

Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery: Soft Tissue Surgery (only pp. 61–289, relating to surgery of the upper extremity, was reviewed)

Steven L. Moran, William P. Cooney III, eds. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2009. 499 pages, \$229.00.

Soft Tissue Surgery is a new volume in the Master's Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery series that is now edited by Dr. Bernard Morrey. The contributing editors for this first edition of Soft Tissue Surgery are Drs. Moran and Cooney from the Mayo Clinic who have enlisted a wonderful assortment of contributing authors. This text follows the popular, very readable, and standardized format of the series and distinguishes itself through the quality of the writing but more importantly by the outstanding color photographs and drawings. Additionally, the full text is available online in an easy-to-access format that is searchable and allows image download. The text costs US\$229, which seems reasonable to me given the content.

The authors state that "the educational goal of this text is to demonstrate how to avoid wound problems and how to cover wound problems if they should occur." I believe these goals are accomplished. The first 2 chapters are a general consideration of why wounds fail to heal and a discussion of the initial evaluation and management of wounds. Chapters 3 and 4 are pertinent to the upper extremity and include management of simple wounds and the use of vacuum-assisted closure. Chapters 5 through 24 comprise the bulk of the upper-extremity management, but Chapters 36 and 37 should not be overlooked in their review of limb and digital replantation. Chapters 25 through 35 discuss a variety of lower-extremity issues that were not the focus of this review.

This text is comprehensive in its assessment of com-

plex upper-extremity soft tissue problems. All pertinent coverage techniques for the upper extremity including skin grafts, rotational flaps, pedicle flaps, and free flaps are reviewed with specific technique descriptions and "pearls." It is these chapters that form the heart of the text, but there are additional chapters on the management of nerve injuries, vascular injuries, shoulder soft tissue problems, and lower-extremity problem situations such as knee arthroplasty and calcaneal fractures that separate this text from others that also discuss flaps and grafts. While not intuitively a part of such a text as this, these chapters are a nice addition because it becomes a valuable resource for both the soft tissue surgeon and the general orthopedic surgeon facing a difficult coverage problem.

In short, I believe this text is a wonderful addition to the series and will be useful for those in residency as well as the practicing hand surgeon or orthopedic surgeon. It distinguishes itself from other texts of soft tissue coverage by its format (describing indications, surgical options and techniques), beautiful color photographs, and the chapters devoted to a problem-based discussion of treatment options.

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