BOOK REVIEW


As the title suggests, this book deals with problems commonly seen by the hand surgeon. It is a truly multidisciplinary text, consisting of 40 chapters written by some 67 expert authors ranging from MDs and PhDs to nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and lawyers. Topics discussed include motivation, prevention, etiology, first aid, legal aspects and ergonomics, as well as hand anatomy and various hand injuries.

The publication is timely because of the recent interest in such occupational upper extremity problems as cumulative trauma disorders, reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis, to mention only a few.

From the surgeon’s point of view, I found some chapters very complete and informative, especially chapters dealing with chemical injuries and ‘tendonitis’. The chapters on motivation, psychological evaluation, prevention, etiologies and ergonomics were also informative and interesting.

The chapters dealing with common hand injuries are generally directed to non-hand surgeons, and would be useful to practitioners and students of occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

In other areas, though, the treatment of the subject matter seemed cursory. A mere half-page was devoted to RSD, and the chapter on therapy and rehabilitation by hand therapists is superficial.

Some topics displayed the book’s US origins – for example, the sections dealing with the Worker’s Compensation Board and legal issues are, generally, US-specific.

Despite these faults, however, I would recommend this book highly to therapists and students dealing with hand injuries, as well as to hand surgeons who are looking for interesting reading about topics generally not covered in standard hand surgery texts.

Morton L. Kasdan has done a commendable job in compiling an interesting variety of topics dealing with occupational upper extremity problems.

Arnis Fretberg MD FRCSC FACS

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

NEW SYSTEM FOR ACCELERATING HEALING

Staodyn Inc, of Longmont Colorado, has introduced a new system for accelerating wound healing. The Dermapulse Wound Management system uses a pulsed, direct current to stimulate blood flow at the site of a wound. Active sterile dressings, which form part of the system, feature materials selected for safety and performance in wound care.

According to the manufacturer, the Dermapulse Wound Management system has been clinically proven to accelerate healing in category II, III and IV pressure ulcers. Clinical findings have also shown reduction in bacterial colonization, debridement of necrotic tissue and reductions in pain and edema.

The manufacturer claims that, by accelerating healing, the Dermapulse system can reduce both the total number of treatments required and the length of hospitalization, resulting in significant savings in cost.

The system is being distributed in Canada by Remington Medical Ltd. For further information, call 1-800-267-5822.

SURGICAL ZIPPER REDUCES SCARRING

AN HAACK Medical Products Canada Inc has announced that its Woundmate surgical zipper is now available in North America.

The surgical zipper, used as an alternative to sutures, staples and adhesive methods of closing wounds, is a hypoallergenic adhesive strip incorporating a plastic silicone-coated zipper that closes to effectively seal the edges of the wound.

According to the manufacturer, European clinical trials with thousands of patients have shown dramatically lower infection rates compared to other methods, as well as fast and painless application and removal.

AN HAACK Medical Products Canada, a wholly owned subsidiary of AN HAACK GMBH, a German healthcare company, is manufacturing Woundmate at its Oakville, Ontario plant for North American and export markets.

For more information, contact Jerry Lagan or Elyse Symmonds at (905) 842-4500.

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