ATLAS OF CRANIOMAXILLOFACIAL OSTEOSYNTHESIS, SECOND EDITION

By Franz Haerle, Maxime Champy, Bill Terry, Thieme, New York, NY, 2009, 240 pp, $199

This second edition of Atlas of Craniomaxillofacial Osteosynthesis represents a significant update on this topic from its first publication 10 years ago. At 240 pages, this hard-cover edition is compact and user friendly for the surgeon interested in craniomaxillofacial trauma and reconstruction. It is suitable for both residents and practitioners alike.

The book follows an orderly progression beginning with chapters concerning anatomy and biomechanical considerations of the craniomaxillofacial skeleton as well as bone repair and fracture healing. It then moves into surgical approaches to the various cranio-maxillofacial sites followed by precise descriptions of the technical aspects of fracture management. The text is quite detailed on application of fixation for the various fractures with miniplate osteosynthesis. Mandible fracture management occupies most of the first half of the book. Eight separate chapters describe the nuances of managing the mandibular condyle, which is one of the most discussed aspects in the management of mandible fractures. It gives the reader a variety of opinions and options regarding this difficult anatomic area from easy to complex and handles the subject well.

Although midface fracture management is included, the volume of information is far less than the mandibular sections. This is a clear weakness for a text devoted to maxillofacial trauma because the issues in the nasoethmoid region are as complex as those dealing with the mandibular condyle. Also, there is no chapter on the management of frontal sinus fractures.

The book then includes several informative chapters on osteotomies of the maxillofacial skeleton and advanced techniques in distraction osteogenesis, and preprosthetic surgery. The final portion of the book contains a variety of miscellaneous chapters, including bone grafts and vascularized bony reconstruction of the mandible and maxilla. Interestingly, they have separate chapters on the fibula and scapula, which—although informative—give only part of the necessary information on this wide-ranging topic. These chapters really do not fit in the context of the rest of the book as they treat the subject superficially and miss other major points and flaps used in mandibular and maxillary reconstruction. The final portion of this text deals with surgical complications and issues regarding titanium plate removal, which rounded out the table of contents nicely.

Although this is not to be an all-inclusive tome, what was noticeably missing from the atlas was a section on the use of reconstruction plates, particularly the locking reconstruction plate that is in wide use both in the United States and internationally. This gives the uninitiated reader a critically missing piece of information in the management of craniomaxillofacial trauma and reconstruction.

In summary, the book is a large series of vignettes of major aspects of craniomaxillofacial osteosynthesis with precise descriptions and outstanding color illustrations throughout. It is written by a variety of internationally renowned oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and it clearly has the most impact on surgeons of that specialty. For the otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeon who has a distinct desire to learn more about, and appreciate, topics and techniques beyond what is taught in otolaryngology training programs, this text has real value. It is highly informative and up-to-date on all the topics presented, and the illustrations alone make the price acceptable.

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