The increasing emphasis and interest in sports medicine warrant the use of this book as a reference guide. Future editions should be geared toward consumers the author wishes to reach and educate.

Eugene J. Rogers, MD, FACP


This monograph, authored by one of the acknowledged experts on the phenomenon of Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease, summarizes much of the modern thinking on the etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of this peculiar disorder. The monograph is concise, extremely direct, and is appropriately divided into chapters that make it easy for the reader to turn directly to consult about a particular aspect of Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease.

The chapter on Pathologic Anatomy contains perhaps the most extensive amount of clinical material taken at necropsy ever assembled in one paper or book section. Next to the chapter on Radiographic Features, this is probably the most important chapter in the book, as it delineates the radiographic and pathologic correlation beautifully. In particular, Dr. Catterall discusses the metaphyseal changes seen in Perthes disease, knowledge of which previously was extremely limited. The chapter on Radiographic Features, including the determination of Catterall grouping—the contribution to the understanding of this disease process for which Dr. Catterall is perhaps best known—is well illustrated with radiographs depicting all of the fine points of classification, at-risk signs, and the evaluation of end result. The importance of persistent lateral uncovering of the femoral head, premature growth arrest of the femoral epiphysis, and the sagging rope sign, are all appropriately emphasized.

In discussing treatment, Dr. Catterall makes the important distinction between patients who can simply be observed and patients who need treatment by containment. Containment, of course, in Catterall's philosophy means operative redirection of the hip joint, by either upper femoral or innominate osteotomy. The conclusion, after reviewing 84 new cases prospectively treated by the current protocol, is that the results are better than other osteotomy series in the literature. The only problem with this conclusion is that the current protocol selects for treatment only those patients who still have no arthrogeneric evidence of deformity of the femoral head, in other words, patients who might do well with some other type of treatment because their femoral head has not yet deformed by flattening or developing coxa magna. Also, the protocol calls for surgery in patients over age seven years, even if they are in Catterall group II (with less than 50% head involvement).

The preselection of patients for this protocol therefore eliminates from consideration the patients who present with established deformity. The discussion of the treatment for these patients is somewhat cursory, with very little information concerning the results of Chiari osteotomy or cheilectomy. Unfortunately, it is these patients with deformed and aspherical femoral heads and irregular, functionally small acetabula who probably need orthopedic treatment the most. These shortcomings, and the easily explained absence of any discussion of orthotic treatment (a more North American approach) are really the only major omission to a comprehensive treatment of the topic. Certainly as a major reference material on Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease, this monograph stands second to none.

Charles E. Johnston II, MD


This is a very useful handbook for the neurophysiologist as well as those physicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of peripheral nerve diseases. The reader will find complete information about the different techniques used for testing nerve conduction, including 402 references. The chapters have a simple distribution, and the book is easy to handle and utilize.

The authors make a deep analysis of the physiopathological basis of nerve conduction tests, which are very useful in exploring distal peripheral nerve pathology. Other studies on electrophysiology such as electromyography, brain evoked potentials, and H-F waves, are utilized for diagnosis in proximal nerve segments. These techniques permit a differential diagnosis between diffuse and localized pathology as well as the evaluation of the severity of the disease. The authors provide a good analysis of the results obtained and the causes of error.

It is very important to point out the author's sentences regarding the results obtained by conduction tests: "In two studies, merely using a different but identical machine resulted in different values." The techniques are completely described and normal values given for each of them. We believe that this is an excellent handbook, very well written, and thoroughly exhaustive of the subject.

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