TACHDJIAN'S

Pediatric Orthopaedics

THIRD EDITION

from the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

VOLUME 3

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With the publication of Dr. Mihran Tachdjian’s first edition of this text in 1971, pediatric orthopaedics gained a foothold as a distinct subspecialty within the field of general orthopaedics. The unprecedented scope of the book represented the breadth of the specialty, making it quite clear that there was a distinct body of knowledge and a unique practice within the larger field of orthopaedics that required special training and experience for competent performance. While I have always held Mihran Tachdjian in the highest regard for his ability to organize and disseminate pediatric orthopaedic knowledge, I have come to a new realization of the remarkable extent of his energies as my colleagues and I have done the work of rewriting this authoritative text. As our efforts came to a crescendo, we often found ourselves shaking our heads and muttering, "And you are telling me that one man wrote this by himself?"

How does one rewrite a classic? It must be done with respect for the original author and regard for the value of the original work. Gray no longer writes Gray’s Anatomy, and Webster no longer edits a dictionary. As I see it, the better we revise and update the book, the more homage we pay to its originator. With that in mind, our goal has been to produce a book that is new and vibrant. We hope our effort is such that Dr. Tachdjian would have been proud to have our names added to his. As we have rewritten the chapters, we have tried to keep the spirit of Dr. Tachdjian’s work while adding our point of view, our topical organization, and relevant information published since the last edition was written. We hope the result is useful, practical, readable, and authoritative. We have added what we have learned from our extensive experience and our large collection of clinical material. The text of the major chapters is new, while some smaller chapters have been extensively revised. We have updated and preserved many of Dr. Tachdjian’s excellent surgical plates. Many new figures and plates have been added, keeping the emphasis on the fact that this is a complete work for surgeons, written by surgeons. The chapter on polio remains unchanged as a tribute to Dr. Tachdjian, not out of courtesy, but out of recognition that this chapter says everything one needs to know about the treatment of polio in a clear and succinct manner. Many relevant principles of orthopaedic surgery remain beautifully explained in that chapter.

Pediatric orthopaedics has grown into a specialty of its own through the efforts of Dr. Tachdjian and his contemporaries. There was a time when any orthopaedist felt capable of doing any orthopaedic operation. Today, subspecialization is a fact of life, and few would undertake complex procedures in the whole gamut of orthopaedics. This book is for those who practice pediatric orthopaedics, those learning the subspecialty, and orthopaedists in general who are faced with children’s problems. We have not attempted to tell anyone what he or she can or cannot do, but we have indicated which procedures require extensive experience and training to be safely and successfully performed.

Our reference lists are shorter than in previous editions, as many older references and many non-English references have been omitted. For the historian, these are available in previous editions of this text. We have emphasized references that are available in most libraries, those that are classics in the field, and review articles detailing current concepts.

The effort has been larger than envisioned, and I owe tremendous thanks to the hard-working staff clinicians of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRH), whose names are listed in the author credits. We have become better, more informed physicians and surgeons because of the experience, but I fear significant family time has been lost that cannot be easily repaid. To them go my eternal, heartfelt thanks. Special credit goes to Cindy Daniel, our organizer and technical editor, who took on the job with incredible vigor, dedication, and intelligence. Her willingness to work enormous amounts of overtime helped drive the project to completion. Also, I thank Louise Hamilton, my secretary; Phyllis Cuesta, our manager; and Alicia Gregg and Joyce Wagner for all their help. A huge word of thanks goes to Roger Bell, Stuart Almond, Pat Rogers, Rick Smith, and Sandy Carduff in our media department for the immense number of illustrations that now grace the text. I thank the entire staff of TSRH for their support, especially Sam Hilburn, chairman of the board; J. C. Montgomery, president; and Robert L. Walker, administrator, for their generous support. Finally, a special word of thanks is sent upward to our first technical editor, Dan Faber, a dedicated, sensitive person who passed away during the preparation of this book.

Tony Herring
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During the past 18 years, great strides have been made in pediatric orthopedics. A new edition of this book is long overdue. The gestation period of such an Arbeit has been prolonged because of the tremendous amount of labor involved in writing a single-author book. The objectives and format of the textbook have not changed from the first edition. I have attempted to present a thorough and comprehensive treatise on the affections of the neuromusculoskeletal system in children.

I have expressed my preferred methods of treatment and surgical procedure based upon my personal experience and the privilege of association with the leaders in pediatric orthopedics throughout the world who have participated in the faculty of the Pediatric Orthopedic International Seminars, which I have directed annually since 1972. The names of the faculty appear in the acknowledgments in the following pages [second edition].

The illustrations and operative plates are all original; the majority represent the superb artistry of Mr. Ernest Beck, to whom I am greatly indebted. I also wish to acknowledge Miss Patricia Piescinski for her beautiful drawings.

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I would also like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Mikie Borough, who assisted in the preparation of this book.

A question frequently posed to me over the years has been, “How do you write such an extensive book?” Every word has been handwritten in my illegible handwriting, readable only by Mrs. Lynn Ridings, without whose assistance and editorial support this work would not have been possible.

Mihran O. Tachdjian, M.D.
NOTICE

Medicine is an ever-changing field. Standard safety precautions must be followed, but as new research and clinical experience broaden our knowledge, changes in treatment and drug therapy become necessary or appropriate. Readers are advised to check the product information currently provided by the manufacturer of each drug to be administered to verify the recommended dose, the method and duration of administration, and the contraindications. It is the responsibility of the treating physician, relying on experience and knowledge of the patient, to determine dosages and the best treatment for the patient. Neither the publisher nor the editor assumes any responsibility for any injury and/or damage to persons or property.

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VOLUME 1

SECTION I • Disciplines .................. 1

CHAPTER 1
Growth and Development .................. 3
Normal Growth and Development, 3
Disorders of Normal Growth and Development, 5
Malformations, 5
Deformations, 5
Disruptions, 5
Dysplasias, 5
Evolution of Proportionate Body Size, 5
Physical Growth, 10
Epiphyseal Growth and Closure, 10
Head Circumference, 10
Height and Weight, 10
Tanner's Stages of Development, 19
Developmental Milestones, 19
Gross Motor Skills, 19
Fine Motor Skills, 20
Personal, Social, and Verbal Skills, 21

CHAPTER 2
The Orthopaedic History .................. 23
Chief Complaint, 23
History of Present Illness, 23
Family History, 23
Birth History, 23
Prenatal History, 23
Natal History, 24
Neonatal History, 24
Growth and Development: The Key Questions, 24

CHAPTER 3
The Orthopaedic Examination:
A Comprehensive Overview .............. 25
Recognizing Deformities, 25
Angular Deformity, 25
Contractures, 26
Spasticity, 27
Joint Range of Motion, 27
The Shoulder, 29
The Elbow, 31
The Forearm, 31
The Cervical Spine, 32

CHAPTER 4
The Orthopaedic Examination:
Clinical Application ..................... 63
Screening Examinations, 63
The Hip Examination, 63
Other Newborn Screening Examinations, 64
The Scoliosis Examination, 64
General Childhood Screening Examination, 64
The Focused Examination, 65
Intoeing, 65
Flatfoot, 67
CHAPTER 5
Gait Analysis .......................... 75
- Phases of Gait, 75
- Stance Phase, 75
- Swing Phase, 75
- Time Spent in Each Phase, 75
- Temporal Parameters, 75
- Neurologic Control of Gait, 76
- Function of Gait, 76
- Gait Energy, 76
- Kinematics, 77
- Sagittal Plane, 77
- Coronal Plane, 77
- Transverse Plane, 78
- Muscle Activity, 79
- Types of Muscle Contraction, 79
- Concentric Contractions, 79
- Eccentric Contractions, 79
- Muscle Activity During Stance and Swing Phases, 80
- Kinetics, 81
- Pathologic Gait, 81
- Gait Analysis Laboratories, 81

CHAPTER 6
The Limping Child ..................... 83
- Abnormal Gait Patterns in Children, 83
- Antalgic Gait, 83
- Trendelenburg Gait, 84
- Proximal Muscle Weakness Gait, 84
- Spastic Gait, 84
- Short-Limb Gait, 84
- Special Considerations Based on Age Group, 85
  - Toddler (Ages 1 to 3 Years), 85
  - Child (Ages 4 to 10 Years), 85
  - Adolescent (Ages 11 to 15 Years), 85
- Differential Diagnosis of Limping in Children, 86
  - Inflammatory and Infectious Disorders, 86
    - Transient Synovitis, 86
    - Septic Arthritis, 86
    - Osteomyelitis, 87
    - Diskitis, 87
    - Pauciarticular Juvenile Arthritis, 88
  - Neurologic Disorders, 88
    - Cerebral Palsy, 88
    - Muscular Dystrophy, 88
  - Anatomic Disorders, 89
    - Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip, 89
      - Coxa Vara, 89
    - Legg-Calvé-Perthes Disease, 89
    - Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis, 90
    - Chondrolysis, 91
    - Osteochondritis Dissecans, 91
    - Discoid Meniscus, 91
    - Toddler's Fracture, 91
    - Tarsal Coalitions, 92
    - Osteoporotic Syndromes, 92
    - Limb Length Discrepancy, 92
  - Neoplasms to Consider in the Limping Child, 93
    - Leukemia, 93
    - Osteoid Osteoma, 93

