

Trauma, fourth edition

Ed: Mattox KL, Feliciano DV, Moore EE

McGraw-Hill Book Company, Suites 1134-38, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong
US\$99.95, pp 1514, ISBN 0 07 112002 5

This book dealing with all phases of trauma was first published in 1988, and is now in its fourth edition. As DeBakey states in the foreword to this new edition: "The broad scope of these chapters is reflected in the concern with prevention, basic understanding of the physiologic and biochemical changes produced by trauma, technical therapeutic modalities, organ specific injuries, medical legal issues, and rehabilitation."

The 65 chapters, written by a total of 155 collaborating authors, provide a 'one-stop', comprehensive source of reference, spanning the entire continuum of trauma care. The content has been extensively revised for this edition and updated by contributions from many new authors. There are informative chapters on epidemiology, injury prevention, airway control, anaesthesia, trauma damage control, and principles of critical care. A commentary section, written

by another expert, appears at the end of each chapter in this new edition. The purpose is to highlight the main themes of each chapter and, to a certain extent, to supplement those areas that are not adequately covered in the main text.

In conclusion, this is the best text on trauma that I have come across and it is thoroughly recommended. The changes and additions to the fourth edition ensure that this standard reference text remains current and comprehensive.

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Skin and wound infection—investigation and treatment in practice

By: Seal DV, Hay R, Middleton KR

Martin Dunitz Ltd, the Livery House, 7-9 Pratt Street, London, NW1 0AE, United Kingdom
£49.95, pp 300, ISBN 1 8531 7835 0

Skin and Wound Infection—Investigation and Treatment in Practice is a concise hardcover book written by an experienced clinician, a clinical microbiologist, and a pharmacist who are all specialists in this field. It consists of 11 chapters and five informative appendices, giving an overview of skin and wound infections. The content covers most aspects of this group of diseases, ranging from basic pathogenesis, immunology, and antimicrobial pharmacology, to their epidemiology, clinical presentations, therapeutic measures, and laboratory investigations.

In the clinical sessions, the authors use a new approach by describing the infections separately according to each anatomical layer instead of different organisms. This provides a new perspective for the reader to understand that different microbes will give rise to similar clinical presentations. Although the clinical features of each disease are described only briefly, they are salient and well illustrated with pictures of good quality.

Special chapters are written for burn infections and tropical infections. The former is useful for those working

in a burn unit. The latter consists of description of a wide range of tropical cutaneous infections. Again, these diseases are not described in depth, but they are well referenced for the reader. Those who are interested in these rare or uncommon disease entities will be both excited and enlightened by these chapters. There is also a chapter about sugar paste for wound healing—the development of which was pioneered by one of the co-authors.

The appendices also contain very practical information for doctors, laboratory technicians, and nurses on topics such as, sampling, laboratory identification of microbes, the mode of delivery and formulation of antibiotics and antifungal drugs, and various wound dressings. The last appendix about the different types of wound dressings, their indications and contraindications, and the methods of application, is particularly well written and pragmatic.

In summary, this is a concise, comprehensive, and useful reference book about skin and wound infections. The presentation is systematic and the coverage is wide. It is well illustrated, thoroughly reviewed, and well referenced.