Maxillofacial Trauma and Esthetic Facial Reconstruction
Edited by Peter Ward Booth, Barry L. Eppley and Rainer Schmelzeisen
Published by Churchill Livingstone (London)
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I read with great interest the above text on maxillofacial trauma and reconstruction. It provides both an American and British perspective on these two interesting and important fields within the maxillofacial speciality. It comprises 4 sections, starting with principles, to definitive management of both hard and soft tissue trauma, then onto secondary surgery and reconstructive procedures and finally discussing innovations in treatment and techniques.

In addition it has within the sections chapters based on topics of wider import, such as medico-legal implications and psychological support for the victim of trauma, supplemented with examples from practice.

There is plentiful use of coloured pictures of high quality, surgical illustrations and diagrams to help further elucidate the text. The use of coloured text boxes also holds the readers attention and brings home the main and important points of the chapters.

The book provides much information to benefit one’s training and education in maxillofacial surgery. I found enlightening the first chapter discussing the varying trends in maxillofacial trauma from country to country and how interpersonal violence has overtaken road traffic accidents (RTAs) as the primary aetiological factor of trauma in the UK. A table is provided comparing the UK to various other countries, such as India and Tanzania, where RTAs are still the predominant cause of facial injuries.

The chapter on the principles of soft tissue repair provides a logical step-by-step process for the management of this type of injury. The chapter on radiographic assessment provided just the right level of detail and was very well supplemented with labelled pictures of scans and films. Other chapters emphasised the importance of referral and team work with other specialities, such as Ophthalmology and Neurosurgery. The topic of facial scar management was of particular interest to me and although the chapter on it provided a good overview, it lacked greater depth and detail. It would have also benefited from more pre-operative and post-operative pictures to illustrate various scar revisions. However, all chapters benefit from having a large list of reference sources at the end to promote further reading.

In conclusion, I found this book to be highly recommendable as a reference source and for those training in maxillofacial surgery. I feel that all contributors have helped to produce a book which is indeed quite easy to read, logical and with a great deal of relevant clinical information and well-illustrated text.

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Manual of Aesthetic Surgery: Volume 1
Werner L. Mang, 2002
Springer-Verlag (Berlin)
ISBN 3-540-66512-9
£164.50 (Hardback), 288 pages

The Manual of Aesthetic Surgery is divided into two volumes with volume 1 covering rhinoplasty, rhytidectomy, eyelid surgery, otoplasty and adjuvant therapies including laser surgery. While Volume 2 contains material on liposuction, breast surgery, hair transplantation, aesthetic surgery of the extremities, abdominal wall and adjuvant therapies. Each volume costs £164.50 and comes with a DVD video.

This book sets to serve as a manual on how to perform the 10 most important and frequent operative procedures in aesthetic plastic surgery. The two volumes are aimed at aesthetic and plastic surgeons, dermatologists, ENT and maxillofacial surgeons. The scope of the book is wide and one suspects the demand for such a book is relatively high. This subject is usually a minor chapter in a plastic surgery text, yet deserves to receive individual attention because of the wide range of specialists who carry out an increasingly diverse range of cosmetic procedures.