CHAPTER 7
Back Pain................................ 95
- History, 95
  - Nature of the Pain, 95
  - Constitutional Symptoms, 95
  - Aggravating and Alleviating Factors, 95
  - Age-Related Conditions, 96
  - Psychosomatic Pain, 96
  - Assessment of General Symptoms, 96
- Physical Examination, 96
  - General Inspection, 96
  - Assessment of the Spine, 96
  - Neurologic Assessment, 97
  - General Physical Assessment, 97
- Diagnostic Studies, 97
  - Radiography, 97
  - Bone Scan, 98
  - Computed Tomography, 98
  - Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography, 98
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 98
  - Laboratory Tests, 98
- Differential Diagnoses, 98
  - Mechanical Disorders, 98
    - Muscle Strain, 98
    - Disk Herniation, 98
    - Apophysial Ring Fracture/Slipped Vertebral Apophysis, 99
    - Spinal Fracture, 99
  - Developmental Disorders, 99
    - Spondylosis and Spondylolysis, 99
    - Scheuermann's Kyphosis, 101
    - Lumbar Scheuermann's Disease, 102
    - Idiopathic Scoliosis, 102
    - Syringomyelia, 102
    - Tethered Spinal Cord, 102
    - Idiopathic Juvenile Osteoporosis, 102
  - Infectious and Inflammatory Conditions, 102
    - Diskitis, 102
    - Vertebral Osteomyelitis, 103
    - Ankylosing Spondylitis, 103
    - Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, 103
  - Neoplasms, 104
    - Osteoid Osteoma, 104
    - Osteoblastoma, 104
    - Eosinophilic Granuloma (Histiocytosis X), 104
    - Aneurysmal Bone Cysts, 104
    - Malignancies, 104
  - Intra-abdominal and Intrathoracic Causes of Back Pain, 105
  - Psychosomatic Back Pain (Conversion Reaction), 105

CHAPTER 8
Anesthesiology......................... 109
- Preoperative Evaluation of Children, 109
- Upper Respiratory Infection, 110
  - Diagnosis of URI, 110
- Asthma, 110
- NPO Requirements in Infants and Children, 110
- Postoperative Fluid Management, 111
- Hourly Maintenance Fluid Requirement, 111
- Sedation for the Pediatric Patient by
  - Nonanesthesiologists, 111
  - Sedation and Analgesia (Conscious Sedation), 111
  - Deep Sedation, 111
  - Patient Selection and Evaluation, 111
  - Acute Pain Management, 112
Assessment of Pain in Children, 112
   Self-Assessment, 112
   Physiologic Measurement and Behavioral Observation, 112
Pain Management, 112
Systemic Analgesia, 112
   Nonopioid Analgesics, 112
   Opioids, 113
Regional Analgesia, 114
   General Recommendations for Epidurals, 114
   Intravenous Regional Anesthesia, 115
      Indications, 115
      Contraindications, 115
      Technique, 115
      Choice of Local Anesthetics, 115
      Side Effects of Local Anesthesia, 115
      Strategies to Reduce Blood Transfusions, 116
      Induced Hypotension, 116
      Autologous Blood Donation, 116
Latex Allergy, 117
   Identification of a High-Risk Pediatric Group, 117
   Clinical Manifestations of Latex Allergy, 117
   Screening for Latex Allergy, 117
   Management of Latex-Sensitive Patients, 117
Malignant Hyperthermia, 118
   Signs and Symptoms, 118
   Treatment, 118
   Conditions Associated with Malignant Hyperthermia, 118
Appendix 8–1: Anesthetic Considerations for Pediatric Orthopaedic Syndromes, 120

CHAPTER 9
Imaging .................................. 127

Conventional Radiographic Procedures, 127
   Introduction, 127
   An Approach to Interpreting Pediatric Orthopaedic Films, 127
      Viewing Conditions, 127
      Impact of Clinical History on Film Interpretation, 127
      Examination of the Soft Tissues, 129
      Examination of All Organ Systems Included in the Radiographic Study, 129
      Evaluation of the Skeletal System Not Obviously Involved by Pathology, 129
      The Importance of Previous Studies, 129
      When Plain Films Stand Alone, 130
   Normal Radiographic Variants of the Immature Skeleton, 130
      Several Syndromes Commonly Mistaken for Fractures, 130
         Sphenoid Bone Syndromes, 130
         Body of C2 and Odontoid Synchondrosis, 130
         Syndromes Between Vertebral Bodies and Neural Arches, 131
      A Synchondrosis Commonly Confused with Infections or Neoplastic Change, 131
         Ischiopubic Synchondrosis, 131
      Several Bony Normal Variants That Are Frequently Confused with Pathologic Changes, 131
         Osteosclerosis of the Newborn, 131
         Physiologic Periosteal New Bone Formation of the Newborn, 131
         Cervical Spine Pseudosubluxation, 131
         Dense Transverse Metaphyseal Lines, 132
         Avulsive Cortical Irregularity, 132
         Radiographic Technique, 132
Child-Friendly Radiology Department and Technical Staff, 132
Equipment Requisites for X-Ray Production, 133
   X-Ray Generators, 133
   X-Ray Tube, 133
   Collimators, 133
   Grids, 133
   Cassette, 133
   Luminous Screen-Film Combinations, 134
Computed Radiography, 134
   Advantages of CR over Conventional Radiography, 134
Patient Preparation for Radiologic Examinations, 135
   Patient and Image Identification, 135
Patient Protection, 135
   Immobilization, 135
   Shielding of Reproductive Organs, 135
   Shielding of Breast Tissue, 135
   Pregnancy Screening, 137
Computed Tomography in Pediatric Orthopaedics, 137
   The CT Scanner, 138
   Physical Principles, 139
   Technical Considerations, 140
   Radiation Considerations, 145
   Clinical Applications, 145
Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Pediatric Orthopaedics, 150
   History, 150
   Basic Physics, 151
   Appearance of the MR Image, 152
   Image Interpretation, 153
   Imaging Artifacts, 153
   Imaging Enhancement, 156
   Safety Precautions and Patient Preparation, 156
   Indications for MRI in Pediatric Musculoskeletal Disease, 158
Ultrasoundography, 163
   Physics, 163
   Image Generation, 163
   Doppler Imaging, 163
   Applications, 164
   Nuclear Imaging, 165

SECTION II • Anatomic Disorders ..... 169

CHAPTER 10
Disorders of the Neck ...................... 171
   Cervical Spine, 171
   Congenital Torticollis, 171
   Congenital Muscular Torticollis, 171
      Treatment, 172
   Klippel-Feil Syndrome, 173
      Clinical Features, 175
      Radiographic Features, 176
      Treatment, 181
   Acquired Torticollis, 187
      Atlantoaxial Rotatory Displacement, 187
      Radiographic Findings, 189
      Treatment, 189
   Neurogenic Torticollis, 191
      Inflammatory/Septic Causes, 193
         Vertebral Osteomyelitis and Osteitis, 193
         Tumor-like Conditions, 194
         Intervertebral Disk Calcification, 194
         Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, 194
         Sprengel’s Syndrome, 194
         Ocular Torticollis, 194
   Ocular Torticollis, 194
CHAPTER 11
Scoliosis ...........................................213

Definition, 213
Classification of Scoliotic Curves, 213
Idiopathic Scoliosis, 213
Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis, 213
Prevalence, 213
Natural History, 214
Natural History Before Skeletal Maturity, 214
Natural History After Skeletal Maturity, 216
Scoliosis Screening, 216
School Screening Programs, 216
Screening Methods, 217
Etiology, 218
Neurologic Dysfunction, 218
Connective Tissue Abnormalities, 218
Genetic Factors, 218
Pathophysiology, 219
Patient Evaluation, 221
Presenting Complaint, 221
Physical Examination, 221
Neurologic Examination, 223
Patient Maturity, 224
Imaging Studies, 224
Plain Radiography, 224
Surface Imaging, 226
Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 227
Computed Tomography, 227
General Treatment Concepts, 228
Observation, 228
Nonsurgical Treatment, 228
Orthotic (Brace) Treatment, 229
Electrical Stimulation, 232
Physical Therapy/Biofeedback, 232
Surgical Protocols, 232
Indications for Surgery, 233
Preoperative Planning, 234
Spinal Cord Monitoring, 241
Postoperative Pain Management, 241
Posterior Spinal Instrumentation, 241
Harrington Instrumentation, 241
Luque Double L-Rod Segmented Instrumentation, 242
Wisconsin Segmented Spinal Instrumentation, 242
Cotrel-Dubousset Instrumentation, 242
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Instrumentation, 243
Isola Instrumentation, 243
Complications Associated with Newer Generation Posterior Instrumentation, 258
Additional Newer Generation Posterior Instrumentation, 259
Anterior Spinal Instrumentation, 259
Dwyer Instrumentation, 259
Zielke Ventral Derotation Spondylodesis Instrumentation, 259
Newer Generation Solid Rod Anterior Instrumentation for Thoracolumbar and Lumbar Deformity, 260
Anterior Instrumentation for Thoracic Deformity, 261
Infantile and Juvenile Idiopathic Scoliosis, 261
Infantile Idiopathic Scoliosis, 276
Clinical Features, 276
Natural History, 276
Methods for Predicting Progression, 276
Factors Influencing Curve Progression, 277
Neural Axis Abnormalities, 277
Management of Curves That Resolve, 277
Nonoperative Treatment for Progression Curves, 277
Operative Treatment, 277
Juvenile Idiopathic Scoliosis, 280
Natural History, 280
Predicting Curve Progression, 280
Neural Axis Abnormalities, 280
Treatment, 280
Congenital Spine Deformities, 280
Etiology, 280
Associated Abnormalities, 281
Congenital Scoliosis, 283
Classification, 283
Failure of Formation, 283
Failure of Segmentation, 284
Natural History, 285
Radiographic Evaluation, 287
Nonoperative Treatment, 287
Operative Treatment, 287
Congenital Kyphosis, 291
Classification, 291
Failure of Formation (Type I), 291
Failure of Segmentation (Type II), 291
Natural History, 291
Clinical Features, 294
Radiographic Evaluation, 294
Treatment, 294
Other Causes of Scoliosis, 299
Neurofibromatosis, 299
Nondystrophic Scoliosis, 299
Dystrophic Scoliosis, 299
Treatment for Dystrophic Scoliosis, 301
Marfan’s Syndrome, 302
Congenital Heart Disease, 308
Thoracogenic, 308
Postlaminectomy, 308
Irradiation, 312
Hysterical Scoliosis, 312

CHAPTER 12
Kyphosis.............................................323

Postural Development, 323
Postural Kyphosis, 323
Scheuermann’s Kyphosis, 324
Etiology, 325
Clinical Features, 325
Radiographic Findings, 326
Nonoperative Treatment, 328
Brace Therapy, 328
Cast Treatment, 329
Operative Treatment, 329
Indications, 329
CHAPTER 13
Other Anatomic Disorders of the Spine

