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Controversies and update - In vascular and cardiovascular surgery

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This new edition of *Controversies in Vascular Surgery* has a special meaning for the French Vascular Community in general and most particularly for the Department of Vascular Surgery of Henri Mondor Hospital, University Paris XII, since it happens to take place the year of Professor Didier Mellièrè's retirement. It is a wonderful opportunity for his colleagues, fellows and friends to gather one more time at a scientific and friendly meeting and to wish him a long, peaceful and enjoyable retirement. Didier Mellièrè has played a key role in France for the organization of the training, credential and finally the establishment of a fully separate vascular specialty long before any other country. Today, French vascular surgeons must be grateful for his achievements which back in the 80's were a kind of Herculean task. The struggles against the vast majority of general surgeons on one side and the cardiac surgeons on the other looked like a desperate battle field for a frail but decided group of vascular surgeons who wanted to take the fate of the vascular surgical specialty into their own hands. Didier Mellièrè is not the kind of person who gives up easily. On the contrary, the greater the challenge, the greater his enthusiasm. The ultimate goal was to organize a proper training by dedicated academic vascular surgeons in accomplished centers, to improve the skill and knowledge of surgeons in the vascular fields, and finally to give the best and most efficient care for vascular patients. Those of us who have had the chance to be close to him during these fighting years know how hard the work was. However, in his task he was immensely successful. The French College of Vascular Surgery was created in 1981 and has trained more than 370 vascular surgeons in 22 years. The academic specialty was created in 1986 and currently 68 professors of vascular surgery are responsible for training and research in France. More recently the surgical board was joined by the medical board of vascular medicine and discussions have been initiated to have a common introductory pathway of training with cardiac surgery.

At Henri Mondor Hospital, Didier Mellièrè was also very successful in creating a vascular department. This was

accomplished practically by stealing a few beds here, an operative theatre there and with very limited means, he started to apply locally what he supported at a national level. Today, thanks to his skill and tenacity, the Vascular Department receives applications every year from numerous trainees coming from all over the world. This represents, without any doubt, validation of his efforts. Didier Mellièrè is also a full academic surgeon who has written more than 400 scientific and instructional papers. He has taught us how the truth comes more from the scrutiny of our own results than from the quotation of the best series. How the mistakes tell more than the successes, how difficult it is to make the proper decision, and how humble we should remain when facing human beings especially the ones who are diminished by illness. For all these reasons and more, it made sense to invite surgeons from both the old and the new generations from France and Europe. Finally, it is time to gather the once former "adversaries" cardiac surgeons, radiologists, vascular surgeons, anesthesiologists and angiologists in order to discuss established surgical procedures as well as newer appealing techniques which have yet to be fully validated. The time is passing more rapidly than all of us would like. The new generation must now take the lead with full respect of what the elders have accomplished and with the hope that their example will be followed.

Jean-Pierre Becquemin
dalla prefazione

Larry D. Field - Felix H. Savoie III
Mastercases - Shoulder and Elbow surgery
Georg Thieme Verlag, New York, Stuttgart
ISBN 3-13-108591-6
480 p., 460 ill.
Euro 149,00

The surgical management of many shoulder and elbow conditions has rapidly progressed over the last 20 years. An improved understanding of the pathoanatomy and biomechanics has greatly enhanced our ability to treat these problems. Consequently, new surgical techniques often coupled with technological advances have allowed the surgeon to more effectively treat many disorders. Arthroscopic surgery, in particular, has significantly in-

creased our ability to surgically manage many conditions, and with reduced morbidity.

In this book, we have presented a number of shoulder and elbow disorders. Some of these are quite unusual but many are commonly seen in the practice of orthopaedic surgery. This selection of cases was deliberate so as to allow the reader not only the opportunity to critically evaluate the treatment decisions made by the authors in complex or unusual situations but also a chance to review more straightforward cases because even the treatment of many common shoulder and elbow conditions is controversial. An attempt has been made in *MASTERCASES* to present a thorough assessment of the patient. This includes a section on the "History and Physical Examination" along with "Radiologic Findings" and then "Diagnosis". A detailed section on "Surgical Management" outlining the authors' preferred technique is presented, but we have also included a section entitled "Alternative Methods of Management" with the pertinent advantages and disadvantages of these treatment options. In addition, because one is never too experienced to learn techniques or pick up a few tips from others, a section on "Pearls and Pitfalls" is included as well. Our hope is that this text can be utilized not only as a treatment guide for a number of shoulder and elbow conditions but also as a useful and practical reference to the orthopaedic surgeon.

Larry D. Field, M. D.
Felix H Savoie III, M D.
dalla prefazione

F. Alan Barber - Scott P. Fisher
Surgical techniques for the shoulder and elbow
Georg Thieme Verlag, New York, Stuttgart
ISBN 3-13-13541-X
400 p., 430 ill.
Euro 149,00

This jewel of a book should sit, dog-eared and book-marked, on the desk or nightstand of every community orthopaedic surgeon. For within its pages, Drs. Barber and Fischer have assembled a wealth of succinct, practical, and well-organized information on the diagnosis, treatment, and surgical procedures for common shoulder and elbow problems. The authors who have contributed to this edition are not only gifted in their areas of expertise, they are teachers and students at heart. Their tips and technical pearls are presented in an easy-to-read format; their easily

decipherable line drawings will assist the surgeon in the operating room.

The first chapter on portals is a must for everyone who does shoulder arthroscopy. It provides a means for surgeons to instruct the operating team. The chapters on acromioclavicular joint, decompression, and as acromial cover the advantages, nuances, and nuisances of these common procedures. The rotator cuff chapters update the reader on the biomechanics and arthroscopic refinement of the diagnosis and treatment of rotator cuff problems. The outline detail of the individual chapters on partial, complete, and massive tears enables the reader to apply an organized approach to a specific patient-giving the surgeon the ability to select the best treatment and the potential role of the arthroscope in his or her patient. The same simplified and easy to understand outline format is found in the chapters on instability. The shoulder section ends with review and treatment chapters on stiffness, arthritis, and ganglions. The current status and science of rehabilitation emphasizing the scapula should be shared with physical therapists, athletic trainers, patients, and all who assist the surgeon with rehabilitation.

Similarly, there are chapters on the elbow cover portals, tendinitis, stiffness, and radial head fractures which are frequently encountered by orthopaedic surgeons. The contributing authors to this section describe treatment options for these common conditions.

I commend Drs. Barber and Fischer for creating a current, simple, and quick reference to surgical procedures in the shoulder and elbow. They have brought to this volume the current state of open and arthroscopic surgery to common shoulder and elbow problems. I recommend this volume to experts and neophytes alike or to any busy surgeon in need of further insight, understanding, or a quick review.

James C. Esch
dalla premessa

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Larry D. Field, Felix H. Savoie III, *Master cases - Shoulder and elbow surgery*, Georg Thieme Verlag - New York - Stuttgart, 2003, 480 p., 460 fig. - € 149,00, ISBN 3-13-108591-6.

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