

Arterial grafts for coronary artery bypass surgery: a textbook for cardiovascular clinicians and researchers

Ed: He GW

Springer-Verlag Hong Kong Ltd., 1702 Tower I, Enterprise Square, 9 Sheung Yuet Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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The long-term benefits of using the internal mammary artery compared with using the saphenous vein as a conduit in coronary artery bypass grafting was established over a decade ago and since then, the trend has been to use multiple arterial grafts in myocardial revascularisation. The major attraction of this book, edited by Prof He—a renowned scientist and surgeon in coronary artery bypass surgery—is to give a scholarly overview on the biological characteristics of these grafts and their pharmacological responses to various agents. The book has 37 chapters, which give a fairly comprehensive coverage of the commonly used arterial grafts such as internal mammary arteries, radial arteries, and gastroepiploic arteries, as well as the rarely used grafts such as splenic arteries and inferior mesenteric arteries.

The book begins with a detailed description of the morphology, physiology of arterial grafts, and their pharmacological responses to various vasodilators. The book then takes a detour and discusses myocardial protection before returning to the various arterial grafts. The book ends with a section on minimal-access and ‘off-pump’ or beating heart coronary artery bypass grafting.

There are 50 contributors to the book, all of whom are recognised for their seminal contributions in this

field. There is, however, some unnecessary detail which is not directly relevant to the title of the book—for example, the chapters on myocardial protection give a general description on operative strategies, while omitting specific reference to arterial grafts. In addition, there is some repetition among the chapters—for example, beating heart surgery and minimal-access approaches are detailed in the chapter on the surgical techniques for internal thoracic artery grafting, but the same topics are covered in the last section of the book.

Overall, I enjoyed this book. I think the book will be of particular interest to cardiovascular researchers studying arterial grafts. It will also be a useful reference to those cardiac surgeons, both in training and in practice, who want to know more about the science behind the different arterial grafts used in myocardial revascularisation.

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Flaps: decision making in clinical practice

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Flaps: Decision Making in Clinical Practice is a well-written text that is designed to serve as a practical guide and reference source on how to solve reconstructive

problems. Useful opinions have been collected in a didactic, problem-solving format from a distinguished group of practising plastic surgeons and general