Spondylolisthesis, 351
Classification, 351
Dysplastic Spondylolisthesis, 351
Isthmic Spondylolisthesis, 352
Other Types of Spondylolisthesis, 354
Clinical Presentation, 354
Radiographic Findings, 354
Prognosis and Natural History, 356
Treatment, 358
Spondylolysis, 358
Low-Grade Spondylolisthesis (<50 Percent Slip), 360
High-Grade Spondylolisthesis (>50 Percent Slip), 363
In Situ Fusion, 365
Summary of Treatment, 369
Lumbar Disk Herniation, 369
Incidence, 371
Etiology, 371
Clinical Features, 371
Radiographic Studies, 371
Treatment, 373
Slipped Vertebral Apophysis, 374
Clinical Presentation, 374
Treatment, 374

CHAPTER 14
Disorders of the Upper Extremity

Introduction, 379
Embryology, 379
History and Examination, 380
Pertinent History, 380
Physical Examination, 380
Timing of Surgical Procedures, 380
The Parent, 381
The Child's Maturity, 381
The Surgeon, 381
The Hand, 381
The Anesthesiologist, 382
Suggested Surgical Milestones, 382

Principles of Dressing and Splinting, 382
Dressings, 382
Wound Closure, 384
Primary Dressing, 385
Gentle Compression Components, 385
Padding and Skin Protection, 386
Rigid Outer Shell, 386
Splinting, 387
Introduction, 387
Materials, 387
Securing the Splint, 390
Materials for Fabricating Total Contact Molding Inserts, 390
Mechanical Principles, 392
Use of Distraction Techniques, 398

Principles of Acute Care, 398
General Principles, 398
Tendon Injury, 400
Nerve Injury, 400
Skin Injury, 400
Bone Injury, 400
Vascular Injury, 401

Principles of Reconstruction, 404
Architecture and Hand Physiology, 404
Nerve Function: Sensibility and Power, 404
Architecture of the Hand, 405
Planning Reconstruction, 405
Evaluation of the Child for Reconstruction, 407
Established Volkman's Contracture of the Forearm, 408

Congenital Anomalies, 410
Classification, 410
Diagnosing Associated Anomalies, 411
Ulnar Dysplasia, 411
History, 411
Etiology, 411
Clinical Presentation, 412
Classification, 412
Pathology, 413
Imaging, 413
Treatment, 413

Synostosis of the Radius and Ulna, 414
History, 414
Clinical Presentation, 415
Imaging, 415
Treatment, 415
Results, 416
Author's Preferred Treatment, 416
Madelung's Deformity, 416
History, 416
Etiology, 416
Pathology, 416
Clinical Presentation, 417
Imaging, 418
Treatment, 418
Results, 421
Complications, 421

Polydactyly, 421
History, 421
Etiology, 421
Pathology, 421
Clinical Presentation, 422
Clinical Appearance and Classification Systems, 422
Associated Conditions, 423
Imaging, 426
Treatment, 426
Complications, 432
Syndactyly, 433
History, 433
Contents

Etiology, 433
Pathology, 433
Clinical Presentation, 434
Incidence, 434
Associated Syndromes, 435
Imaging, 435
Treatment, 436
Complications, 444
Thumb Dysplasia, 444
History, 444
Tight Thumbs, 445
Macroductyly, 450
History, 450
Classification, 450
Etiology, 451
Pathology, 452
Clinical Presentation, 454
Imaging, 456
Treatment, 456
Complications, 459
Congenital Band Syndrome, 461
History and Etiology, 461
Pathology, 461
Clinical Presentation, 461
Classification, 462
Imaging, 463
Treatment, 463
Results, 466
Complications, 466
Apert’s Syndrome, 466
Clinical Manifestations, 467
Treatment, 467

Juvenile Arthritis and Other Noninfectious Inflammatory Conditions, 467
General Principles, 467
Educating the Patient and Parent, 468
Appropriate Therapy and Splinting, 468
Intra-articular Steroid Injection, 469
The Wrist, 469
Wrist Joint Synovitis, 469
Tendon Synovitis (Tenosynovitis), 469
Treatment of Synovitis and Tenosynovitis, 470

Digital Involvement, 472
Synovitis of the Digits, 472
Finger Synovitis and Deformity, 472
Thumb Synovitis and Deformity, 472
Tenosynovitis in the Digits, 472
Treatment of Hand Involvement, 473
Splinting, 473
Injections, 474
Synovectomy, 474
Joint Reconstruction, 474
Thumb Deformities, 474
Noninfectious Inflammatory Conditions, 476
Infections, 476
Paronychia, 476
Felon, 477
Herpetic Whitlow, 477
Pyogenic Tenosynovitis, 478
Deep Space Infections, 478
Bite Wounds, 478
Human Bite Wounds, 478
Animal Bite Wounds, 478
Septic Arthritis, 478
Osteomyelitis, 479
Other Infections, 479
Human Papillomavirus, Common Warts, 479
Atypical Mycobacterium Infections, 479

Conditions Mimicking Infection, 479
Traumatic Disorders, 479
Neonatal Brachial Plexus Palsy, 479
Etiology, 479
Classification, 480
Clinical Features, 480
Prognosis and Natural History, 480
Differential Diagnosis, 480
Initial Treatment, 481
Later Treatment, 481
Residual Deformities, 481
Management of Residual Deformities, 484
Tumors of the Upper Limb, 487
Imaging Studies, 496
Non-neoplastic Masses, 496
Synovial Cysts (Ganglions, Retinacular Cysts), 496
Epidermoid Inclusion Cysts, 497
Foreign Bodies or Reactions, 497
Aneurysms and Pseudo-aneurysms, 497
Malformations, 497
Vascular Malformations, 497
Neoplasms, 502
Benign Lesions, 502
Fibrous Tumors, 502
Malignant Soft Tissue, 502
Benign Bone Tumors, 503
Microsurgery, 503
Replantation (Attachment of Severed Parts), 503
Preoperative Care, 503
Indications, 503
Revascularization, 504
Free Tissue Transfer, 504
Inherent Advantages of Free Tissue Transfer, 504
Free Motorized Muscle Transfer, 504
Free Toe Transfer, 504
Free Vascularized Bone Transfers, 508
Free Joint Transfer in Radial Clubhand, 511

CHAPTER 15
Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip ... 513
Definition, 513
History, 513
Incidence, 514
Etiology, 514
Associated Conditions, 517
Pathophysiology, 519
Normal Hip Development, 519
Hip Development in DDH, 520
Natural History, 522
Neonatal Hip Instability, 522
Dysplasia, Subluxation, and Dislocation After the Neonatal Period, 523
Clinical Presentation, 524
The Neonate, 524
The Infant, 525
The Walking Child, 526
Imaging Studies, 527
Ultrasound, 527
Radiography, 530
Arthrography, 532
Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 533
Screening Criteria, 534
Treatment of the Neonate, 534
The Pavlik Harness, 534
Treatment of the Young Child (Ages 1 to 6 Months), 536
The Pavlik Harness, 536
Problems and Complications Associated with the Pavlik Harness, 537
Other Splints and Braces, 537
The Frejka Pillow and Triple Diapers, 538
Treatment of the Child (Ages 6 Months to 2 Years), 539
General Guidelines, 539
Traction, 539
Closed Reduction, 540
Open Reduction, 546
Medial Approach, 546
Anterior Open Reduction, 548
Open Reduction with Femoral Shortening, 549
Open Reduction with Innominat Osteotomy, 549
Treatment of the Older Child (Ages 2 Years and Older), 568
Complications and Pitfalls, 582
Avascular Necrosis, 582
Interventions to Alter the Effects of Avascular Necrosis, 584
Trochanteric Epiphysiolysis, 584
Trochanteric Advancement, 584
Intertrochanteric Double Osteotomy, 584
Lateral Closing Wedge Valgus Osteotomy with Trochanteric Advancement, 584
Inadequate Reduction and Redistillation, 586
Residual Acetabular Dysplasia, 587
Acetabular Dysplasia Presenting Late, 587
Reconstructive Procedures for Dysplasia, 596
Simple Pelvic Osteotomies That Reposition the Acetabulum, 596
Pemberton Osteotomy, 596
Salter Aluminate Osteotomy, 618
Dega Osteotomy, 631
Complex Osteotomies That Reposition the Acetabulum, 632
Steel Osteotomy, 632
Tennis Osteotomy, 632
Ganz Osteotomy, 633
Osteotomies That Augment the Acetabulum, 642
Chiari Osteotomy, 642
Shelf Procedures, 646
Teratologic Dislocation of the Hip, 646

 CHAPTER 16
Legg-Calvé-Perthes Disease .............655
Definition, 655
History, 655
Early Treatment Concepts, 655
The Concept of Containment Treatment, 655
Etiology, 656
Coagulation Abnormalities, 656
Arterial Status of the Femoral Head, 658
Venous Drainage of the Femoral Head and Neck, 661
Abnormal Growth and Development: The “Predisposed Child,” 661
Trauma, 662
Hyperactivity or Attention Deficit Disorder, 663
Hereditary Influences, 664
Environmental Influences, 665
Synovitis, 665
A “Unifying” Hypothesis, 665
Pathology, 665
Pathologic Anatomy, 665
Findings Suggestive of a Systemic Process, 668
Findings Suggestive of Double Infarction, 669
Metaphyseal Changes, 670

VOLUME 2

CHAPTER 17
Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis...711
Introduction, 711
Incidence and Epidemiology, 711
Classification, 712
Etiology, 715
Mechanical Factors, 715
Endocrine Factors, 715
Pathology, 716
Clinical Picture, 718
Imaging Studies, 719
Plain Radiography, 719
Computed Tomography, 720
Technetium 99 Bone Scan, 721
Ultrasonography, 721
Contents

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 721
Treatment, 722
Initial Management of Patients with Suspected Slipped
Capital Femoral Epiphysis, 722
Definitive Treatment, 722
Stable Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis, 722
Unstable Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis, 744
Anterior and Valgus Slips, 745
Residual Deformity After Closure of the Physis, 745
Prophylactic Treatment of the Contralateral Hip, 745
Complications, 747
Chondrolysis, 747
Clinical Presentation, 747
Epidemiology, 748
Etiology, 749
Pathology, 749
Natural History, 749
Treatment, 750
Avascular Necrosis, 750
Treatment, 751
Long-Term Outcome for Patients with Slipped Capital
Femoral Epiphysis, 753
Untreated Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis, 753
Treated Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis, 753
Remodeling After Epiphysal Stabilization, 758
Summary of Natural History and Outcome of
Treatment, 758

