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# Reviews

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**Atlas of Aesthetic Face and Neck Surgery.** By Gregory La Trenta. Pp. 347. Saunders/Elsevier, London, U.K., 2004. Price: \$169.

In the preface, the author introduces this book as “an atlas aimed at residents and younger plastic surgeons.” Dr. La Trenta has succeeded in putting together a beautifully illustrated atlas demonstrating what he describes as the tried-and-true procedures, rather than the exotic.

The three major sections of the book detail the author’s personal approach to the forehead and brow, the layered face and neck lift, and the layered approach to the mid-face and neck.

The first section of the book deals with anatomy. It is thorough and well illustrated with artwork and cadaver dissections and includes a detailed discussion of facial and neck fat, the retaining ligaments, and standard anatomical discussion of the fascial layers, nerves, muscles, and sensory, and vascular supply of the face.

The second section is on the aging face. It demonstrates well the role of ligaments, gravitational forces, actinic changes of the skin, and volume depletion in facial aging.

The first two sections provide an excellent background and understanding of the aging process and are essential reading for anyone involved in facial rejuvenation.

Each chapter in the atlas is rife with artwork and intraoperative images. Operative and technical nuances are clearly described and demonstrated in a step-by-step fashion. The case illustrations demonstrate the efficacy of the techniques described.

Throughout the text the author emphasizes major points of technique in “side boxes” referred to as key points and pearls. Perhaps these are the most useful and easily referred to portions of the book. Pearls of wisdom from an experienced surgeon.

The final section deals with the male face lift, adjunctive techniques including chin augmentation, laser resurfacing, and complications. Pertinent information is included describing the challenges of the male face lift while highlighting the differences between male and female facial rejuvenation.

If the book has any shortcomings, it is that blepharoplasty is not included. However, true to its title, the book addresses face and neck surgery.

This monograph more than meets the author’s goals of presenting tried-and-true techniques. It is an up-to-date text summarizing current thinking on the aging process and a detailed description of the author’s surgical techniques for rejuvenation of the face and neck. I recommend this text not only to residents and young plastic surgeons but also to those with established practices.

Foad Nahai, M.D.

**Wound Care Practice.** By Paul J. Sheffield, Ph.D., Adrienne P. S. Smith, M.D., and Caroline E. Fife, M.D. Pp. 814. Best Publishing Company, Flagstaff, Ariz., 2004. Price: \$158.

The topic of wound care is very broad and ranges from basic scientific fundamentals to clinical applications based on those principles. It includes everything from cytokines to cells, and ointments to free flaps. The wound-care physician must possess an understanding of a variety of topics to address the myriad wounds that exist. This book attempts to address all of these topics in one volume, essentially positioning itself as the “Bible of Wound Care.”

This 814-page hardback is subdivided into five sections—The Problem Wound; Principles of Wound Assessment; Principles of Wound Management; Pain, Infection, and Adjunctive Therapies; and Healthcare Delivery. Most attention is given to principles of wound management, and pain, infection, and adjunctive therapies. It is authored by members of various disciplines including Medicine, Surgery (General, Vascular, Plastic etc.), Nutrition, Kinesiology, Podiatry, and Hyperbarics.

Overall, the book is well written and well illustrated. The style is clear and understandable. The illustrations are a combination of simplistic diagrams, artistic renderings, and photographs of pertinent case examples. The photographs are particularly helpful, as they augment the descriptive text in such a way as to crystallize the description for the reader. Examples are given both for the most common

causes of wounds and for some of the rarer underlying causes—attempting to be a “quick and dirty,” but complete, reference on wound care.

This book succeeds in its goal to introduce the reader to the basic principles and fundamentals of wound care. It provides a solid foundation and does an excellent job in explaining core concepts vital to wound care, both from a basic scientific and clinical standpoint. Physicians who devote a significant portion of their practice to wound care would do themselves a service by reading this volume.

If you are looking at it strictly from a plastic surgery perspective, however, you will find this book lacks detail on certain aspects of reconstruction. Its overview of the reconstructive ladder is broad and nonspecific. Certain nuances that the plastic surgeon may desire, such as detailed explanations of reconstructive options and algorithms for their use, are not explored. Outcome data for reconstructive options also are not provided. As such, the plastic surgeon will find these chapters to be fairly basic. The references used are from basic texts, not from classic or recent articles, thus limiting its usefulness to the advanced reader, at least from a strictly surgical standpoint.

Nonetheless, this book is not catering to the reconstructive surgeon. Instead, it attempts to serve as a basic reference for the wound-care physician. In this respect, it definitely hits the mark. If your practice is concentrated on wound care, this should be on your shelf.

*Jeffrey E. Janis, M.D.*

**History of Burns.** By Henk J. Klasen. Pp. 632. Erasmus Publishing, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2004. Price: \$120.

Klasen has summarized the history of burn care and the development of our current treatments from antiquity to the modern era. It is a monumental piece of scholarship written in an encyclopedic but readable style. It is a single-author text, which gives it a consistent approach. I would recommend this book highly to anyone who cares for burns or anyone who is interested in the history of surgery and medicine.

The book is organized into a series of chapters that describe key elements of burn care as

they have developed over the last 2 centuries. These include burn classification, pathogenesis, and a significant chapter on burn toxins. There is a chapter on shock and its treatment, on operative and nonoperative treatment of the burn wound, and finally a chapter on silver as an antimicrobial. Each of these chapters contains chronological descriptions of scientific or treatment milestones, often with the author's interpretation of why advances were made. In general, these insights reflect scholarship, although they are at times reflective of a more European perspective. For example, while there is an excellent chapter describing the development of fluid resuscitation before the 1960s, the development of the Parkland (Baxter) formula is given little attention. This seems surprising in view of its near-universal acceptance in the United States. Although Dr. Baxter does have a picture on page 252, it is primarily in conjunction with a discussion on the existence of a myocardial depressant factor.

There are several fascinating stories in this book. The development of understanding of burn pathogenesis going back to the 1700s is intriguing. I, personally, was not aware of the large amount of scientific information about toxic products of the burn wound as causes for burn shock and sepsis. These studies were the focus of much research in the early and middle parts of the 20th century on burn pathogenesis, but have since disappeared from the minds of current-day burn-care providers. There clearly are unexplained phenomena here.

The discussion on surgical interventions of burns includes the development of débridement tools and early attempts at skin grafting. This chapter makes interesting reading and would clearly be of interest to any practicing plastic surgeon.

If there is a deficiency in this text, it's the lack of information from the last 25 years that would bring these discussions up to date. However, despite this fact, this is interesting reading and I recommend it highly to anyone interested in burn care or the history of plastic surgery, or for a reader interested in medical and surgical history of any type.

*Warren L. Garner, M.D.*