader with a rapid summary of the clinical presentation of many vascular disorders. This atlas will be especially valuable when demonstrating the clinical features of a disorder to a resident or medical student in a concise manner.

This book's major strength is its excellent figures and photographs that pictorially describe most of the major vascular disorders. This will be a valuable atlas, especially for students and residents. Its major weakness is its cost ($189.00) and minimal provision of text description for the reader who desires in-depth discussion of a specific vascular disorder. Overall, I found the text surprisingly useful and highly recommend it, especially for those involved in education as either students or instructors.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANEURYSMS

Richard Keen, Philip Dobrin; Georgetown, Tex; 2000; Landes Bioscience; 235 pages; $99.00.

This book comprises a selection of review articles devoted to the development and formation of aneurysms in general, with a particular focus on nonspecific abdominal aortic aneurysms. The text contains chapters from a number of authors prominent in this field and is edited by Richard Keen and Philip Dobrin, who together contribute to six of the 13 chapters. This strong editorial presence means there is little overlap between chapters, although inevitably this leads to a strong bias toward certain theories of aneurysm formation.

The Development of Aneurysms contains sections on all major aspects of aneurysm formation including epidemiology, blood vessel mechanics, matrix synthesis, in vivo models of aneurysms, potential etiology, and pharmacologic treatments. Current theories to explain aneurysm formation are numerous, but may be divided into three broad categories, mechanical, proteolytic, and autoimmune. The central theme throughout the entire book is that aneurysms are considered to be a complication of atherosclerosis and a manifestation of hemodynamic and biomechanical factors. The arguments put forward in support of this concept are persuasive and clearly elucidated in four chapters, which account for 113 of the book's 235 pages. The chapter written by William Stehbens on the pathogenesis of atherosclerotic aneurysms is particularly forthright and didactic, while other chapters give excellent reviews of the mechanical properties of the arterial wall and its structural proteins.

However, the focus on hemodynamic and biomechanical failure of the arterial wall means that other subjects are given relatively brief attention. Rather surprisingly, given the direction of much current research, there are no chapters on the role of extracellular proteases in aneurysm development or on the genetic basis of aneurysmal disease. These subjects are partially covered in other chapters, but the reviews are by no means comprehensive. Despite this, most aspects of aneurysm development are covered in some detail. Given the rapid progression of research in aneurysm biology, some key recent developments will inevitably be missing, and there is no discussion of the implications of the MRC small aneurysm trial or the use of MMP knockout mice.

Interestingly, the format of the book may allow annual updating of the text. The publisher, Landes Bioscience, states that a transition to Internet publishing is being made with the site Eurekah.com. The chapters that comprise The Development of Aneurysms will apparently be available as individual research reports on this site and will be updated annually. The Web site is unrestricted and free of charge. At the time of writing, there were no papers from this text in the research report database, but this presumably reflects recent publication.

This book is an excellent introduction to the underlying mechanisms responsible for the development and formation of aneurysms. It will be indispensable to any residents starting research in this subject. Because of the book's focus on etiological mechanisms and basic pathobiology, the text will not appeal to all clinical vascular surgeons. However, for anyone with an interest in aneurysm formation, the book provides a summary of much current research, although there is a heavy emphasis on mechanical and hemodynamic factors.

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RUSH UNIVERSITY REVIEW OF SURGERY, 3RD ED


The Rush University Review of Surgery (third edition) is a current review of general surgery and the surgical subspecialties presented in a concise and comprehensive manner. Over 1800 multiple choice, matching, and true-false questions are each followed by a focused comment section supplemented with biblio-
Vascular intervention: a clinical approach
Bruce Perler, Gary Becker; New York; 1998; Thieme; 733 pages; $139.00.

This 733-page book contains 74 chapters, all written by physicians very familiar with vascular disease. It is the philosophy of the two editors that a multidisciplinary approach is of paramount importance, to achieve superior patient care. I could not agree more. Each chapter contains a logical approach to the disease process addressed with the majority of the chapters beginning with the pathophysiology and diagnosis and ending with the available treatment regimens and their known outcomes.