CHAPTER 18
Congenital Coxa Vara......................765
Incidence, 765
Hereditity, 765
Clinical Features, 765
Radiographic Findings, 766
Pathophysiology, 768
Biomechanics, 768
Treatment, 770

CHAPTER 19
Disorders of the Femur ....................783
Femoral Anteversion, 783
Definition, 783
Clinical Characteristics, 783
Differential Diagnosis, 783
Prognosis and Natural History, 783
Association with Other Conditions, 784
Measurement, 784
Treatment, 784
Snapping Iliotibial Band Syndrome, 787

CHAPTER 20
Disorders of the Knee .....................789
Osteochondritis Dissecans, 789
Etiology, 789
Mechanical, 789
Hereditary, 789
Ischemia, 789
Pathology, 790
Clinical Presentation, 790
Diagnostic Studies, 790
Treatment, 791
Nonoperative Treatment, 791
Arthroscopy, 791

Patellofemoral Instability, 793
Recurrent Patellar Dislocation, 793
Incidence, 793
Etiology, 793
Clinical Picture, 794
Diagnostic Studies, 794
Treatment, 797
Recurrent Patellar Subluxation, 799
Clinical Presentation, 799
Diagnostic Studies, 799
Treatment, 799
Habitual Dislocation of the Patella, 810
Chronic Dislocation of the Patella, 810
Patellar Pain Syndrome or Excessive Lateral Pressure
Syndrome, 810
Plica Syndrome, 810
Clinical Presentation, 810
Diagnostic Studies, 811
Treatment, 811
Bipartite Patella, 811
Treatment, 811
Larsen-Johansson Disease, 811
Congenital Dislocation of the Patella, 811
Clinical Presentation, 811
Treatment, 811
Osgood-Schlatter Disease, 812
Clinical Presentation, 812
Diagnostic Studies, 812
Treatment, 813
Complications, 813
Discoid Lateral Meniscus, 814
Pathogenesis, 814
Clinical Presentation, 814
Diagnostic Studies, 815
Treatment, 815
Congenital Dislocation of the Knee, 815
Etiology, 822
Clinical Features, 822
Associated Disorders, 823
Diagnostic Studies, 823
Pathology, 823
Classification, 823
Treatment, 823
Results, 825
Congenital Tibiofemoral Subluxation, 825
Clinical Findings, 825
Radiographic Findings, 825
Pathology, 825
Treatment, 825
Acquired Genu Recurvatum, 825
Treatment, 828
Popliteal Cysts, 829
Clinical Presentation, 829
Diagnostic Studies, 829
Pathology, 829
Diagnostic Studies, 831
Treatment, 831

CHAPTER 21
Disorders of the Leg.......................839
Introduction, 839
Genu Varum (Bowlegs), 839
Physiologic Genu Varum, 839
Tibia vara, 840
Infantile Tibia Vara (Blount’s Disease), 840
Etiology, 840
CHAPTER 22
Disorders of the Foot ..................... 891

Introduction, 891
Normal Variations, 891
Os Trigonum, 891
Accessory Navicular, 895
Pathology, 896
Imaging Studies, 896
Clinical Features, 896
Treatment, 896
Results and Complications, 897

Osteochondroses, 899
Kohler's Disease, 899
Etiology, 899
Clinical Features, 899
Radiographic Findings, 900
Treatment, 900
Results, 900
Freiberg's Infarction, 900
Etiology, 901
Clinical Features, 901
Radiographic Findings, 901
Treatment, 901

Congenital Deformities, 901
Postural Deformities, 901
Metatarsus Adductus, 901
Talipes Caleeovalgus, 903
Flexible Flatfoot (Pes Planovalgus), 908
Clinical Features, 909
Natural History, 912
Treatment, 912
Surgical Management, 914
Skewfoot, 921
Radiographic Findings, 922
Treatment, 922

Congenital Talipes Equinovarus (Clubfoot), 922
Etiology, 923
Pathoanatomy, 923
Diagnostic Features/Differential Diagnosis, 927
Nonoperative Treatment, 927
Surgical Treatment, 933
Current Operative Technique, 937
Postoperative Complications, 941
Revision/Secondary Procedures, 945
Bony Procedures, 946

Vertical Talus, 959
Definition, 959
Clinical Features and Associated Conditions, 959
Etiology, 959
Pathologic Anatomy, 959
Radiography, 961
Differential Diagnosis, 961
Treatment, 966
Results and Complications, 967

Tarsal Coalition, 967
Historical Aspects, 967
Etiology, 967
Clinical Features, 974
Imaging Studies, 976
Treatment, 980
Results and Complications, 981

Cleft Foot, 983
Etiology, 983
Clinical Features, 983
Treatment, 983

Neurogenic Abnormalities, 984
Cavus Foot, 984
Etiology, 984
Clinical Presentation, 985
Radiographic Evaluation, 988
Further Diagnostic Evaluation, 989
Treatment, 990

Toe Deformities, 1012
Hallux Valgus, 1012
Symptoms, 1012
Anatomy, 1013
Radiographic Examination, 1014
Classification, 1014
Treatment, 1014

Hallux Valgus Interphalangeus, 1019
Hallux Varus, 1019
Hallux Rigidus, 1019
Polydactyly, 1021
Syndactyly, 1023
Macrodactyly, 1024
Varus Fifth Toe, 1024
Curly Toes, 1027
Hammer Toes, 1027
Mallet Toe, 1027
Longitudinal Epiphyseal Bracket, 1032
Subungual Exostosis, 1032
Glomus Tumor, 1032
CHAPTER 23
Limb Length Discrepancy .......... 1039
   Leg Length Inequality, 1039
      Introduction, 1039
      Etiology, 1039
      Impact of Leg Length Inequality, 1040
      Assessment of Leg Length Inequality, 1041
         Clinical, 1041
         Radiographic, 1043
      Prediction of Leg Length Inequality in the Skeletally
         Immature Child, 1045
         Normal Skeletal Growth, 1045
         Prediction of Growth Remaining in the Femur and
         Tibia, 1045
      Summary of Growth Remaining and Timing of
         Epiphysiodesis Methods, 1053
      Treatment of Leg Length Inequality, 1058
         Indications, 1058
         Orthotic Management, 1058
         Shortening of the Long Leg, 1058
         Lengthening of the Short Leg, 1077
   Principles of Angular Deformity Correction in
      Children, 1103
      Introduction, 1103
      Etiology, 1103
      Assessment of Deformity, 1103
      Normal Lower Extremity Alignment, 1103
      Principles of Deformity Correction, 1107
      Surgical Options for Deformity Correction, 1111
         Hemiepiphyseal Stapling, 1111
         Hemiepiphysiodesis, 1111
         Osteotomy, 1113

SECTION III  Neuromuscular Disorders .......... 1119

CHAPTER 24
Disorders of the Brain .......... 1121
   Levels of Affection, 1121
   Cerebral Palsy, 1122
      Definition, 1122
      Epidemiology, 1122
      Etiology, 1123
      Prenatal, 1123
      Perinatal, 1123
      Postnatal, 1123
      Classification, 1123
      Histopathologic Findings, 1124
      Evaluation, 1124
      Other Assessments, 1127
         Gait Analysis, 1127
      Prognosis for Ambulation, 1130
      Treatment, 1130
         Nonsurgical Treatment, 1130
         Medical Treatment of Spasticity, 1132
         Surgical Treatment, 1134
         Foot Surgery, 1134
         Knee Surgery, 1158
         Hip Surgery, 1173
      The Upper Limb, 1211
         Introduction, 1211
         Sensory Impairment, 1211
         Effects on Growth, 1211
         Treatment, 1211
   Spinal Deformity, 1222
      Scoliosis, 1222
      Spondylolisthesis and Spondylolysis, 1230
      Cervical Spine Spondylolisthesis, 1230
      Rhizotomy, 1231
      Fractures, 1232
      Outcome Assessments, 1234
   Rett Syndrome, 1242
   Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis, 1243
   Ataxia Syndromes, 1246
      Friedreich's Ataxia (Hereditary Spinocerebellar
      Ataxia), 1246
         Clinical Features, 1246
         Diagnosis, 1247
         Orthopaedic Management, 1247
         Prognosis, 1247

CHAPTER 25
Disorders of the Spinal Cord .......... 1249
   Myelomeningocele, 1249
      Introduction, 1249
      Incidence, 1249
      Embryology, 1250
      Etiology, 1251
      Heredity, 1251
      Pathology, 1252
         Skin, 1252
         Meninges, 1252
         Spinal Cord, 1252
         Peripheral Nerves, 1252
         Vertebral Column, 1252
         Brain, 1253
      Treatment, 1253
         General Principles, 1253
         Long-Term Outcome, 1253
      Health Problems of the Myelomeningocele Patient, 1255
         General/Universal Problems, 1255
         Upper Extremity Function in Myelomeningocele, 1255
         Puberty, 1255
         Cognitive Problems, 1255
         Psychosocial Implications of Myelomeningocele, 1255
         Specific Problems by Level, 1256
         Neurosurgical Treatment, 1257
         Closure of the Myelomeningocele Sac, 1257
         Hydrocephalus, 1257
         Other Spinal Cord Abnormalities, 1258
         Urologic Treatment, 1258
      Orthopaedic Treatment, 1259
         Goals of Orthopaedic Management, 1259
         Physical Examination of the Newborn, 1259
         Periodic Assessment, 1260
         Multidisciplinary Care, 1261
      General Principles of Orthopaedic Management of
         Myelomeningocele, 1261
         Latex Risk, 1261
         Infection, 1261
         Pressure Sores, 1261
         Fractures, 1262
      Management of Specific Problems, 1262
         Foot/Ankle Problems, 1262
         Rotational Deformities (Internal/External), 1269
         Knee, 1269
         Hip, 1272
         Spine, 1277
         Orthotic Management, 1290
         General Principles of Bracing/Rehabilitation, 1290
Specific Protocols for Levels, 1291
Specific Braces, 1292
Other Mobility Aids, 1295
General Care of the Myelomeningocele Patient, 1295
Skin, 1295
Counseling, 1296
Summary, 1296
Other Forms of Spinal Dysraphism, 1302
Lipomeningocele, 1302
Clinical Features, 1302
Treatment, 1302
Tethered Cord (Thickened Filum Terminale), 1303
Diastematomyelia, 1303
Clinical Picture, 1303
Radiographic Findings, 1303
Treatment, 1305
Spina Bifida Occulta, 1305
Clinical Features, 1305
Caudal Regression Syndrome (Sacral and Lumbosacral Agenesis), 1305
Pathologic Findings, 1305
Classification, 1306
Clinical Findings, 1306
Treatment, 1310
Spinal Muscular Atrophy, 1311
Genetic Studies, 1311
Classification, 1311
Type 1, Acute Infantile SMA, 1311
Type II, Chronic Infantile SMA, 1311
Type III, Kugelberg-Welander SMA, 1312
Differential Diagnosis, 1312
Diagnostic Evaluation, 1312
Orthopaedic Treatment, 1312
Medical Treatment, 1317

