

# BOOK REVIEWS

James O. Menzoian, MD, Book Review Section Editor

## Medicolegal issues in clinical practice: a primer for the legally challenged

Deborah J. Wear-Finkle; Huron, Mich; 2000; Rapid Psychler Press; 244 pages; \$32.95.

This is a basic guide to medical legal issues in clinical practice. It covers the common areas of physician liability, including new areas of liability associated with managed care. Practical advice is given on how to limit one's risk in practice and thus avoid a lawsuit.

There is good information on federal and state regulatory agencies and recent legislation affecting the practice of medicine. There was also a clear discussion of ethical issues faced by today's physicians. In addition, specialty-specific information on a limited number of medical specialties, not including vascular surgery, is presented.

In general, this publication can serve as a basic risk management tool. It is well written, easy to read, concise, and filled with a number of useful and practical tips. Of particular interest is the "Ten Commandments for Legally Aware Physicians." As the author points out in her own disclaimer, she is not a lawyer, and the information presented should not be taken as legal advice.

In summary, I recommend this book as an excellent, basic guide to legal issues in clinical practice.

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## Recreating medicine: episode issues of the frontiers of medicine

G. E. Pente; Latham, Md; 2000; Rowman & Littlefield; 207 pages; \$22.95.

Anyone who practices medicine today is aware that there are some unique ethical issues relative to our time. Throughout this book, a number of very controversial ethical issues are raised. I feel the purpose in writing this book is to begin a confrontation on the many new ethical issues that face us in the new century and millennium. Several of the controversial issues raised in this book include paying for transplantable organs and reproductive health, originating humans by cloning when safe to do so, allowing parents to choose traits of their children, expanding choice in enhancement medicine, letting the Internet empower patients, and deciding whether genes should be patentable.

The author believes that the vast majority of physicians are conservative about changing moral rules and that there is a vacuum for bioethics to fill questioning ethical assumptions that operate in medicine. He feels that bioethicists have become too timid and respectful of the present state of medicine. He points out that the history of medicine reveals many areas in which physicians have been severely criticized for pushing the envelopes of established medical ethics. In 1860, J. Marion Sims inseminated women with the sperm of their husbands to overcome infertility. Sims was condemned for trying to produce babies unnaturally and for assisting women to commit adultery. Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister were accused not only of false and dangerous views but also of immoral views.

In the chapter "Recreating the Doctor-Patient Relationship," the author points out how cybermedicine can be extremely helpful in reestablishing a healthy relationship between doctor and patient. In the author's words "in an ideal informational framework, information does not flow to either physician or patient exclusively but to both in a shared format. Joint decision making

based on common focused information is the ideal arrangement of an ethical information system. Shared decision making empowers and humanizes both patient and physician."

I found the chapter "Recreating Organ Donation: The Case for Reimbursement" to be extremely interesting. It appears objectionable to us that individuals who donate organs or families who donate organs of loved ones should be reimbursed financially. In fact, the Transplant Societies are opposed to this concept. Issues raised in this chapter are that in this country, people are allowed to sell their sperm, eggs, hair, and blood, but the concept of payment for donating an organ such as a kidney or a lobe of liver is abhorrent to us. The strongest argument for rewarded organ donation is a direct one, life itself; doing so would save many lives. The author contends that nearly 3000 Americans die each year while waiting for an organ transplant that never occurs.

In the minimum the author suggests that offering payments to families for cadaveric organ donation would increase both the number of lives saved and the quality of life lived of those who obtain transplants. The author points out that it seems hypocritical that the only people not paid in the whole system of organ transplantation are the families of donors. Hospitals, surgeons, organ retrieval teams, and procurement organizations regularly sell their services.

The chapter "Recreating Nature: Patenting Human Genes?" likewise is very thought provoking. At issue is whether patents can be applied to human genes. Scientists who work for pharmaceutical companies claim that without such patent protection, genetic medicines will never be developed. United States patent laws do not generally allow patents on "products of nature" or on "nature's handy work" such as rocks, plants, and chemical elements. In 1980, the United States Supreme Court, in a famous decision, awarded patent protection of a genetically modified organism designed to clean up oil spills. In doing so the court set up a precedent declaring that organisms that are alive can receive the protection of patents if they have been altered or genetically modified. Two reasons for patent laws are (1) to reward the efforts of scientists in discovering useful inventions and (2) to promote the general good. At issue is whether there can be a patent on a human DNA fragment. "Perhaps an argument against the permissibility of patents on human DNA is that this very basic stuff of humans should be controlled by all humans as a public good, not by individuals of corporations."

