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ORTHOPARDICS

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Health Science Asia Elsevier Science



ORTHOPAEDICS

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人民卫生出版社

Health Science Asia, Elsevier Science

人民卫生出版社

Health Science Asia, Elsevier Science

Orthopaedics

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

骨科学/(美)菲茨杰德著.一影印本.一北京:人民卫生出版社, 2002

ISBN 7-117-04941-3

Ⅰ.骨… Ⅱ.非… Ⅲ.骨科学-英文 IV.R68中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 026561号

图字: 01-2002-1966

骨科学(英文版)

原 著: Robert H Fitzgerald, Jr等

出版发行: 人民卫生出版社(中继线 67616688)

地 址: (100078)北京市丰台区方庄芳群园3区3号楼

域 址: http://www.pmph.com

E-mail: pmph @ pmph.com

印 刷:北京市安泰印刷厂

经 销:新华书店

开 本: 889×1194 1/16 印张:127.25

字 数: 5866 千字

版 次: 2002年8月第1版 2002年8月第1版第1次印刷

标准书号: ISBN 7-117-04941-3/R·4942

定 价: 518.00元

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(凡属质量问题请与本社发行部联系退换)

PREFACE

Orthopaedics was envisioned and developed to provide concise, systematic coverage of the essential principlies of orthopaedics, including the relevant scientific information on which those principles are based. While scientific literature remains the foundation of knowledge of the musculoskeletal system, its prodigious nature in an ever-expanding number of specialty journals precludes assimilation of all of the information. The editors sought to develop a single source of authoritative information reflecting knowledge synthesized from the literature and clinical experience, with integration of pertinent basic research investigations and clinical outcomes.

Orthopaedics was not intended to compete with multivolume reference works nor with monographs on circumscribed topics. Rather, it represents core orthopaedic knowledge that will provide the reader with information and concepts pertinent to the essential principles that guide modern orthopaedic practice.

One of the main goals of this textbook is to integrate current discussion of the clinical aspects of musculoskeletal disorders with rapidly evolving scientific information that is altering knowledge of diseases and their treatments. Another, closely related goal is to provide information that will facilitate preparation for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery Certification Examination, for the Recertification Examination, for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons In-Training Examination, and for other certifying examinations throughout the world.

Diseases of the musculoskeletal system are increasing with an aging world population and are highly prevalent throughout the world. As a result, a wide range of individuals have a keen interest in the principles of musculoskeletal medicine and surgery who we hope will find Orthopaedics useful. We believe this book will have value to orthopaedic surgeons at all stages of their professional lives. Beginning residents can read through this book for an overview of their new specialty; trainees or clinicians preparing for certification or recertification examinations can read portions of this book as a broad review; and practicing clinicians can use this book as a convenient shelf reference. We also believe that other physicians, including rheumatologists, physiatrists, and a wide range of primary care physicians, will find this book advantageous both for treating patients and deciding which patients require referral for musculoskeletal care. In addition, the many other health professionals who care for patients with musculoskeletal disorders should find this book to be an accessible, authoritative, and reliable guide to the foremost, up-to-date medical and surgical thinking.

In order to avoid the lengthy tracts of dense text so often encountered in modern multivolume orthopaedic reference works, *Orthopaedics* has a unique user-friendly format with a high degree of consistency in style and presentation designed to impart knowledge without unnecessary minutiae. Each chapter opens with a Summary Box featuring several concise statements that highlight the key principles detailed in the chapter. These summaries not only provide a preview of the chapter but also serve as a rapid-recall trigger for readers who have studied the chapter. Each chapter is then developed in a consistent manner. Rather than an exhaustive list of references, each chapter contains highly selected and relevant references.

Chapters devoted to various diseases of the musculoskeletal system begin with a concise definition of the disease followed by a discussion of its history, epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical findings, differential diagnosis, and mangement. Orthopaedics was not envisioned to be a treatise on surgical technique; pearls of surgical wisdom are provided in operative pictures, artwork, and text. Applications of new devices and techniques are emphasized with diagrams and operative photographs. Each of the chapters that focuses on diagnostic and therapeutic interventions discusses the various options for achieving a desired goal and clearly identifies the pros and cons, priorities, and controversies of each option. Chapters concerned with basic science of the musculoskeletal system contain a brief historical review of the development of the scientific issues and clearly identify the clinical or practical relevance of each biological or engineering issue that is discussed. This approach will appeal to the reader who desires an in-depth understanding of the disease and also allows for easy retrieval of specific information on the subject.

In Orthopaedics there is a strong emphasis on illustrations, with the belief that visual images facilitate rapid learning with long-term retention. Medical and surgical treatments have been summarized with tables and graphs to present easily digested comparisons. Artists working with the contributors in a consistent style and format created hundreds of new drawings. In addition to these drawings, each of the chapters includes clinical photographs and high-quality reproductions of

pathological specimens, radiographs, and other clinical imaging techniques.