CHAPTER 26
Polioyelitis .......................... 1321
Pathology, 1322
Treatment, 1322
Acute Phase, 1322
Muscle Spasm, 1323
Moist Heat, 1323
Convalescent Phase, 1324
Patterns of Motor Activity, 1324
Fatigue, 1324
Contractual Deformity and Progressive Loss of Function, 1325
Chronic Phase, 1325
Physical Therapy, 1325
Orthoses and Other Apparatus, 1326
Surgery, 1327
The Hip, 1329
Soft Tissue Contracture, 1329
The Lower Limb, 1330
The Pelvis and Trunk, 1331
Treatment, 1331
Gluteus Medius Paralysis, 1336
Gluteus Maximus Paralysis, 1336
Operative Technique (Barr), 1337
Technique for Correction of Remaining Contractures in Polioyelitis Deformities, 1348
Paralytic Dislocation of the Hip, 1349
Treatment, 1350
Arthrodesis of the Hip, 1350
The Knee, 1351
Quadriceps Femoris Paralysis, 1351

Flexion Deformity of the Knee, 1358
Genu Recurvatum, 1358
Flail Knee, 1360
Specific Deformities of the Foot and Ankle, 1361
Paralysis of Peroneal Muscles, 1362
Paralysis of Peroneals, Extensor Digitorum Longus, and Extensor Hallucis Longus, 1363
Paralysis of Anterior Tibial Muscle, 1364
Paralysis of Anterior Tibial Muscle, Toe Extensors, and Peroneals, 1365
Paralysis of Triceps Surae Muscle, 1365
Arthrodesis of the Foot and Ankle, 1373
Triple Arthrodesis, 1373
Extra-articular Subtalar Arthrodesis, 1388
Ankle Fusion and Pantalar Arthrodesis, 1388
Anterior or Posterior Bone Blocks to Limit Motion at Ankle, 1395
The Trunk, 1395
The Shoulder, 1395
Prime Movers, 1395
Steering Group, 1395
Depressor Group, 1406
Arthrodesis of the Shoulder, 1407
The Elbow, 1408
Steindler Flexorplasty, 1408
Pectoralis Major Transfer to Restore Elbow Flexion, 1418
Pectoralis Minor Transfer, 1418
Sternocleidomastoid Transfer, 1418
Anterior Transfer of the Triceps Brachii, 1419
Latissimus Dorsi Transfer, 1419
Paralysis of the Triceps Brachii Muscle, 1419
The Forearm, 1424

CHAPTER 27
Disorders of the Peripheral Nervous System .................................. 1435
Hereditary Motor and Sensory Neuropathies, 1435
Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease Type 1, 1435
Genetics, 1435
Clinical Presentation, 1435
Diagnostic Evaluation, 1435
Orthopaedic Manifestations, 1436
Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease Type 2, 1445
Hypertrophic Interstitial Neuritis (Dejerine-Sottas Disease), 1445
Pathology, 1445
Clinical Features, 1445
Diagnosis, 1445
Prognosis and Treatment, 1445
Refsum’s Disease, 1447
Congenital Analgia, 1448
Congenital Sensitivity to Pain, 1448
Clinical Features, 1448
Familial Dysautonomia (Riley-Day Syndrome), 1453
Congenital Sensory Neuropathy, 1453
Hereditary Sensory Radicular Neuropathy, 1453
Congenital Sensitivity to Pain with Anhidrosis, 1453
Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome, 1453
Syringomyelia, 1454
Guillain-Barré Syndrome (Acute Polyradiculoneuritis), 1454
Diagnosis, 1455
Clinical Features, 1455
Treatment, 1455
Sciatic and Peroneal Nerve Palsy, 1455
Etiology, 1455
Pathologic Anatomy, 1456
CHAPTER 28
Muscle Diseases

Muscular Dystrophies, 1463
Definition, 1463
Historical Aspects, 1463
Classification, 1463
Etiology, 1463
Pathology, 1465
Biochemical Considerations, 1465
Electromyography/Nerve Conduction Velocity, 1467
Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy, 1467
Clinical Features, 1467
Physical Examination, 1468
Medical Concerns, 1469
Diagnosis, 1469
Treatment, 1469
Physical Therapy, 1469
Lower Limb Surgery, 1469
Spinal Surgery, 1470
Anesthesia Concerns, 1471
Treatment of the Upper Extremities, 1477
Steroid Therapy, 1477
Gene Therapy, 1477
Becker's Muscular Dystrophy, 1477
Clinical Features, 1478
Medical Concerns, 1478
Muscle Biopsy, 1478
Orthopaedic Management, 1478
Other Treatments, 1478
Emery-Dreifuss Muscular Dystrophy, 1478
Clinical Features, 1479
Serum Enzymes, 1479
Medical Concerns, 1479
Muscle Biopsy, 1479
Orthopaedic Management, 1479
Anesthesia Concerns, 1479
Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, 1479
Clinical Features, 1479
Laboratory Findings, 1479
Medical Concerns, 1480
Treatment, 1480
Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy, 1480
Clinical Features, 1480
Laboratory Findings, 1481
Medical Concerns, 1481
Medical Treatment, 1481
Orthopaedic Management, 1481
Other Forms of Muscular Dystrophy, 1481
Infantile Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy, 1481
Scapuloperoneal Dystrophy, 1481
Congenital Muscular Dystrophy, 1481
Myotonic Dystrophy, 1487
Etiology, 1487
Clinical Features, 1487
Associated Medical Problems, 1487
Thomson's Myotonia (Myotonia Congenita), 1489
Pathology, 1489
Clinical Features, 1489
Laboratory Findings, 1489
Differential Diagnosis, 1489
Treatment, 1489
Prognosis, 1489

Metabolic Diseases of Muscle, 1489
Periodic Paralysis, 1489
Hypokalemic Periodic Paralysis, 1490
Etiology, 1490
Clinical Features, 1490
Laboratory Findings, 1490
Treatment, 1490
Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis, 1490
Etiology, 1491
Clinical Features, 1491
Laboratory Findings, 1491
Treatment, 1491
McArdle's Syndrome (Myophosphorylase Deficiency), 1491
Idiopathic Paroxysmal Myoglobinuria, 1492
Polymyositis and Dermatomyositis, 1492
Etiology, 1492
Pathology, 1493
Clinical Features, 1493
Laboratory Findings, 1494
Electromyography, 1494
Diagnosis, 1495
Treatment, 1495
Outcome, 1495
Pyomyositis (Suppurative Myositis), 1496
Etiology, 1496
Clinical Features, 1496
Laboratory Findings, 1496
Imaging Studies, 1496
Differential Diagnosis, 1496
Treatment, 1496
Myositis Ossificans (Myositis Ossificans Circumscripta), 1496
Classification, 1497
Pathology, 1497
Clinical Features, 1497
Imaging Studies, 1497
Differential Diagnosis, 1498
Treatment, 1498
Idiopathic Fibrosis of Muscles (Progressive Fibrosis of the Quadriceps), 1499
Etiology, 1499
Pathophysiology, 1499
Clinical Features, 1499
Treatment, 1499
Myasthenia Gravis, 1500
Incidence, 1500
Etiology, 1500
Clinical Features, 1500
Neonatal Transient Myasthenia Gravis, 1500
Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes, 1500
Juvenile Myasthenia Gravis, 1500
Diagnosis, 1501
Treatment, 1501

VOLUME 3

SECTION IV • Orthopaedic Disorders

CHAPTER 29
Skeletal Dysplasias
Achondroplasia, 1510
Genetics, 1510
Pathophysiology, 1510
Clinical Features, 1510
Radiographic Findings, 1512
Prenatal Diagnosis, 1513
Differential Diagnosis, 1513
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1513
Craniocephalic Stenosis, 1513
Thoracic Kyphosis, 1514
Spinal Stenosis, 1516
Angular Deformities of the Lower Extremities, 1517
Short Stature, 1517

Hypochondroplasia, 1521
Genetics, 1521
Clinical Features, 1521
Radiographic Findings, 1521
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1521
Treatment, 1521

Thanatophoric Dwarfism, 1521
Genetics, 1521
Prenatal Diagnosis, 1522
Type 1 and 2 Forms, 1523
Radiographic Findings, 1523
Prognosis, 1523

Pseudoachondroplasia, 1523
Genetics, 1523
Pathology, 1525
Clinical Features, 1525
Radiographic Findings, 1526
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1526

Spondyloepiphysial Dysplasia, 1527
Spondyloepiphysial Dysplasia Congenita, 1527
Genetics, 1527
Clinical Features, 1527
Radiographic Findings, 1527
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1528

Spondyloepiphysial Dysplasia Tarda, 1529
Genetics, 1530
Clinical Features, 1530
Radiographic Findings, 1530
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1530

Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia, 1531
Genetics, 1531
Pathology, 1531
Clinical Features, 1532
Radiographic Findings, 1533
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1534

Diastrophic Dysplasia (Diastrophic Dwarfism), 1535
Genetics, 1535
Pathology, 1535
Clinical Features, 1535
Radiographic Findings, 1537
Prenatal Diagnosis, 1538
Differential Diagnosis, 1538
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1539