The first 24 chapters deal with “Chronic Peripheral Arterial Occlusive Disease.” A short synopsis of the recent theories of atherosclerosis is contained in the first chapter followed by separate chapter discussions concerning the history and physical examination of the patient with vascular disease, the function of the vascular laboratory, the use of magnetic resonance arteriography, and intravascular ultrasound. A well-referenced and well-written chapter on claudication is included in this section as well, and the treatment of hyperlipidemia follows in the next chapter. Five viewpoints are then presented in separate chapters on the treatment of aortoiliac disease, surgery, angioplasty, stents, thrombolysis for occlusions, and endovascular repair. Excellent diagrams, photographs, and angiograms fill these pages making reading them enjoyable. Six chapters are then devoted to treatment options for infragenital peripheral vascular occlusive disease including surgery, the role of duplex scan surveillance, femoropopliteal angioplasty and stents, femoral, aortoiliac, and angioioplasty of graft stenoses. A realistic appraisal of these techniques is presented in each chapter with comprehensive outcome data and results compared. Six more chapters present a potpourri of vascular entities including atherosclerosis, the diabetic foot, Buerger’s disease, popliteal entrapment and adventitial cystic disease, Raynaud’s syndrome, and inflammatory arteritis.

The next section is entitled “Acute Peripheral Arterial Occlusive Disease” and includes seven chapters. A complete multidisciplinary discussion is achieved in this section, which includes the use of surgery, antplatelet and antithrombotic agents, and the treatment of hypercoagulable state syndromes. The use of thrombolytic therapy is then outlined for occluded arteries and grafts along with a description of pulse-spray techniques, intraoperative use, and percutaneous thromboembolectomy. Unfortunately, the 12-page table presented in chapter 30 is poorly presented and difficult to read.

“Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms” is the title of the next section that consists of 12 chapters. Seven of these chapters are not on abdominal aortic aneurysms but include discussions of femoral and popliteal artery aneurysms, aortic dissection, thoracoabdominal aneurysms, endovascular repair of thoracic aortic aneurysms, pseudoaneurysms and arteriovenous fistulas, treatment of pseudoaneurysms with ultrasound-guided compression, and a misplaced chapter on iliofemoral deep venous thrombosis thrombolytic therapy. Even though they are in the wrongly labeled section, all of these chapters describe a nicely written “how I do it” synopsis of the topics. The chapters that really concern abdominal aortic aneurysms are excellent as well and provide information on the pathogenesis of aneurysm formation, clinical presentation, natural history and indications for intervention, and the role of preoperative imaging studies. Additionally, there is a chapter on treatment of both elective and ruptured aneurysms and another well-written chapter on the endovascular techniques to repair them.

The next nine chapters concern “Cerebrovascular Disease” and cover the clinical presentation and natural history and medical management of these patients and the role of each imaging technique in the evaluation of these patients. The surgical approach and interventional approach are discussed in detail for carotid, subclavian, and vertebral disease. Some of the information is quite opinionated; however, both sides are presented for each topic. Thrombolytic therapy is well outlined for its use in stroke and intracerebral percutaneous angioplasty is reviewed in chapter 52.

“Visceral Vascular Disease” is then addressed in the following 12 chapters. Mesenteric occlusive disease is thoroughly discussed in four chapters concerning presentation and evaluation of both chronic and acute mesenteric ischemia, and the role of surgery and interventional techniques for treatment of both these clinical entities. Renovascular hypertension is similarly discussed with excellent chapters on the evaluation and expected outcomes of treatments whether it is either surgery or angioplasty with or without stent placement. Complete and up-to-date reviews are then presented in the next four chapters on portal hypertension with focus on the nonoperative, operative, and interventional techniques of the TIPS procedure. The Budd-Chiari syndrome is nicely reviewed in Chapter 64.

The last section is on “Venous Disease,” and 10 chapters are devoted to it. Clinical presentation and medical management including catheter-directed thrombolysis of both lower and upper extremity venous thrombosis are addressed. The role of the vascular laboratory in venous disease is described in one of the chapters with excellent examples and algorithms for treatment management schemes. Chronic venous insufficiency is covered in the next two chapters with a discussion about how to make the diagnosis and what surgical options may be available. Vena caval filters, venous stents, central venous catheters, and pulmonary embolectomy techniques are each discussed in a separate chapter. Overall, it is one of the most complete collections of information on the diagnosis and treatment of venous disease that has been placed in a general vascular textbook that I have read.

This is a good textbook for general surgery residents, vascular fellows, and trainees in interventional radiology. It has up-to-