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Book Reviews

Urologic Robotic Surgery. Ed. by Jeffrey A. Stock, Michael P. Esposito and Vincent J. Lanteri. Humana Press, 2008. \$169. ISBN 978-1-603-29615-3

This book is an ideal introduction to robotic surgery for the urologist. Robotic surgery is the way of the future for surgery in the 21st century. It allows great precision in surgical technique, as well as enabling the surgeon to reach areas not easily accessible with open surgery. Robotics will allow surgeons to operate on patients in remote areas, even outer space!

The book is aimed at surgeons wishing to become acquainted with the technique and at surgeons starting out on their robotic career. It covers all the major areas of urological surgery that are amenable to robotic surgery. It includes the history of robotics, gives advice on starting and running a robotic unit, and goes into detail about the various procedures such as nephrectomy and prostatectomy. Comparisons are made with open and laparoscopic surgery so that one can see the advantages of taking up this surgical methodology as well as the possible pitfalls.

The robotic technique has a shorter learning curve than traditional laparoscopic methods because of three-dimensional vision, greater degrees of movement, and not having to learn each hand manipulation in reverse, so the concept should become popular if the equipment is made available.

The book is lavishly illustrated and written an easy-to-read format. I did not find it difficult to read it from cover to cover in an evening. It comes with an excellent CD that shows in detail how the various procedures are executed.

In South Africa urology has been excluded from this fascinating field. It has long been a Cinderella specialty, and in the teaching departments no money has been ploughed into training urologists in this vital arena. It is to be hoped that this book will stimulate the novice urologist to apply for a fellowship overseas and bring back essential skills to

keep South African urology at the forefront of cutting edge medicine.

Stephen M. Cornish

Clinical Management of Renal Tumours. Ed. by Ronald M. Bukowski and Andrew C. Resnick. Humana Press, 2008. \$149. ISBN 978-1-588-29251-3

This is a well-written tome really intended for the urologist, oncologist and others with a direct interest in renal cancer. It assumes there is already familiarity with the subject matter. The book has been edited by two globally acknowledged experts. The 38 chapters are written by recognised specialists on that particular topic. Each article has been given a similar format and is laid out clearly and logically. Each chapter comes with a long list of references.

The book covers every aspect of clinical renal cancer including chapters dealing with common problems faced by the clinician such as diagnostics, surveillance strategies, adjuvant therapy, metastatic disease management and the mysterious subject of spontaneous regression. The last 20 years have brought great progress in our understanding of the pathogenesis of renal cancer, and this is dealt with in clear fashion without massive technical jargon. Minimally invasive surgery and nephron-sparing surgery are becoming the norm today, especially as the number of incidental tumours continues to rise. These subjects are given prominence and include detailed aspects of surgical technique. In similar fashion all the current advances in adjuvant therapy are discussed in great depth.

In summary this book is a comprehensive, thoroughly researched, state-of-the-art treatise that is actually quite easy to read. My only criticism is that there is a paucity of colour illustrations.

Stephen M. Cornish