Kniest’s Dysplasia (Pseudometatropic Dysplasia), 1542
Genetics, 1542
Pathology, 1542
Clinical Features, 1542
Radiographic Findings, 1542
Treatment, 1544
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1544

Chondrodysplasia Punctata, 1545
Genetics, 1545
Pathology, 1545
Clinical Features, 1545
Radiographic Findings, 1546

Prenatal Diagnosis, 1546
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1546
Prognosis, 1546

Metaphyseal Chondrodysplasia, 1547
Jansen Type, 1547
Genetics, 1547
Clinical Features, 1547
Radiographic Findings, 1547
Endocrine Abnormalities, 1547

Schmid Type, 1547
Genetics, 1547
Clinical Features, 1547
Radiographic Findings, 1548
Differential Diagnosis, 1548
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1548

Cartilage-Hair Hypoplasia (McKusick Type), 1549
Genetics, 1549
Clinical Features, 1549
Radiographic Findings, 1549
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1549

Osteopetrosis, 1550
Genetics, 1550
Pathology, 1550
Malignant Osteopetrosis, 1550
Benign or Tarda Osteopetrosis, 1550
Osteopetrosis Associated with Renal Tubular Acidosis, 1551
Radiographic Findings, 1551
Laboratory Findings, 1552
Prenatal Diagnosis, 1552
Differential Diagnosis, 1552
Problems and Complications, 1552
Treatment, 1553
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1553

Progressive Diaphyseal Dysplasia (Camurati-Engelmann Disease), 1555
Genetics, 1555
Pathology, 1555
Clinical Features, 1555
Radiographic Findings, 1556
Laboratory Findings, 1556
Differential Diagnosis, 1556
Treatment, 1556

Osteopoikilosis, 1557
Genetics, 1557
Pathology, 1557
Clinical Features, 1557
Radiographic Findings, 1557
Differential Diagnosis, 1557
Clinical Course, 1557

Osteopathia Striata, 1558
Genetics, 1558
Clinical Features, 1558
Radiographic Findings, 1558
Differential Diagnosis, 1558
Clinical Course, 1558

Melerheostosis, 1559
Etiology, 1559
Pathology, 1559
Clinical Features, 1560
Radiographic Findings, 1560
Clinical Course, 1560
Differential Diagnosis, 1561
Treatment, 1561
Orthopaedic Considerations, 1561

Infantile Cortical Hyperostosis (Caffey’s Disease), 1561
Genetics, 1562
Pathology, 1562
CHAPTER 30
Orthopaedic-Related Syndromes ...... 1585

Marfan's Syndrome, 1585
Introduction, 1585
Heredity and Incidence, 1585
Etiology, 1585
Clinical Manifestations, 1586
Clinical Features, 1586
Skeletal and Proportion, 1586
Skull and Facies, 1587
Eyes, 1587
Cardiovascular System, 1587
Other Skeletal Manifestations, 1587
Other Associated Anomalies, 1587
Diagnosis, 1588
Requirements, 1588
Criteria for Involvement, 1588
Differential Diagnosis, 1588
Homocystinuria, 1588
Congenital Contractural Arachnodactyly, 1588
Hereditary Juvenile Ophthalmoarthropathy, 1590
Other Conditions, 1590
Treatment, 1590
Cardiovascular System, 1590
Skeletal System, 1590
Infantile Marfan's Syndrome, 1591
Prognosis, 1591

Heredity Progressive Arthro-ophtalmopathy (Stickler's Syndrome), 1593
Clinical Features, 1593
Orthopaedic Manifestations, 1593
Treatment, 1593

Congenital Contractural Arachnodactyly (Beals' Syndrome), 1594
Clinical Features, 1594
Radiographic Findings, 1594
Differential Diagnosis, 1595
Treatment, 1595

Homocystinuria, 1596
Biochemical Defect and Pathophysiology, 1596
Clinical Features, 1596
Vascular Changes, 1597
Mental Retardation, 1597
Dislocation of the Lens, 1597
Skeletal Changes, 1597
Diagnosis, 1597
Treatment, 1597

Nail-Patella Syndrome (Hereditary Onycho-osteodysplasia), 1599
Genetics, 1599
Clinical Features, 1599
Radiographic Findings, 1600
Associated Anomalies, 1600
Treatment, 1600

Larsen's Syndrome, 1602
Clinical Features, 1602
Neurologic Evaluation, 1603
Differential Diagnosis, 1604
Radiographic Findings, 1604
Treatment, 1604
Cervical Kyphosis, 1604
Congenital Dislocation of the Knee, 1607
Congenital Dislocation of the Hip, 1608
Foot Deformities, 1610
Congenital Dislocation of the Elbow or Radial Head, 1611
Scoliosis, 1611
Summary, 1614
Apert’s Syndrome, 1615
  Clinical Manifestations, 1615
  Treatment, 1615
Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21), 1616
  Introduction, 1616
  Clinical Features, 1616
  Orthopaedic Aspects and Treatment, 1617
    Instability of the Upper Cervical Spine in Down Syndrome, 1617
    Special Olympics, 1618
    Occipito-atlanto Instability, 1618
    Treatment of Upper Cervical Spine Instability, 1619
    Hip Disorders, 1621
    Patellofemoral Disorders, 1623
    Foot Disorders, 1623
Neurofibromatosis, 1624
  Introduction, 1624
  Historical Perspective, 1624
  Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (von Recklinghausen’s Disease), 1624
    Genetic Aspects of NF-1, 1625
    Diagnosis of NF-1, 1625
    Clinical Features of NF-1, 1625
    Skeletal Abnormalities in NF-1, 1628
    Malignant Degeneration of Neurofibromas, 1628
    Cognitive Deficits, 1628
  Neurofibromatosis Type 2, 1629
  Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, 1632
    Introduction, 1632
    Etiology, 1632
    Clinical Features, 1632
    Radiographic Features, 1634
    Histology, 1636
    Treatment, 1638
  Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, 1639
    Clinical Features, 1639
Classification
  Type I (Gravis), 1640
  Type II (Mitis), 1640
  Type III (Benign Hypomobile), 1640
  Type IV (Echymotic), 1640
  Type V, 1640
  Type VI, 1640
  Type VII, 1640
  Type VIII, 1640
Gaucher’s Disease, 1642
  Genetics, 1642
  Heredity, 1642
  Pathology, 1642
  Clinical Features, 1643
  Diagnosis, 1643
  Prenatal Diagnosis, 1643
  Orthopaedic Manifestations, 1643
    Bone Marrow Infiltration, 1643
    Avascular Necrosis, 1643
    Bone Cysts, 1644
    Pathologic Fractures, 1645
    Lytic Lesions, 1645
    Osteomyelitis, 1645
  Treatment, 1645
  Orthopaedic Considerations, 1645
Arthrogryposis (Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita), 1647
  Etiology, 1647
  Genetics, 1647
  Clinical Manifestations, 1648
    Classic Arthrogryposis, 1648
    Distal Arthrogryposis, 1648
  Pathology, 1650
  Differential Diagnosis, 1650
  Treatment, 1652
    Goals of Treatment, 1652
    Timing of Treatment, 1652
    The Hip, 1652
    The Knees, 1652
    The Feet, 1653
    Treatment of the Upper Extremities, 1654
    Scoliosis and Spine Deformity, 1660
  Cranlopcarpotarsal Dysplasia (Freeman-Sheldon or “Whistling Face” Syndrome), 1662
    Clinical Features, 1662
    Treatment, 1662
  Cornelia de Lange’s Syndrome, 1663
  Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome, 1665
  Orthopaedic Manifestations, 1665
  Surgical Treatment, 1665
  Associated Anomalies, 1665
  Otopalatodigital Syndrome, 1666
  Proteus Syndrome, 1666
  Clinical Features, 1666
  Diagnosis, 1669
  Differential Diagnosis, 1669
  Orthopaedic Management, 1669
  Klippel-Trénaunay Syndrome, 1670
  Pathophysiology, 1670
  Clinical Features, 1671
    Nevus, 1671
    Varicosities, 1671
    Bone and Soft Tissue Hypertrophy, 1671
    Diagnosis, 1672
    Patient Evaluation, 1672
    Treatment, 1672
    Orthopaedic Considerations, 1672
  Metatropic Dwarfism (Dysplasia), 1673
  Camptocormic Dysplasia, 1677
  Clinical Features, 1677
  Spinal Deformity, 1679
  Chondroectodermal Dysplasia (Ellis–van Creveld Syndrome), 1679
  Genetics, 1679
  Clinical Features, 1679
  Radiographic Findings, 1680
  Treatment, 1681
  Orthopaedic Considerations, 1681
  Asphyxiating Thoracic Dysplasia (Jeune’s Disease), 1683
  Pathology, 1683
  Clinical Features, 1683
  Radiographic Findings, 1683
  Prenatal Diagnosis, 1683
  Treatment, 1683

CHAPTER 31
Metabolic and Endocrine Bone Diseases .................................................. 1685
  General Pathophysiology, 1685
  Nutritional Rickets, 1686
  Pathology, 1686
  Laboratory Findings, 1688
  Clinical Features, 1688
  Radiographic Findings, 1689
  Treatment, 1689
  Rickets of Prematurity, 1690
  Drug-Induced Rickets, 1690
  Vitamin D–Resistant Rickets, 1690
Pathophysiology, 1718
Normal Collagen Metabolism, 1718
Collagen Metabolism in Osteogenesis Imperfecta, 1718
Classification and Heredity, 1718
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type I, 1720
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type II, 1720
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type III, 1721
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type IV, 1721
Incidence, 1722
Pathology, 1722
Clinical Picture, 1723
Radiographic Findings, 1725
Severe Form, 1725
Milder Forms, 1726
Hyperlastic Callus and Tumors in Osteogenesis Imperfecta, 1726
Laboratory Findings, 1727
Differential Diagnosis, 1727
Treatment, 1729
Medical Treatment, 1729
Orthopaedic Treatment, 1729
Prognostication and Parental Counseling, 1729
Survival, 1729
Ambulation, 1730
Antenatal Diagnosis, 1730
Rehabilitation, 1730
Management of Long Bone Fractures, 1730
Management of Long Bone Deformity, 1731
Closed Osteotomy Without Internal Fixation, 1731
Closed Osteotomy with Percutaneous Intramedullary Fixation, 1732
Open Osteotomy with Intramedullary Fixation (Sofield Procedure), 1732
Use of the Extensile Intramedullary (Bailey-Dubow) Rod, 1733
Spinal Deformity and Its Management, 1738
Basilic Impression, 1739