The editors wish to thank all whose efforts have been responsible for the development of this readable and informative textbook. The contributing authors were carefully selected to provide information that is accurate, up-to-date, and easy to understand. We are grateful to them for their effort, their knowledge, and their skill. We are particularly grateful to the section editors who shared our enthusiasm and played a critical role in the development of their sec-

tions, choice of authors, and editing. Geoff Greenwood should be commended for his efforts with the initial impetus for the development of *Orthopaedics*, and Richard Lampert has been a stalwart through the various difficulties we have encountered.

Robert H. Fitzgerald, Jr, M.D. Herbert Kaufer, M.D. Arthur L. Malkani, M.D.

CONTENTS

| SECTION 1 GENERAL ORTHOPAEDICS | SECTION 2 STRUCTURE AND |
|--|---|
| COURTLAND G. LEWIS | FUNCTION OF THE MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM |
| 1-1 CLINICAL HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATON3 | VICTOR GOLDBERG, BRIAN JOHNSTONE |
| lan D. Learmonth | 2-1 EMBRYOLOGY OF BONE |
| PATIENT MANAGEMENT | Jill A. Helms |
| 1-2 ANESTHESIA FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS UNDERGOING ORTHOPAEDIC PROCEDURES 15 Todd J. Troshynski, Steven J. Weisman | 2-2 BONE: STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, GROWTH, AND REMODELING147 Natalie Sims, Roland Baron |
| 1-3 ANESTHETIC AND PERIOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE GERIATRIC PATIENT | 2-3 ARTICULAR CARTILAGE: STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, AND PHYSIOLOGY |
| 1-4 ANESTHESIA AND PAIN MANAGEMENT 30 Kentaro Tsueda, Gary E. Loyd | 2-4 MUSCLE, TENDON, AND LIGAMENT: STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, AND PHYSIOLOGY168 Donald T. Kirkendall, William E. Garrett, Jr |
| MUSCULOSKELETAL IMAGING | 2-5 PERIPHERAL NERVE STRUCTURE: FUNCTION AND |
| 1-5 GENERAL ORTHOPAEDIC RADIOLOGY: RADIOGRAPHY, ARTHROGRAPHY, TOMOGRAPHY, | PHYSIOLOGY180 David C. Preston |
| MYELOGRAPHY, AND DISKOGRAPHY | 2-6 BONE GRAFT AND BONE SUBSTITUTES186 N. Schachar, C. Fennel, |
| 1-6 MUSCULOSKELETAL HELICAL COMPUTED | T. Otsuka, A. Ladd |
| TOMOGRAPHY | 2-7 CALCIUM HOMEOSTASIS195 Edward M. Greenfield, Thomas A. Einhorn |
| 1-7 MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING 53 Stephen J. Eustace | 2-8 OSTEOPOROSIS: ETIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT201 |
| 1-8 MUSCULOSKELETAL SONOGRAPHY 60 Jon A. Jacobson | Robert R. Recker, M. Janet Barger-Lux 2-9 MUSCULOSKELETAL TUMORS, PAGET'S DISEASE, |
| 1-9 NUCLEAR MEDICINE | AND FIBROUS DYSPLASIA |
| GAIT AND REHABILITATION | |
| 1-10 PRINCIPLES OF NEURO-ORTHOPAEDIC | SECTION 3 TRAUMA |
| REHABILITATION | CHRISTOPHER T. BORN, WILLIAM G. DELONG, JR |
| 1-11 GAIT ANALYSIS IN ORTHOPAEDICS | CHRISTOPHER 1. BORN, WILLIAM G. BLESNA, S. |
| Sylvia Õunpuu | 3-1 PRIORITIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE |
| 1-12 LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOTICS AND | POLYTRAUMA PATIENT221 C. William Schwab, Christopher T. Born |
| PROSTHETICS107 Christopher J. Aiken, Robert S. Lin | 3-2 PRINCIPLES OF OPERATIVE FRACTURE |
| BIOMECHANICS AND BIOMATERIALS | STABILIZATION AND FIXATION228 Carl T. Hasselman, Gary S. Gruen |
| 1-13 BASIC CONCEPTS OF BIOMECHANICS116 | 3-3 COMPLICATIONS OF FRACTURES: ACUTE239 |
| David Pienkowski | E. H. Schemitsch, Markku T. Nousiainen |
| 1-14 ORTHOPAEDIC BIOMATERIALS131 Patrick W. Kwok, Courtland G. Lewis | 3-4 COMPLICATIONS OF FRACTURES: CHRONIC 250 Matthew D. Pepe, John L. Esterhai |

