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BOOK REVIEW BY PIERRE KEHR

Challenging cases in spine surgery

2005, 280 PAGES, 190 FIGURES, HARDCOVER | EURO (D) 89,95 CHF 144,00

THIEME VERLAG - NEW YORK, STUTTGART | ISBN: 3-13-141941-5 (GTV) | ISBN: 1-58890-393-1 (TNY)

In Challenging Cases in Spine Surgery the authors present 87 case studies relating to trauma, inflammation, degeneration, neoplasm, infection and congenital aspects of spine surgery organized by type.

Even if some of the cases are complex, the presentation is simple, standardized and easy to understand, making the book easily readable. Each brief study, extended to 2 pages only, comprises patient presentation, radiographic findings (including Xrays, myelograms, angiograms, intraoperative photographs,

MRIs and CT scans), diagnosis, treatment, discussion and suggested bibliography. The authors incorporate, beside classic operative approaches, new technology such as bone morphogenetic protein and percutaneous spine surgery. The book commences with surgical trauma cases that are unique and challenging, in keeping with the title. In each chapter a range of complex patients is presented, highlighting the latest and most advanced spine surgery techniques currently in use. Cervical, thoracic and lumbar regions are all well represented and of a good variety of cases. Images are high-quality and instructive to analyze. A broad scope of the

literature is represented within the whole body of work. Cases are both excellent representations of relatively common and unusual, "challenging" pathology, mostly present in trauma and congenital chapters. In spite of some limitations such as a lack of a more in-depth discussion of the patient description, pertinent details in the imaging studies or the fact that the readings are sometimes quite old (1983 for example), classic, or first presentations of the topic, the book will enhance any medical library. It would take years to collect the experience these cases represent, so students of radiology and neurosurgery will want access to this text, while the referring physician and physical therapist will find this a good representation of the surgeons' action plan for referrals. (•)

P. KEHRLI