I found this to be an extremely enjoyable and easily read book. The author fulfills his objectives in raising some very controversial issues. In my opinion, regardless of what your thoughts are on some of these very controversial topics, you will be aroused, stimulated, and perhaps angered but unquestionably enlightened by the discussions in this book.

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## Text atlas of wound management

Vincent Falanga; Malden, Mass; 2000; Martin Dunitz; 310 pages; \$65.00.

*Text Atlas of Wound Management* is a pictorial guide to wound care. It is a series of photographs, each accompanied by a clinical vignette. There are many examples of common causes of wounds, such as diabetes, venous hypertension, and ischemia, but also a number of illustrations of problems less often

seen. The text takes an informal, narrative approach to patient management.

Health care professionals and students caring for patients with wounds will find this text to be valuable. It will serve two roles. For the physician or student new to wound healing, it is a book that should be read cover to cover to get a feel for the different diagnostic possibilities. Though more than 300 pages in length, it is beautifully illustrated and can be read in its entirety in an evening or two. For the physician with experience in wound healing, it serves as a reference that can be used to establish a diagnosis in difficult cases.

Included are sections on acute wounds, infected wounds, pressure ulcers, vascular ulcers, inflammatory ulcers, and neoplasms. Nearly every diagnosis seen in a large, multidisciplinary clinic is illustrated in this text. Each part includes several clinical points. These pearls of wisdom provide the reader with facts and understanding that can be used in his or her practice.

There is a large section on "Practical Points." Some of the examples and cases presented dispel some of the clinical myths of wound care. For example, in this segment are discussions of different types of dressings. There are hundreds of various wound dressings; however, there are a finite number of categories of dressings based on composition, transparency, and adherence. They include gels, films, foams, hydrocolloids, absorptive dressings, alginates, and cadexomer iodine. Compression dressings discussed include both Unna boots and four-layer bandages. The text points out that wound care is more than simply applying a good dressing. Good wound care controls the microenvironment of the wound, optimizes wound closure, and addresses the needs of the patient and the patient's ability to manage the dressing. "Practical Points" includes discussions of day-to-day problems, including how to apply different dressings, how to manage exudate, the significance of soiled dressings, debridement, and pain control. There is even an illustration of a stocking butler.

This text should be required reading for anyone who starts a wound clinic or calls himself a wound expert. It will be of value to physicians and nurses who see patients with wounds. Vascular surgeons, for example, may evaluate a patient with absent pulses and a wound, but the wound may be unrelated to ischemia. This text will enlighten a subspecialist on wounds from etiologies outside the scope of his or her training. This text is certainly a good starting point to think about managing a broad variety of wounds and how to base the diagnostic and therapeutic approach on available evidence. The cases presented in the text are those commonly encountered in practice and provide the reader with guidance in managing wound problems. I strongly recommend it to everyone who sees patients with wounds in their practice.

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### Modern vascular surgery

J. S. T. Yao, W. H. Pearce; 1999; McGraw Hill; 462 pages.

*Modern Vascular Surgery*, edited by Dr James Yao and William Pearce, represents another in the series of successful textbooks generated in conjunction with the annual Northwestern Vascular Surgery Symposium. As such, it consists of chapters written by nationally and internationally recognized experts in fields where they have established themselves as investigators and authors. Many of the chapters represent a simple reiteration of previous papers published by these authors, but in most cases, they represent more comprehensive and updated reviews. As many of the fields in vascular surgery are rapidly evolving, it is a difficult task to create a textbook on "modern" vascular surgery. This textbook, however, is quite successful in this regard. This is perhaps in part due to the format of this text, in which chapters

are prepared and submitted in preparation for a specific vascular symposium. Most of the chapters contain both historical and more recent references, up to the mid-1990s. Other chapters, in more rapidly evolving areas, have references right up to the 1998 to 1999 time interval.