| 3-5 SHOULDER GIRDLE AND PROXIMAL HUMERAL FRACTURES25 | SECTION 4 ORTHOPAEDIC SPORTS MEDICINE |
|--|--|
| Stephen Kottmeier | DARREN L. JOHNSON |
| 3-6 FRACTURES OF THE HUMERAL SHAFT27 M. Bradford Henley, Sean Nork | 4-1 MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SPORTS: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF INJURIES, PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, |
| 3-7 ELBOW28 Roman A. Hayda | AND DRUGS IN SPORTS |
| 3-8 FOREARM FRACTURES29 J. David Evanich, Gregory J. Schmeling | Mary Lloyd Ireland, Susan M. Ott |
| 3-9 WRIST FRACTURES | John Nyland, Michael F. Nolan |
| 3-10 HAND FRACTURES31 | 4-4 INJURIES TO THE MUSCLE-TENDON UNIT544 Donald T. Kirkendall, William E. Garrett, Jr |
| Steven P. Sampson 3–11 PELVIS AND SACRUM32 | 4–5 OVERUSE INJURIES |
| Madhav Karunaker, James A. Goulet 3–12 ACETABULAR FRACTURES33 Christoper T. Born, William G. DeLong, Jr, | 4-6 SHOULDER INJURIES IN ATHLETES564 |
| Patrick J. Brogle 3–13 HIP | 4-7 DIAGNOSIS OF SHOULDER INSTABILITY AND LABRUM INJURIES |
| 3-14 FEMORAL SHAFT FRACTURES | Scott D. Mair, Brad E. Brautigan, |
| 3-15 FRACTURES OF THE DISTAL FEMUR33 Frederick S. Bennett | 4-9 PAINFUL ELBOW ENTHESOPATHY, ENTRAPMENT, AND |
| 3-16 TRAUMATIC KNEE INJURIES35 John T. Gorczyca | NEUROPATHY |
| 3-17 TIBIAL SHAFT FRACTURES | CHONDRAL LESIONS610 |
| 3-18 DISTAL TIBIA FRACTURES | 4-11 KNEE LIGAMENT INJURIES: EPIDEMIOLOGY, MECHANISM, DIAGNOSIS, AND NATURAL HISTORY619 |
| THE ANKLE4 Kevin J. Pugh | 19 Gregory C. Fanelli, David R. Maish 4–12 TECHNIQUES IN KNEE LIGAMENT SURGERY636 |
| 3-20 CALCANEUS AND TALUS4 | Jeff Brand, Jr, Darren L. Johnson |
| Jeff Anglen 3-21 FRACTURES OF THE FOREFOOT AND MIDFOOT4 | 4-13 ARTICULAR CARTILAGE INJURIES OF THE KNEE655 Peter S. Borden, Scott D. Mair, Vladimir Bobic, Darren L. Johnson |
| Raymond J. Sullivan, Michael S. Aronow | 4-14 MENISCAL INJURY663 |
| 3-22 CERVICAL SPINE TRAUMA | 46 Emin Taskiran, M. Hakan Özsoy 4-15 ANTERIOR KNEE PAIN AND PATELLOFEMORAL JOINT |
| Devry C. Anderson, Todd J. Albert 3-23 THORACOLUMBAR SPINE INJURIES4 | INSTABILITY678 |
| Paul E. Savas, Alexander R. Vaccaro, Todd J. Albert | 4-16 THE ARTHROSCOPIC MANAGEMENT OF ANKLE INJURIES IN ATHLETES686 |
| 3-24 PRINCIPLES OF PEDIATRIC FRACTURES | = = |
| 3–25 UPPER EXTREMITY | |
| 3–26 LOWER EXTREMITY | ARLEN D. HANSSEN 5-1 DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF MUSCULOSKELETAL |
| 3-27 SPINE AND PELVIS | 601 |

