H. Resch and E. Beck (eds.)

Arthroscopy of the Shoulder

Diagnosis and Therapy

Translated from the German by M.-L. Antoft
and B. Marschall

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Preface

In the last few years arthroscopy has been firmly established as an investigative and therapeutic modality with regard to the knee and more recently to the shoulder joint. The establishment of a clinical diagnosis in the shoulder joint can be a difficult problem, as the site of the symptoms only very rarely coincides with the area of the actual lesion. Diagnostic arthroscopy together with other imaging techniques has greatly contributed to the assignment of symptoms to particular lesions. Direct visualization of the intraarticular structures provides clear and precise information in both normal and pathological conditions. Visual exploration on the intraarticular structures allows arthroscopy to be used as a means of diagnosis also in the soft tissue layer of the shoulder joint. The thick soft tissue layer surrounding the shoulder joint, in particular, presents a challenge to avoid open surgery, as arthroscopic surgery shortens the postoperative rehabilitation time. This is why a variety of therapeutic techniques in the field of arthroscopic surgery have been and are still being intensively researched. Several methods have already become routine. Bankart refixation techniques as well as techniques for arthroscopic acromioplasty are two examples.

This brings us to mention the excellent cooperation provided by members of the Institute of Anatomy of the University of Innsbruck. We would also like to thank the head of the institute, Prof. Dr. W. Platzer, for his generous support in founding an arthroscopic laboratory for research in his department. Some of the already existing arthroscopic surgical techniques were improved and new ones developed in this laboratory.

The primary objective of this book is to provide comprehensive information on the latest developments in diagnostic and therapeutic arthroscopy. We have tried to include as much practical information as possible, much of it gained from trial and error experience in our department, but also gleaned from published reports and personal communications with other surgeons.

A wide range of illustrations hopefully assists comprehension of the text and, in particular, illustrates the individual operative steps. Furthermore, we considered it important to emphasize the indications for arthroscopic surgery and the preoperative assessment has been given considerable attention.

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H. Resch and E. Beck

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