A number of sections and chapters particularly stood out. The text begins with a nice review of the basic aspects of gene therapy and presents the topic in a form that will be easily understood and of interest to the practicing vascular surgeon. Dr Sicard offered an interesting discussion on the practical aspects of forming an integrated service between vascular surgery and interventional radiology. This is an important and timely topic. The chapters on recent advances on magnetic resonance and CT imaging were detailed and full of useful information of great clinical relevance. Dr Hobson's chapter on carotid stent angioplasty offers an excellent perspective and a description of important ongoing trials. The section on abdominal aortic aneurysms offered a compilation of useful information on the natural history, role of screening, and treatment of aortic aneurysms. The section on endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms perhaps failed to capture a most up-to-date review of the state of this rapidly evolving field. This is less an indictment of the authors than a reflection on how quickly this field is changing. Finally, many chapters offered useful descriptions of surgical techniques, which may be unfamiliar to most vascular surgeons. Representative examples include Dr Shah's excellent chapter on carotid eversion endarterectomy, Dr Kieffer's description of the use of aortic allografts, and Dr Andros' extremely detailed and practical description of combined intraoperative inflow and angioplasty and distal bypass surgery.

This textbook admirably highlights a number of new diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in vascular surgery. As it is not meant to represent a comprehensive vascular surgery textbook, it will be of less interest to general surgeons and general surgery residents and of more interest to vascular surgeons interested in reviewing current advances in our field. I enjoyed this textbook and strongly recommend it.

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### Grossman's cardiac catheterization, angiography, and intervention, 6th ed

Grossman; Philadelphia; 2000; Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins; 943 pages.

This is the sixth edition of Grossman's "Bible" of cardiac catheterization. The basic structure of the book remains the same compared with past editions, with excellent discussions of the general principles, basic techniques, and hemodynamic principles of cardiac catheterization. Angiographic techniques of catheterization also receive considerable discussion, and an expanded section on "Angiography of the Aorta and Peripheral Arteries" is particularly helpful, as this component of cardiovascular disease has become more prominent to interventional cardiologists. Dr Grossman's passion for hemodynamic analysis and the evaluation of cardiac function are readily apparent in Section 5, "Evaluation of Cardiac Function," in which a very detailed discussion of wall stress, systolic ventricular function, and diastolic relaxation of the ventricles is presented. The book has a plethora of readily accessible formulas and equations for the calculation of valve area, intracardiac shunts, ventricular function, and wall stress. The biggest change compared with past editions is the de-emphasis of electrophysiologic ablation and an expanded discussion of coronary and peripheral interventional techniques. The section on peripheral intervention by Kenneth Rosenfield, MD, merits particular attention as it is unusually

Torrent File Content (1 file). Text and Atlas of Wound Diagnosis and Treatment.pdf -. 43.93 MB. Related torrents.Â Text Atlas of Wound Management, 2E (2012) [PDF] [UnitedVRG]. 1 Year+ - in Other. 25.11 MB. A pictorial guide to wound management, it is intended for a broad readership, ranging from students to clinicians just starting out to professionals needing a pictorial reference. The book is varied and deals with all types of acute and chronic ulcers – non-surgical injury wounds, wounds caused by lasers and scalpels, infections, pressure sores and neuropathic ulcers, vascular ulcers, wounds as a result of inflammatory processes, and neoplasms. Richly illustrated, this book is easy to read and digest, and provides many useful ideas about the management of wounds. It can certainly be recommended.

Atlas of Wound Management Second Edition Vincent Falanga MD, FACP Internal Medicine and Dermatology, Professor of Dermatology and Biochemistry, Assistant Dean, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston University, Massachusetts, USA  
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Principal Investigator, National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ISBN-13: 9780415468657  
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Text atlas of wound management / edited by Vincent Falanga ; with Jaymie Panuncialman [et al.]. - 2nd ed. p. ; cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. Download Citation | On Mar 1, 2011, A Montesano published Atlas of small animal wound management and reconstructive surgery | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate.Â To read the full-text of this research, you can request a copy directly from the author. Citations (2).  
References (7).Â Interested in research on Wound Management? Join ResearchGate to discover and stay up-to-date with the latest research from leading experts in Wound Management and many other scientific topics. Join for free. ResearchGate iOS App.