| 5-2 PEDIATRIC OSTEOMYELITIS AND SEPTIC ARTHRITIS708 William J. Shaughnessy | 6-13 REVISION THA: ACETABULUM |
|---|---|
| 5-3 ADULT OSTEOMYELITIS AND SEPTIC ARTHRITIS718 Robert H. Fitzgerald, Jr, George Cierny III | 6-14 ARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE936 Jonathan L. Schaffer, Peter J Gard, |
| 5-4 INFECTED FRACTURES AND NONUNIONS727 Declan J. M. Bowler, Peter Keogh | Daniel Solomon |
| 5-5 HAND INFECTIONS | 6-15 OSTEOTOMIES ABOUT THE KNEE947 Stephen G. Manifold, Michael A. Kelly, Lars Richardson, Thomas J. GIII |
| 5-6 SPINAL INFECTIONS | 6-16 KNEE ARTHROPLASTY961 Yram J. Groff, Anton Y. Plakseychuk, |
| 5-7 INFECTED TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY755 Joshua A. Urban, Kevin L. Garvin | Lawrence S. Crossett 6-17 REVISION TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY967 |
| 5-8 INFECTED TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY | Raj K. Sinha COMPLICATIONS |
| 5-9 NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AND SOFT-TISSUE | 6-18 MANAGEMENT OF COMPLICATIONS AFTER JOINT |
| INFECTIONS | ARTHROPLASTY974 Nicholas G. Sotereanos, Robert F. Hube, Sokratis E. Varitimidis, Ulrich Schietsch |
| 5-10 ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY IN THE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST | 6-19 PARTICULATE DISEASE983 Stuart B. Goodman |
| SECTION 6 ARTHRITIDES ARTHROPATHIES | SECTION 7 MUSCULOSKELETAL TUMORS |
| RAJ SINHA, HARRY RUBASH | DEMPSEY S. SPRINGFIELD |
| 6-1 OVERVIEW OF ARTHRITIS807 Michael H. Huo, Omer A. Ilahi | 7-1 PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF BONE TUMORS991 Michael J. Klein |
| 6-2 OSTEOARTHRITIS | 7–2 BIOPSY |
| 6-3 INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS819 Timothy M. Wright, Aldo Vincent Londino | 7-3 IRRADIATION FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL TUMORS 1006 Dempsey S. Springfield |
| 6-4 CRYSTALLINE ARTHROPATHIES | 7–4 CHEMOTHERAPY |
| UPPER EXTREMITY RECOUNT | BONE TUMORS |
| 6-5 NEUROPATHIC ARTHROPATHIES831 John S. Kirchner | 7-5 CLINICAL PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDED EVALUATION OF A PATIENT WITH A SUSPECTED BONE |
| 6-6 GLENOHUMERAL ARTHRITIS838 Rick Placide, Gerald R. Williams, Jr | TUMOR |
| 6-7 ARTHRITIS OF THE ELBOW854 John A. King, James H. Herndon, | 7-6 BENIGN BONE TUMORS |
| Matthew M. Tomaino THE HIP | 7-7 MALIGNANT BONE TUMORS |
| 6-8 ARTHRITIS OF THE HIP869 David L. Boardman, Jay R. Lieberman | 7–8 MANAGEMENT/SURGERY 1042 F. W. Marsden |
| 6-9 OSTEONECROSIS877 Nobuhiko Sugano | 301 1-11330E TOMONO |
| 6-10 OSTEOTOMY/ARTHRODESIS/RESECTION888 Rajit Saluja | 7-9 PRESENTATION AND EVALUATION 1051 William G. Ward, Sr |
| 6-11 PRIMARY TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY900 William B. Macaulay, Eduardo A. Salvati | 7-10 BENIGN SOFT-TISSUE TUMORS |
| 6-12 REVISION TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY: THE FEMORAL SIDE | 1065 |

XXVI CONTENTS

| 7-12 MANAGEMENT AND SURGERY | SECTION 9 PEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDICS |
|--|--|
| · | JAMES C. DRENNAN, KENNETH GUIDERA |
| METASTATIC SKELETAL DISEASE | 9-1 FAILURE OF FORMATION OF THE LIMBS1223 |
| 7-13 METASTATIC SKELETAL DISEASE | R. M. Bernstein, H. G. Watts |
| MANAGEMENT | 9-2 CONGENITAL ABSENCE OF THE FIBULAE 1230 James A. Harder |
| 7-14 NONSURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF BONE METASTASES | 9-3 ACQUIRED AMPUTATIONS IN CHILDREN |
| 7–15 SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SPINE | 9-4 GENETICS I |
| 7-16 METASTATIC DISEASE OF THE UPPER EXTREMITY 1102 H. Thomas Temple | 9-5 GENETICS II: GENETIC SYNDROMES WITH ORTHOPAEDIC MANIFESTATIONS |
| 7-17 SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF METASTATIC DISEASE OF THE PELVIS | 9-6 METABOLIC CONDITIONS |
| Mary I. O'Connor 7–18 LOWER EXTREMITY METASTASES | 9-7 HEMATOPOIETIC CONDITIONS |
| Deborah Anne Frassica | 9-8 INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIDES: JUVENILE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, SERONEGATIVE SPONDYLOARTHROPATHIES, TRANSIENT SYNOVITIS, HEMOPHILIC ARTHROPATHY 1315 Timothy P. Carey |
| SECTION 8 SPINE | • |
| STEVEN R. GARFIN | UPPER EXTREMITY AXIAL SKELETON |
| 8-1 MECHANISMS OF DISK AND MUSCULOSKELETAL BACK PAIN1125 | 9-9 UPPER EXTREMITY (ACQUIRED ERB'S) |
| Robert F. McLain, Gordon R. Bell | 9-10 THE CONGENITAL HAND |
| 8-2 ADULT SCOLIOSIS | 9-11 IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS |
| 8-3 LUMBAR SPONDYLOLISTHESIS | 9-12 SCOLIOSIS: CONGENITAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR 1352 Thomas S. Renshaw |
| 8-4 CERVICAL DISK DISEASE | 9-13 CERVICAL: KLIPPEL-FEIL, TORTICOLLIS |
| 8-5 THORACIC DISK HERNIATIONS | 9-14 KYPHOSIS |
| 8-6 LOW BACK PAIN AND SCIATICA1162 Todd J. Albert, Kush Singh | |
| 8–7 SPINAL STENOSIS | HIP |
| Alexander R. Vaccaro, Dan A. Zlotolow | 9-15 EMBRYOLOGY AND ANATOMY |
| 8-8 WHIPLASH | 9-16 DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPLASIA OF THE HIP: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF THE NON-AMBULATOR |
| 8-9 CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN | 9–17 DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN THE AMBULATORY CHILD WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPLASIA OF THE HIP1394 |
| 8-10 COMPLICATIONS OF SPINAL SURGERY | George T. Rab 9-18 COMPLICATIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF HIP |
| 8-11 SPINAL BIOMECHANICS | DYSPLASIA1412 Perry L. Schoenecker |
| 8-12 SPINE FUSION: BIOLOGICAL AND MECHANICAL CONSIDERATIONS | 9–19 LEGG-CALVÉ-PERTHES |
| Geoffrey M. McCullen, Navin Kilambi, Steven R. Garfin | 9-20 SLIPPED CAPITAL FEMORAL EPIPHYSIS |

