

The intervention models suggested by the authors, such as social skill training, crisis intervention, stress management, family care, and self-help groups, concern not only social work professionals, but also other professionals, especially medical professionals, such as nurses and occupational therapists. The unique contribution of social workers within a multidisciplinary team has not been discussed in this book. In fact, it is generally agreed that the treatment and rehabilitation of most illnesses are now performed within a

multidisciplinary context. It is a pity that this book does not have sufficient coverage and discussion in this crucial area.

Dr KS Yip
Associate Professor
Department of Applied Social Studies
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Kowloon
Hong Kong

Hand surgery study guide

By: Viegas SF

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

HK\$413.10, pp 168, ISBN 0 387 94749 3

The *Hand Surgery Study Guide* is written for medical students, residents, fellows, and practising family physicians as a quick reference to topics in hand surgery. Orthopaedic trainees will find this book useful, because the selection of topics very much follows those recommended for orthopaedic trainees who are preparing for examination. The author, Prof Viegas, claims that he had 20 years' experience in those training courses. The study guide could be too detailed for a medical student and too brief for a trainee hand surgeon. The author certainly has nevertheless succeeded in giving a short account on most of the important topics in hand surgery. Perhaps the most obvious deficiency lies in the coverage of the rheumatological affection of the hand. This condition is briefly covered under sections on tenosynovitis, metacarpophalangeal joints, and thumb functions. The fragmented information will thus be insufficient for the reader who uses the study guide as a quick reference.

A brief study guide that covers a lot of topics might be disappointing because the short descriptions might affect their accuracy. The author is very much conscious about this and has overcome the dilemma by including the minimal amount of substance. Consequently, he ignores rheumatological discussions and hand changes due to cerebral damage. The most disappointing deficiencies, however, are related to

infection and arthroplasty. Firstly, hand infection these days may be complex and unusual, and may involve special organisms such as atypical microbacteria. The chapter on hand infection is too simple. Secondly, in this era of total joint replacement, there should be a more serious analysis of the indications and results of finger joint replacements—particularly the most commonly used silicone models.

It might still be questionable whether the wrist should be included in hand surgery for orthopaedic surgeons: hand surgeons uniformly believe that the wrist joint is part of the hand. The frank omission of the wrist in this study guide is thus again problematic.

In conclusion, as long as the readers and users of this book are aware of the intentional or unintentional omissions, they will find the *Hand Surgery Study Guide* practical, readable, and well presented. The question and answer sections add further appeal to the small volume when other parallel editions are compared.

Prof PC Leung
Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
5/F, Clinical Sciences Building
Prince of Wales Hospital
Shatin
Hong Kong