CHAPTER 32
Limb Deficiencies.......................... 1745
Embryology and Genetics of Limb Development, 1745
Normal Embryology, 1745
Genetic Regulation of Limb Development, 1745
Classifying Limb Deficiencies, 1747
Frantz and O’Rahilly Classification System, 1747
Identifying Specific Deficiencies, 1748
ISO/SPO International Classification System, 1749
General Treatment Concepts, 1750
Timing of Treatment, 1750
Social Factors, 1751
Long-Term Planning, 1751
Congenital Absence of Limbs, 1751
Timing of Limb Malformations and Deformations, 1751
Etiology of Limb Absences, 1752
Heritable Limb Deficiencies and Associated Anomalies, 1752
The Subclavian Artery Supply Disruption Sequence Hypothesis, 1754
Psychosocial Issues, 1755
Congenital Lower Limb Deficiencies, 1756
Proximal Focal Femoral Deficiency, 1756
Classifications of Femoral Deficiency, 1756
Clinical Presentation, 1760
Treatment, 1762
Fibular Deficiency, 1775
Classification of Fibular Deficiency, 1775
CHAPTER 33

Arthritis.............................1811

Joints, 1811
General Considerations, 1811
Joint Fluid Analysis, 1811
Gross Appearance, 1811
Viscosity and Mucin Clot, 1813
Microscopic Examination, 1813
Other Examinations, 1813
Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, 1813
Definition and Classification, 1813
Incidence and Prevalence, 1813
Demographics, 1813
Etiology, 1813
Pathology, 1815
Clinical Features, 1816
Pauciarticular JRA, 1816
Polyarticular Onset JRA, 1817
Systemic Onset JRA, 1817
Laboratory Evaluation, 1819
Radiographic Evaluation, 1819
Treatment, 1819
Physical and Occupational Therapy, 1820
Orthopaedic Treatment, 1820
Total Joint Arthroplasty, 1821
Spondyloarthropathies, 1821
Juvenile Ankylosing Spondylitis, 1821
Reiter's Syndrome, 1822
Psoriatic Arthritis, 1822
Acute Transient Synovitis of the Hip, 1823
Etiology, 1824
Clinical Picture, 1824
Diagnostic Studies, 1824
Differential Diagnosis, 1824
Clinical Course, 1824
Treatment, 1825
Natural History, 1825
Neuropathic Arthropathies, 1825
Clinicopathologic Features, 1825
Radiographic Findings, 1825
Treatment, 1826
Tuberculous Arthritis, 1826
Clinical Features, 1828
Radiographic Features, 1829
Treatment, 1831
General Medical Measures, 1831
Antituberculous Drugs, 1831
Orthopaedic Treatment of the Tuberculous Joint, 1831
Tuberculosis of the Spine, 1831
Pathology, 1831
Clinical Features, 1833
Radiographic Features, 1833
Treatment, 1834
Paraplegia in Tuberculous Spondylitis, 1834
Gonococcal Arthritis, 1835

CHAPTER 34

Bone and Joint Infections..........1841

Definition, 1841
Historical Aspects, 1841
Acute Hematogenous Osteomyelitis and Septic Arthritis, 1841
Epidemiology, 1841
Etiology and Pathophysiology, 1841
Pathophysiology of Acute Hematogenous Osteomyelitis, 1841
Vascular Anatomy, 1841
Cellular Anatomy, 1842
Trauma, 1842
Cellular Mediators of Inflammation, 1842
Pathophysiology of Septic Arthritis, 1843
Pathogens Associated with AHO and Septic Arthritis, 1844
Clinical Presentation, 1845
  History, 1845
  Physical Examination, 1845
  Neonatal and Infantile Osteoarticular Infection, 1846
Laboratory Studies, 1846
Imaging Studies, 1846
  Plain Radiography, 1846
  Radionuclide Scintigraphy, 1847
  Computed Tomography, 1847
  Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 1848
  Ultrasoundography, 1848
Differential Diagnosis, 1850
Treatment, 1852
  Aspiration, 1852
  Surgery—Septic Arthritis, 1853
  Surgery—Acute Hematogenous Osteomyelitis, 1858
Antibiotic Therapy, 1858
Complications, 1859
  Osteonecrosis of the Proximal Femur, 1859
  Chronic Osteomyelitis, 1859
Special Considerations, 1860
  Subacute Osteomyelitis, 1860
  Diskitis, 1862
Infection Secondary to Puncture Wounds, 1863
  Septic Arthritis of the Sacroiliac Joint, 1863
  Osteomyelitis in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease, 1863
  Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis, 1864
  Gonococcal Septic Arthritis, 1864
Osteoarticular Infections Secondary to Rare Pathogens, 1865
  Tuberculosis, 1865
  Lyme Disease, 1868
  Syphilis, 1869
  Brucellar Osteomyelitis, 1869
  Fungal Osteomyelitis, 1869
  Viral, 1870

CHAPTER 35
Hematologic Disorders .................. 1879
  Hemophilia, 1879
  Incidence, 1879
  Classification and Inheritance, 1879
    Hemophilia A, 1879
    Hemophilia B, 1879
    Von Willebrand's Disease, 1879
  Gene Therapy, 1879
  Clinical Picture, 1879
  Hemophilic Arthropathy, 1880
    Site of Involvement, 1880
    Pathophysiology, 1880
    Clinical Findings, 1880
    Differential Diagnosis, 1880
    Radiographic Findings, 1880
  Soft Tissue Bleeding, 1881
    Intramuscular and Intermuscular Hemorrhage, 1882
    Nerve Palsy, 1883
    Hemophilic Pseudotumor, 1884
    Fractures, 1884
  Dislocations, 1884
  Myositis Ossificans, 1885
  Treatment, 1885
  Medical Management, 1885
    Treatment on Demand, 1885
    Prophylactic Treatment, 1885
    Early Bleeding into Muscles and Soft Tissues, 1886
    Hemarthrosis, 1886
    Analgesics, 1886
    Aspiration, 1886
    Subacute Hemophilic Arthropathy, 1886
    Chronic Hemophilic Arthropathy, 1887
    Nonsurgical Management, 1887
  Surgical Treatment, 1887
    Hematologic Management, 1887
    Synovectomy, 1888
    Synoviolithotomy, 1889
    Total Joint Replacement and Arthrodesis, 1889
    Neuropraxia, 1889
    Fractures, 1889
    Pseudotumors, 1889
  Sickle Cell Disease, 1892
    Etiology and Pathophysiology, 1892
    Sickle Cell Crisis, 1892
    Skeletal Manifestations, 1892

SECTION V • Musculoskeletal Tumors ........................................... 1895

CHAPTER 36
General Principles of Tumor Management .................................. 1897
  Tumors of the Musculoskeletal System, 1897
    Diagnosis, 1897
    Imaging, 1898
    Evaluation of the Initial Radiograph, 1898
    Anatomic Site of the Lesion, 1898
    Character of the Lesion, 1898
    Reaction of Surrounding Bone, 1898
    Staging Studies, 1899
    Computed Tomography, 1899
    Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 1899
    Scintigraphy, 1899
    Angiography, 1899
    Biopsy, 1899
    Classification, 1900
    Treatment, 1900

CHAPTER 37
Benign Musculoskeletal Tumors ......... 1901
  Simple Bone Cysts (Solitary Bone Cyst, Unicameral Bone Cyst), 1901
  Etiology, 1901
  Pathology, 1903
  Clinical Features, 1903
  Radiographic Findings, 1903
  Differential Diagnosis, 1903
  Treatment, 1903
  Corticosteroid Injections, 1904
  Operative Technique of Corticosteroid Injections, 1905
  Autologous Bone Marrow Injections, 1905
  Decompression of Cysts by Multiple Drilling, 1905
  Curettage of Cysts Followed by Bone Grafting, 1906
Metastatic Osteosarcoma, 2029
Ewing's Sarcoma and PNET, 2030
Pathologic Findings, 2032
Clinical Findings, 2033
Radiographic Findings, 2033
Staging, 2034
Biopsy, 2034
Prognosis, 2035
Treatment, 2035
Metastatic Ewing's Sarcoma/PNET, 2038
Chondrosarcoma, 2038
Imaging Findings, 2039
Pathologic Findings, 2039
Treatment, 2039
Soft Tissue Sarcomas, 2040
Rhabdomyosarcoma, 2040
Clinical Findings, 2040
Pathologic Findings, 2040
Imaging Findings, 2040
Treatment, 2040
Nonrhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcoma, 2042
Congenital Fibrosarcoma, 2042
Nonrhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcoma in Older Children, 2042
Clinical Findings, 2042
Staging and Imaging Studies, 2044
Treatment, 2044

SECTION VI • Musculoskeletal Injuries ......................... 2057

CHAPTER 39
General Principles of Managing Orthopaedic Injuries .......... 2059
Introduction, 2059
Unique Properties of the Immature Skeleton, 2059
Plastic Deformation, 2059
Buckle (Torus) Fractures, 2059
Greenstick Fractures, 2060
Remodeling/Overgrowth, 2060
Physal Injuries, 2062
Physical Anatomy, 2062
Harris Growth Arrest Lines, 2063
Classification of Physal Injuries, 2064
Treatment of Physal Injuries, 2065
Complications of Physal Injuries, 2066
Care of the Multiply Injured Child, 2072
Open Fractures, 2074
Gunshot Wounds, 2075
Lawnmower Injury, 2075
Compartment Syndrome, 2075
Vascular Injuries, 2078
Casts, 2079
Child Abuse, 2079
Summary, 2081