| LOWE | ER EXTREMITY | SECTION 11 FOOT AND ANKLE |
|------|--|---|
| 9-21 | CONGENITAL DEFORMITIES OF THE KNEE | CHARLES SALTZMAN |
| 9-22 | KNEE DISORDERS IN ADOLESCENCE | 11-1 LIGAMENT INJURIES OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE 1607 David A. Porter |
| 9–23 | LEG DEFORMITIES | 11-2 ANKLE ARTHRITIS DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT 1622 Nicholas A. Abidi, Sheldon S. Lin |
| 9-24 | Arthur Pappas, Errol Mortimer CLUBFOOT1475 | 11-3 TENDINOPATHIES OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE 1638 Scott T. McMullen, Timothy C. Fitzgibbons |
| 9-25 | Alain Diméglio, Frédérique Bonnet VERTICAL TALUS | 11-4 THE RHEUMATOID FOOT AND ANKLE |
| 9-26 | Marek Napiontek TARSAL COALITION | 11-5 THE DIABETIC FOOT |
| 9-27 | Tomas Epeldegui FLEXIBLE FLATFOOT, METATARSUS ADDUCTUS, SKEWFOOT | 11-6 NERVE PROBLEMS OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE 1681 Lew C. Schon, Ilan Cohen, Mark E. Easley |
| 9-28 | Vincent S. Mosca BUNIONS | 11-7 ACQUIRED ADULT FLATFOOT DEFORMITY 1699 Jonathan T. Deland, II Hoon Sung |
| 9-29 | LIMB LENGTH DISCREPANCY | 11-8 MIDFOOT ARTHRITIS |
| | | 11-9 DISORDERS OF THE FIRST RAY |
| | TION 10 NEUROMUSCULAR TER B. GREENE | 11-10 PROBLEMS OF THE LESSER TOES |
| 10-1 | CEREBRAL PALSY: OVERVIEW AND MANAGEMENT OF SPINAL DEFORMITIES | 11–11 ORTHOTIC MANAGEMENT OF FOOT AND ANKLE PROBLEMS |
| 10-2 | GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LOWER EXTREMITY PROBLEMS IN CEREBRAL PALSY | SECTION 12 HAND AND PERIPHERAL NERVE SOFT-TISSUE AND BONE INJURIES |
| 10-3 | CEREBRAL PALSY: UPPER EXTREMITY | PETER J. STERN |
| 10-4 | FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA AND RETT'S SYNDROME 1546 Hubert Labelle | 12-1 NAIL BED AND FINGERTIP INJURIES |
| 10-5 | ANTERIOR HORN CELL DISEASES | 12-2 FLEXOR TENDON INJURIES |
| 10-6 | MYELOMENIGOCELE1558 | 12-3 EXTENSOR TENDON INJURIES |
| 10-7 | John V. Banta HEREDITARY SENSORY MOTOR NEUROPATHIES 1567 | 12-4 TENDINITIS OF THE HAND AND WRIST 1772 Stephen H. Lacey |
| 10-8 | Brian G. Smith MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY1573 | 12-5 WRIST INSTABILITY |
| 10-9 | Michael D. Sussman NEUROFIBROMATOSIS TYPE I | 12-6 NONUNION OF THE SCAPHOID |
| 10-1 | LO ARTHROGRYPOSIS | 12-7 METACARPAL AND PHALANGEAL NONUNIONS 1791 William B. Geissler |
| 10 | 11 ACQUIRED CEREBROSPASTIC DISORDER: STROKE, | MICROVASCULAR SURGERY AND SOFT-TISSUE COVERAGE |
| | BRAIN INJURY 1594 John D. Hsu | 12-8 GENERAL ASPECTS OF MICROVASCULAR TISSUE REPLANTATION |
| 10- | 12 PEDIATRIC SPINAL CORD INJURY: LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT | 12-9 REGIONAL FLAPS |

