Book reviews

Advanced Gynecologic Laparoscopy. A Practical Guide
Edited by P.G. Cusumano and J.A. Deprest

Laparoscopic surgery is a promising and fast growing surgical technique. This type of surgery is a challenge for the surgeons who perform it and the companies that make the necessary instruments.

This beautiful publication is easy to read and contains attractive pictures and useful schemes for performing advanced gynecologic laparoscopies.

We have to admire the courage of the editors in opening this publication with a chapter containing critical reflections on advanced gynecologic laparoscopy by Professor Brosens. This chapter must be obligatory literature for those residents and gynecologists who think that they can do everything both by laparotomy and also by laparoscopy.

It is striking — again in a positive way — to see the impressive contribution of our very inventive Belgian colleagues in this book. There are of course some points of concern. We are missing the contributions of the godfathers of the two totally different schools of laparoscopic surgery in Kiel and Clermont — Ferrand. The other concern — but not really in the scope of this publication — is that we lack a critical prospective comparison of the same surgical techniques by laparotomy and by laparoscopy, because at present it is not yet scientifically proven that patient care with laparoscopy is statistically significantly better in certain procedures than laparotomy.

Concerning advanced gynecologic surgery we want to express our wish for:

• more publications like this.
• more and less expensive courses in laparoscopic surgery, accredited by local gynecologic societies.
• more international prospective studies to prove that laparoscopic techniques are not only fascinating but also beneficial for patients.

Transvaginal Sonography in Infertility
B. Yee, G.F. Rosen, D.L. Cassidenti

This is an authoritative slim volume on a subject of increasing interest. The division into sections makes it particularly easy to use as a reference book.

The first section on ‘Normal Pelvic Anatomy and Techniques’ proves useful and the authors’ own description of orientation using an icon of the bony pelvis is interesting. Unfortunately there is an error in page 5 referring to this, where right and left are transposed, which confused initially. The physics review is basic and clear. The second section entitled ‘Evaluation and Management of the Infertile Woman’ begins with detailed physiology of the menstrual cycle which is well correlated with ultrasound appearances. Uterine and tubal problems are discussed with good ultrasound images.

The third section ‘Ultrasound in the Treatment of Infertility’ deals with ovulation induction and assisted reproductive techniques. These chapters contained rather too much detail on treatment for a radiologist. However, this was countered by an excellent fourth section on ‘Ultrasound in the Diagnosis and Management of Early Pregnancy’. Here, physiology, biochemistry and ultrasound came together in a clear and informative way. The final section includes brief descriptions of the pathology of the pelvic organs with their effect on fertility.

In summary, this is a well conceived book which covers the subject succinctly. The illustrations are relevant and particularly good and it is well referenced. The errors should be remedied in later editions. As a radiologist with a special interest in gynaecological ultrasound I enjoyed reading this book. At a cost of $98.00 I suspect this book is not for individual purchase, but it would be a valuable addition to any ultrasound department library.

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