Mariano Socolovsky, Lukas Rasulic, Rajiv Midha, and Debora Garozzo (eds): Manual of peripheral nerve surgery: from the basics to complex procedures

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This book is a manual for the peripheral nerve surgeon that informs and demonstrates with excellent illustrations and clinical examples. It logically starts with excellent descriptions of the relevant anatomy shown by clear schematic illustrations and cadaveric dissections (suggestion: that would have benefitted by having orientation marked on them). Many pearls are provided along the way such as mentioning the distal Riche-Cannieu anastomosis between the thenar branch of the median nerve and the deep branch of the ulnar nerve in the hand. The chapters are short but richly informative and easy to digest. Refreshingly, equal attention is given to the brachial plexus and lumbo-sacral plexus, though the latter is much less often operated upon. There are many chapters by many different authors which makes a certain amount of redundancy unavoidable. However, I have never found this to be a negative, since repetition leads to greater retention of knowledge. Chapter 4—Clinical Aspects of Peripheral Nerve Lesions in the Upper Limb—I found to be particularly comprehensive and clinically useful.

This book contains an excellent chapter (6th) on the clinical application and utility of electrodiagnostic studies both in and outside the operating room, an essential part of every peripheral nerve surgeon's knowledge base. There are also informative chapters on the clinical benefits of using MR Neurography (7th chapter) and Ultrasound (8th chapter) techniques to help both evaluate and treat a variety of peripheral nerve disorders. A number of chapters deal effectively and clearly with the how to of dealing with traumatic peripheral

nerve injuries (Chapters 9 and 10). Chapters 11 and 12 are very useful in prognosticating and assessing clinical outcome. A number of chapters describe various types of more traditional nerve repair and decompressive procedures. Neurotization procedures in dealing with brachial plexus injuries are listed in Chapter 17 but are not discussed in any detail unfortunately. Chapters 18 and 19 do an excellent job describing the evaluation and surgical treatment of newborns with brachial plexus injuries. A very strong and compelling argument is made that newborns with such injuries should be referred to centers that specialize in the treatment of these challenging disorders so as to optimize their treatment and clinical outcome. Several uncommon topics are covered which include dealing with very challenging injuries to the lumbosacral plexus as well as to the facial cranial nerve. Finally, the topics of treating both benign and malignant peripheral nerve tumors and other types of masses are dealt with pragmatically and succinctly.

This book will be of interest to surgeons in multiple specialties who deal with peripheral nerve disorders (e.g., neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, ENT surgeons, and general surgeons to mention a few). Although it touches on the topic of nerve transfers, hopefully, another book will deal with these relatively new surgical procedures in a more comprehensive manner. All in all, a good and worthwhile read.

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