| xxviii | CONTENTS | | | |
|--------|--|-------|---|--------|
| 12-10 | DISTANT FLAPS: PEDICLE AND FREE | 12-21 | SYNDACTYLY | . 1895 |
| RECON | NSTRUCTION | 12-22 | THUMB (INCLUDING FLEXED, DUPLICATED, AND | |
| 12-11 | RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIC HAND | | HYPOPLASTIC) | . 1899 |
| 12-12 | OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE HAND | | COMPRESSION AND INJURY | |
| 12-13 | POST-TRAUMATIC THUMB RECONSTRUCTION 1837 Guy Foucher | 12-23 | PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES Peter J. L. Jebson | . 1906 |
| 12-14 | GAMEKEEPER'S THUMB | 12-24 | BRACHIAL PLEXUS INJURIES Peter M. Waters | . 1914 |
| 12-15 | ARTHRODESIS | 12-25 | COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME IN THE UPPER EXTREMITY | . 1921 |
| 12-16 | TENDON TRANSFERS IN THE UPPER EXTREMITY 1859 Jack Choueka, Daniel P. Mass | | Harris Gellman, Evan Collins | |
| 12-17 | BONE AND SOFT-TISSUE TUMORS OF THE HAND AND WRIST | 12-26 | NERVE PHYSIOLOGY AND REPAIRS Thomas E. Trumble, Wren V. McCallister | . 1929 |
| | Michael Bothwell, Kevin D. Plancher | 12-27 | MEDIAN NERVE COMPRESSION | . 1936 |
| 12-18 | KIENBÖCK'S DISEASE | | Joseph M. Failla | |
| 12-19 | DUPUYTREN'S CONTRACTURE | 12-28 | RADIAL NERVE COMPRESSION SYNDROMES Divya Singh, Thomas Breen | . 1941 |
| | ENITAL DEFORMITIES | 12-29 | ULNAR NERVE COMPRESSION | . 1945 |
| 12-20 | RADIAL CLUBHAND | | INDEX | . 1953 |

GENERAL ORTHOPAEDICS

COURTLAND G. LEWIS

section 1 chapter

CLINICAL HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

lan D. Learmonth

Summary

- The musculoskeletal system provides locomotor function.
- Disorders of the musculoskeletal system are associated with pain and loss of function.
- A good history qualitatively and quantitatively characterizes the pain and quantifies the disability based on the functional requirements peculiar to each individual patient.
- A structured routine of clinical history and examination usually elicits the clinical symptoms and signs that will confirm the diagnosis.

Orthopaedic surgeons deal with injuries, diseases, and disorders of the musculoskeletal system. Patients are unaware of the autonomic control of many of the systems of the body; for example, they are unaware of an increased production of insulin after a glucose-rich meal, or of the liver's response to a cholesterol challenge. The function of the musculoskeletal system, however, is most often recruited by a conscious act of volition. A failure to provide the desired function is therefore usually readily apparent.

A PHILOSOPHY OF ORTHOPAEDIC DIAGNOSIS

I do not believe that the orthopaedic clinical examination should be based on the symptoms and signs traditionally associated with pathogenetic groupings of disease entities—inflammatory, infective, vascular, neoplastic, degenerative. These should rather be unbundled and applied to problem solving in specific clinical areas—the painful knee, the painful shoulder, and so on. A careful history will often provide sufficient information for a provisional diagnosis, which can usually be affirmed by methodical clinical examination. Special investigations are then only required to confirm the diagnosis.

In orthopaedic surgery, it is often easy to make the diagnosis; it is the choice of management that provides the greatest challenge. In deciding on the optimal treatment, it is essential to attempt to assess the pain and to quantify the associated disability. Disability will to some extent be determined by deformity, rate of progression, and so on. However, it will mainly depend on the degree to which the patient's social, domestic, recreational, and professional activities are restricted. Although expectations will clearly differ enormously from patient to patient, one needs to define to what degree quality of life is compromised. This will be very patient-specific. Only when armed with this information can the surgeon make a rational decision about management (Fig. 1).

HISTORY

The history should consist of the following points.

Presenting Complaint. What was the patient's main complaint that persuaded him or her to visit the doctor? How long has it been present? Is it deteriorating, and if so, how rapidly?

Personal History and Background. It is important to establish the patient's age, social circumstances (e.g., family, type of abode), work environment, recreational pursuits, and general psychological condition. This allows the orthopaedic surgeon to establish a patient profile. Souter has emphasized the importance of "picking a winner" when choosing the first operation in a program of reconstructive surgery in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis. A successful procedure establishes patient trust, and the more complex surgery can then be contemplated "together" with more confidence. It is only when the patient's expectations and attitude have been identified that it becomes possible to "pick a winner" in patient terms (Table 1).

Family History. A pertinent family history should be sought only when the presenting complaint has been defined. The interrogation should include any history of a similar complaint in any member of the family.

Some orthopaedic conditions are autosomal dominant (e.g., Ehlers-Danlos and Marfan's syndromes) whereas others are autosomal recessive (e.g., diastrophic dysplasia). However, the majority of orthopaedic conditions that have any genetic association are characterized by a familial predisposition, such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and gout.

Past Medical History. Musculoskeletal symptoms in the adult are often a late expression of treated or untreated orthopaedic disorders. It is therefore important to try to establish whether the patient had any musculoskeletal disorder as a child. As much detail as possible should be gleaned about any previous orthopaedic surgery. In some cases, this may merely assist with the diagnosis (e.g., degeneration secondary to a dysplastic hip), whereas in other cases it may have management implications (e.g., ankylosis and scarring from drainage of previous septic arthritis).

Trauma of bones, joints, and soft tissues often predisposes to degenerative conditions of the musculoskeletal system. A detailed history of all severe trauma should therefore be obtained. It must be recognized that all children suffer intermittent episodes of minor trauma, but these will invariably be implicated in the etiology of many nontraumatic childhood conditions (e.g., Perthes' disease, slipped capital femoral epiphysis).