CHAPTER 40
Spinal Injuries ........................................... 2087
Cervical Spine Fractures, 2087
Anatomy, 2087
Mechanism of Injury, 2087
Diagnostic Features, 2087
Management of the Patient with Suspected Cervical Spine Injury, 2091
Occipitoatlantal Dislocation, 2091
Atlas Fractures, 2092
Traumatic Atlantoaxial Instability, 2092
Odontoid Fractures, 2092
Pedicile Fractures of C2 (Hangman's Fracture), 2096
Fractures and Dislocations of the Subaxial Spine, 2096
Late Complications Following Cervical Spine Injuries, 2098
Traumatic Injuries of the Thoracic and Lumbar Spine, 2101
Anatomy, 2101
Mechanism of Injury, 2102
Diagnosis, 2102
Radiographic Findings, 2103
Classification, 2103
Treatment, 2103
Nonoperative Treatment, 2103
Operative Treatment, 2105
Pharmacologic Treatment of Neurologic Injuries, 2106
Complications, 2107
Spinal Cord Injury Without Radiographic Abnormality, 2110

CHAPTER 41
Upper Extremity Injuries ....................... 2115
Injuries to the Clavicle, 2115
Anatomy, 2115
Mechanism of Injury, 2116
Diagnosis, 2116
Birth Fractures, 2116
Midshaft Clavicle Fractures, 2116
Medial Physal Separation (Pseudodislocation of the Sternocostoclavicular Joint), 2118
Lateral Physal Separation/Acromioclavicular Joint Dislocation, 2118
Radiographic Evaluation, 2118
Treatment, 2119
Birth Fractures, 2119
Midshaft Clavicle Fractures, 2119
Medial Physal Separation (Pseudodislocation of the Sternocostoclavicular Joint), 2120
Technique of Reduction, 2120
Anterior Displacement, 2120
Posterior Displacement, 2120
Lateral Physal Separation/Acromioclavicular Joint Dislocation, 2120
Complications, 2121
Fractures of the Scapula, 2121
Anatomy, 2121
Mechanism of Injury, 2121
Diagnosis, 2122
Treatment, 2122
Complications, 2122
Associated Conditions, 2122
Scapulothoracic Dissociation, 2122
Os Acromionale, 2123
Fractures Involving the Proximal Humeral Physis, 2123
Anatomy, 2123
Mechanism of Injury, 2124
Diagnosis, 2125
Classification, 2125
Treatment, 2126
Complications, 2127
Associated Conditions, 2128
Little League Shoulder, 2128
Traumatic Dislocation of the Glenohumeral Joint, 2128
Anatomy, 2128
Mechanism of Injury, 2129
Diagnosis, 2129
Treatment, 2130
Complications, 2131
Fractures of the Proximal Metaphysis and Shaft of the Humerus, 2132
Anatomy, 2132
Mechanism of Injury, 2133
Diagnosis, 2133
Treatment, 2133
Complications, 2141
Fractures About the Elbow, 2139
Supracondylar Fractures of the Humerus, 2139
Anatomy, 2140
Mechanism of Injury, 2140
Diagnosis, 2141
Radiographic Findings, 2142
Classification, 2143
Treatment, 2144
Controversies in Treatment, 2160
Complications, 2163
Transphyseal Fractures, 2168
Anatomy, 2168
Mechanism of Injury, 2168
Diagnosis, 2168
Radiographic Findings, 2168
Classification, 2168
Treatment, 2168
Complications, 2175
Lateral Condyle Fractures, 2175
Anatomy, 2175
Mechanism of Injury, 2177
Diagnosis, 2177
Radiographic Findings, 2177
Classification, 2177
Treatment, 2178
Complications, 2180
Medial Epicondyle Fractures, 2185
Anatomy, 2185
Mechanism of Injury, 2185
Diagnosis, 2185
Radiographic Findings, 2187
Classification, 2188
Treatment, 2188
Complications, 2190
Elbow Dislocations, 2191
Mechanism of Injury, 2191
Anatomy, 2191
Diagnosis, 2192
Treatment, 2192
Complications, 2193
Radial Head and Neck Fractures, 2194
Anatomy, 2194
Mechanism of Injury, 2194
Diagnosis, 2194
Radiographic Findings, 2194
Classification, 2194
Treatment, 2195
Complications, 2197
Olecranon Fractures, 2200
Anatomy, 2200
Mechanism of Injury, 2200
Diagnosis, 2200
Classification, 2200
Treatment, 2200
Complications, 2200
Uncommon Elbow Fractures, 2202
T-Condylar Fractures, 2202
Medial Condylar Fractures, 2202
Capitellar Fractures, 2205
Coronoid Fractures, 2205
Trochlear Fractures, 2205
Lateral Epicondylar Fractures, 2206
Associated Conditions, 2206
Nursemaid’s Elbow (Pulled Elbow, Traumatic Subluxation of the Radial Head), 2206
Osteochondroses of the Elbow, 2207
Fractures of the Forearm, 2218
Monteggia Fractures, 2218
Anatomy, 2218
Classification, 2219
Mechanism of Injury, 2219
Diagnosis, 2219
Radiographic Findings, 2219
Treatment, 2220
Complications, 2222
Fractures of the Shaft of the Radius and Ulna, 2225
Anatomy, 2225
Mechanism of Injury, 2225
Diagnosis, 2225
Radiographic Findings, 2225
Classification, 2227
Treatment, 2227
Complications, 2231
Fractures of the Distal Forearm, 2233
Anatomy, 2233
Mechanism of Injury, 2233
Diagnosis, 2233
Radiographic Findings, 2235
Classification, 2235
Treatment, 2235
Complications, 2238
Associated Conditions, 2241
Fractures and Dislocations of the Wrist and Hand, 2246
Fractures of the Scaphoid, 2246
Anatomy, 2246
Radiographic Findings, 2246
Treatment of Scaphoid Fracture, 2247
Dislocation and Fracture-Dislocation of the Immature Wrist, 2248
Other Carpal Fractures, 2249
Fractures and Dislocations of the Hand, 2249
General, 2249
Metacarpal Fractures, 2249
Phalanges, 2250
Intra-articular Fractures, 2250

CHAPTER 42
Lower Extremity Injuries ..........2251
The Pelvis and Acetabulum, 2251
Pelvic and Acetabular Fractures, 2251
Anatomy, 2251
Classification, 2252
Mechanism of Injury, 2255
Associated Injuries, 2255
Diagnostic Features, 2256
Radiologic Examination, 2257
Treatment of Pelvic Fractures, 2258
Treatment Techniques, 2264
Contents

Tibial Spine Fractures, 2353
Anatomy, 2354
Mechanism of Injury, 2354
Classification, 2354
Diagnostic Features, 2354
Treatment, 2355
Complications, 2356
Proximal Tibiofemoral Joint Dislocations, 2357
Anatomy, 2359
Classification, 2359
Mechanism of Injury, 2359
Diagnostic Features, 2360
Treatment, 2360
Complications, 2361
Ligament Injuries, 2361
Anatomy, 2361
Mechanism of Injury, 2362
Diagnostic Features, 2362
Treatment, 2364
Meniscal Injuries, 2366
Anatomy, 2366
Classification, 2366
Mechanism of Injury, 2366
Diagnostic Features, 2366
Treatment, 2366
The Tibia, 2371
Fractures of the Tibia and Fibula, 2371
Anatomy, 2371
Classification, 2372
Mechanism of Injury, 2372
Diagnostic Features, 2372
Proximal Tibial Metaphyseal Fractures, 2373
Treatment, 2375
Tibial and Fibular Diaphyseal Fractures, 2376
Classification, 2376
Mechanism of Injury, 2376
Diagnostic Features, 2377
Treatment, 2377
Open Tibial Diaphyseal Fractures, 2381
Complications of Tibial Diaphyseal Fractures, 2385
Distal Tibial Metaphyseal Fractures, 2387
Stress Fractures of the Tibia, 2387
Ipsilateral Femoral and Tibial Fracture ("Floating Knee"), 2389
The Ankle, 2391
Anatomy, 2391
Ankle Fractures, 2392
Classification, 2392
Diagnostic Features, 2394
Treatment, 2395
Complications, 2396
The Foot, 2414
Talar Fractures, 2414
Anatomy, 2416
Classification, 2416
Mechanism of Injury, 2416
Diagnostic Features, 2416
Treatment, 2417
Complications, 2420
Osteochondral Fractures of the Talus, 2420
Mechanism of Injury, 2420
Classification, 2421
Diagnostic Features, 2421
Treatment, 2422
Fractures of the Calcaneus, 2423
Anatomy, 2423
Mechanism of Injury, 2423

The Hip, 2273
Hip Dislocations, 2273
Anatomy, 2273
Classification, 2273
Mechanism of Injury, 2273
Diagnostic Features, 2274
Radiologic Examination, 2275
Treatment, 2275
Complications, 2280
Hip Fractures, 2283
Anatomy, 2283
Classification, 2285
Mechanism of Injury, 2286
Diagnostic Features, 2286
Radiologic Examination, 2287
Treatment, 2287
Complications, 2293

The Femur, 2301
Fractures of the Femoral Shaft, 2301
Anatomy and Development, 2301
Classification, 2302
Mechanism of Injury, 2302
Physical Examination, 2302
Radiologic Examination, 2302
Treatment, 2303
Treatment Techniques, 2305
Treatment of Complications from Femoral Shaft Fractures, 2319

The Knee, 2321
Distal Femoral Injuries and Fractures, 2321
Anatomy, 2321
Classification, 2322
Mechanism of Injury, 2323
Diagnostic Features, 2325
Radiologic Evaluation, 2325
Treatment of Distal Femoral Metaphyseal Fractures, 2325
Treatment of Distal Femoral Physeal Injuries, 2327
Complications, 2332
Patellar Fractures, 2334
Anatomy, 2336
Classification, 2336
Mechanism of Injury, 2337
Diagnostic Features, 2337
Treatment, 2338
Complications, 2341
Tibial Tuberosity Fractures, 2341
Anatomy, 2341
Classification, 2342
Mechanism of Injury, 2342
Diagnostic Features, 2343
Treatment, 2343
Complications, 2343
Proximal Tibial Physeal Fractures, 2344
Anatomy, 2344
Classification, 2345
Mechanism of Injury, 2346
Diagnostic Features, 2347
Treatment, 2347
Complications, 2348
Patellar Dislocations, 2351
Anatomy, 2351
Classification, 2351
Mechanism of Injury, 2351
Diagnostic Features, 2352
Treatment, 2352
Complications, 2353

Treatment of Acetabular Fractures, 2268
Complications, 2271