In arthritis, any history of the involvement of other joints should be sought. This may suggest a polyarticular inflammatory arthropathy. Do these patients fit the American Rheumatism Association criteria for rheumatoid arthritis? Similarly, arthritic patients should be specifically questioned

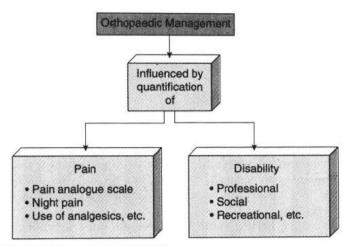


Fig. 1. Orthopaedic management.

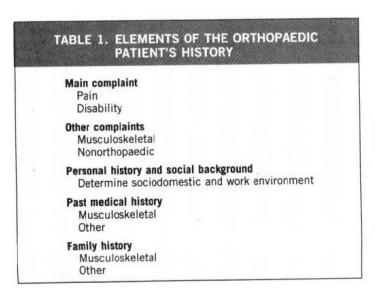
regarding the stigmata of reactive arthritis—psoriasis, regional ileitis, urethritis, and so on.

Examination and special investigations may suggest diagnoses that invite more specific details of the medical history. Thus a suspected diagnosis of osteosarcoma in the middle-aged patient demands further questioning regarding a history of previous radiotherapy. An overview of other systems should always be included in the past medical history. This may contribute to the diagnosis and should expose any conditions from which the patient suffers that might adversely affect proposed surgery and anesthesia. Risk factors should be identified, such as diabetes mellitus or steroid therapy (Fig. 2).

The prevalence rate of familial predisposition in inflammatory arthropathies, and the association of mechanical derangement and osteoarthritis, makes the past medical history particularly relevant in making an orthopaedic diagnosis.

PREDISPOSING FACTORS

In cases in which predisposing factors are associated with specific diagnoses, the surgeon should expose the relevant history. Thus a patient with suspected osteonecrosis of the



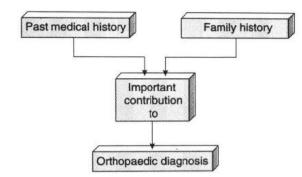


Fig. 2. Orthopaedic diagnosis.

hip should be carefully questioned regarding exposure to a dysbaric environment, abuse of alcohol, steroid therapy, and so on. Likewise, a patient with a suspected infective lesion of the spine should be asked about previous exposure to tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Overuse injuries occur in athletes and dancers, or indeed in anyone after excessive activity without adequate training. The three main causes of overuse trauma are friction, stress, and ischemia.

Excessive friction of a tendon or bursa during joint movement may provoke an inflammatory reaction (e.g., iliotibial band syndrome). Repeated stress may result in an incomplete fracture of bone (e.g., March fracture of the second or third metatarsal). Ischemia usually occurs in muscles that are tightly contained within fascial compartments. Overuse causes relative ischemia, swelling, and, occasionally, a recurring low-grade compartment syndrome.

Table 2 lists some of the better known clinical overuse syndromes.

SYMPTOMS

PAIN

Pain is probably the most common presenting symptom in orthopaedic conditions (Table 3). It is traditional to discuss the pain's location, duration, progression, nature (e.g., stabbing, burning), intensity, and presence of radiation. It is important to elicit this history; however, this should not be undertaken by rote. The specific characterization of the pain is often diagnostic. Thus a sharp shooting pain in the back (often with radiation) is usually radicular, whereas a chronic ache aggravated by activity is caused by degenerative changes, and a constant boring pain is usually infective or neoplastic.

TABLE 2. OVERUSE SYNDROMES

Tennis elbow (lateral epicondylitis)
Golfer's elbow (medial epicondylitis)
Trochanteric bursitis
Patellar tendinitis (jumper's knee)
Iliotibial band syndrome
Achilles tendinitis
Calcaneal bursitis
Shin splints
Stress fractures (tibia and metatarsals)

TABLE 3. PRESENTING SYMPTOMS IN ORTHOPAEDIC CONDITIONS Pain Stiffness Swelling Deformity Altered sensation Limp Loss of function

Groin pain is typically hip pain. As a rule of thumb, pain anterior to a midline coronal plane usually arises from the hip whereas pain posterior to this line is most often attributable to the spine (Fig. 3).

It is often useful to ask a patient to point to the site of pain. Thus pain in the neck/shoulder interval is usually caused by cervical spondylosis, whereas the patient will point with one finger to the source of acromioclavicular joint pain. The shoulder is clasped for glenohumeral pain

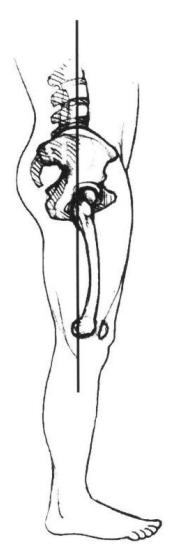


Fig. 3. Pain. Pain anterior to the midcoronal plane generally arises from the hip, whereas pain posterior to this line is usually attributable to the spine.

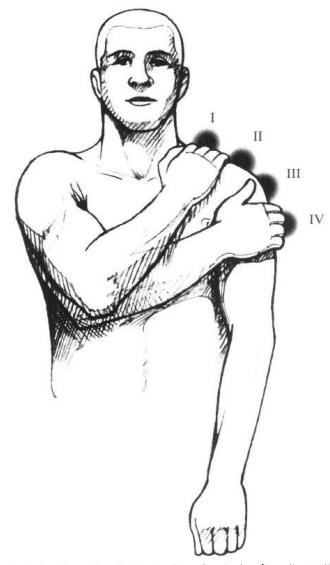


Fig. 4. Pain. The patient's localization of pain is often diagnostic around the shoulder; I. cervical spondylosis; II. arthritis of the acromioclavicular joint; III. glenohumeral arthritis; IV. rotator cuff syndrome.

and a hand over the badge area indicates a rotator cuff problem (Fig. 4).

If the pain has been present for a long time, the condition is likely to be chronic and degenerative. The severity and rate of deterioration will certainly influence decisions regarding management. It is often useful to use a pain analogue scale in an attempt to quantify pain (Fig. 5).

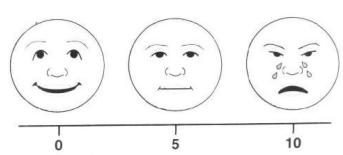


Fig. 5. A visual pain analogue scale.

| | TABLE 4. GRADING OF PAIN | |
|-------|--|--|
| Grade | Criteria | |
| 1 | No pain | |
| 2 | Mild, can be ignored | |
| 3 | Moderate, requires analgesics | |
| 4 | Severe, intrusive despite an analgesic | |
| 5 | Very severe; inhibits virtually all activities | |

Although pain is subjective, its intrusiveness and the need for an analgesic have been recruited in an attempt to classify its severity (Table 4).

Patients should also be carefully questioned regarding their analgesic regimen. This can be used to monitor pain in much the same way as the patient-controlled analgesia method is used in the postoperative period. Some patients are stoic and will deny significant pain despite taking a substantial regular dose of analgesia. Alternatively, an impressionable person who has witnessed a loved one die with excruciating pain may grossly exaggerate his or her own pain as a result of anxiety bordering on neurosis.

When considering the identified site of the pain, it should be remembered that it could be referred. Pain referred into the upper and lower limbs is commonly referred from the cervical or lumbar region. Osteonecrosis of the hip may present exclusively with pain in the knee. Referred pain may originate from very different areas. For example, avascular necrosis and an obturator hernia can both present with pain in the knee. This is not the result of shared sensory pathways but reflects the inability of the cerebral cortex to distinguish between sensory messages from embryologically related sites (Fig. 6).

I am aware of at least three patients with osteonecrosis of the femoral head who underwent arthroscopies of the knee because the possibility of referred pain was not considered in their symptomatic presentation.

STIFFNESS

Stiffness may represent a subjective impression or may denote an absolute reduction in movement. Stiffness is commonly encountered with soft tissue scarring, periarticular fibrosis, or intra-articular adhesions. This is nonspecific; however, establishing when the stiffness is at its worst may provide a valuable clue to the diagnosis. Thus osteoarthritic joints are painful on rising after an interval of rest following a period of vigorous physical activity. Prolonged morning stiffness characterizes the inflammatory arthropathies. For example, a young man in his 20s who complains of recurring severe stiffness (and pain) in his back on rising in the morning should be regarded as having ankylosing spondylitis until it is proved otherwise. Stiffness will of course also contribute to loss of function.

SWELLING

The patient may be aware of a swelling. Is this hard or soft and does it fluctuate? Is it progressive? If the knee has swollen following trauma, it is important to distinguish

between early swelling (within an hour) and late swelling (within 12 to 24 hours). The former is probably hemarthrosis consequent on disruption of intracapsular soft tissue, whereas the latter is likely to be an effusion (possibly a meniscal tear).

INSTABILITY

Instability may be the presenting symptom of the patient. It is then necessary to obtain a detailed account of the mechanism of injury and to establish the movements or positions that give rise to the feeling of instability. Structurally, the instability may be the result of ligamentous disruption, or it may be spurious to avoid pain because soft tissue is trapped in the joint. The latter case will then often be associated with locking. This may be the presenting feature of a bucket handle tear of the meniscus. Muscle weakness may also lead to a feeling of instability.

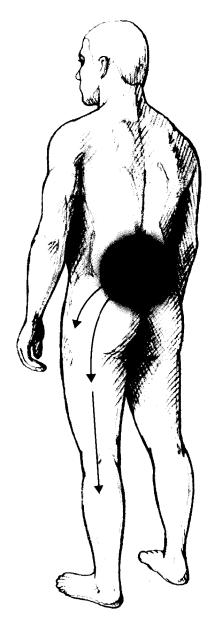


Fig. 6. Referred pain. A disorder in the lower back can produce nonradicular pain that radiates down the leg.