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***Surgery of the Skin: Procedural Dermatology*, edited by June K. Robinson, MD, C. William Hanke, MD, Roberta D. Sengelmann, MD, and Daniel M. Siegel, MD, MS**

St. Louis, MO: CV Mosby, 2005. Hardcover with DVD, 872 pp., \$225.00.

Dermatology over the past 20 years has changed from a predominantly medical specialty to a specialty involving a mix of medical, surgical, and aesthetic treatments. Thus, all dermatology residents are exposed to a wide range of procedures, both therapeutic, e.g., removal of skin cancers, and aesthetic, e.g., use of lasers and botulinum toxin. *Surgery of the Skin: Procedural Dermatology* is an exhaustive text of 872 pages and 1000 illustrations, with four editors, all surgical dermatologists, together with 100 contributing authors. The book has four main sections: Basic Surgical Concepts, Essential Surgical Skills, Aesthetic Surgical Procedures, and Special Procedures. In addition, an accompanying DVD-ROM with two separate editors features video footage related to 34 of the book's 50 chapters. With the price of textbooks ever increasing, the cost of this book at \$225.00 is extremely reasonable.

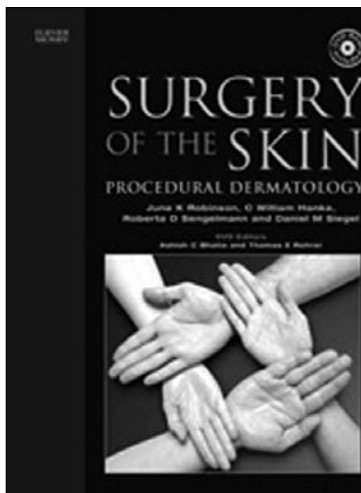
The book is a comprehensive review of every aspect of dermatological surgery. The first section has an excellent pictorial review of skin structure and appropriate surgical anatomy of the face, highlighting important relationships to underlying organs frequently of concern in therapeutic and aesthetic surgery. Likewise, the anatomy of the hand and foot is well illustrated. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on anesthesia and analgesia, which reviewed local anesthetic agents—including their duration of onset, the maximum recommended dosages for adults, with or without additional epinephrine, and the use of sodium bicarbonate as a buffer to decrease the pain associated with infiltration of acidic solutions. Topical anesthetic agents, commonly used for minor procedures, are equally well reviewed, with information on times of application, with or without occlusion. This is important information for aesthetic procedures on the face, e.g., various forms of dermabrasion and resurfacing. There is an excellent review of cutaneous innervation of the face, with illustrations on specific nerve blocks of the various branches of the trigeminal and cervical plexus. In addition, digital wrist and ankle blocks are reviewed, and appropriate precautions and pitfalls are listed,

including local and systemic adverse events. Finally, chapters in part 1 relating to instruments and materials and the appropriate use of antibiotics are welcome.

Chapter 11 addresses the rather controversial issue of dermatology office accreditation. As the vast majority of dermatologists utilize only in-office facilities, the need for accreditation has increased to ensure the quality of patient care. The accreditation process is reviewed, with a list of multiple organizations such as the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, as well as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities. While chapter 5, "Patient Evaluation, Informed Consent, Preoperative Assessment and Care," is well done and includes a 2-page dermatology health questionnaire suggested for use before surgery, I would like to have seen more space given to the informed consent process, which is relegated to a short one-quarter page.

Part 2 is a full review of specific surgical techniques and skills. The chapter on suturing technique was written by two skilled dermatological surgeons from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Drs. Sarah Weitzul and Stan Taylor. This chapter is both practical and informative, with a full review of suture materials commonly used in dermatologic surgery. Detailed tables show differences in the configuration, knot strength, tensile strength, tissue reactivity, and time for absorption of available absorbable and nonabsorbable sutures. Likewise, the various surgical needles, staples, tapes, and tissue adhesives are well discussed. Finally in this chapter, illustrations relating to all forms of suturing, interrupted and uninterrupted, are excellent with appropriate detail given to optimizing outcomes as well as appropriate postoperative care. Although this chapter does not cover postoperative dressings, that topic is addressed as a separate chapter in the first part of the book.

More extensive procedures such as flaps, skin grafting, regional construction, and scar revision have traditionally been considered the "domain" of general surgeons, head and neck surgeons, otolaryngologists, and plastic surgeons. However, with the excellent training available today for dermatology residents as well as the postgraduate fellowships for dermatologists in all aspects of dermatological surgery, it seems appropriate that these subjects be given appropriate space. Thus, all these aspects are reviewed in individual chapters. An additional excellent chapter relates to a common problem seen by dermatologists: the split earlobe. Two Houston-based dermatological surgeons, Drs. Sirunya Silapunt and Leonard Goldberg, address the topic



with a full series of figures relating to repair of partially split and completely split earlobes using Z-plasty, L-plasty, and flap techniques to maintain the contour of the earlobe. Ear-piercing is even described, bringing dermatologists into competition with mall-based centers for ear-piercing!

While approximately 400 pages are dedicated to basic surgical concepts and essential surgical skills, approximately 300 pages in part 3 review all aspects of aesthetic surgical procedures. Eighteen chapters review every aspect of both common and less common procedures utilized by most dermatologists in their day-to-day practices. Illustrations and an excellent algorithm are provided for "management" of the aging face, to include lasers, fillers, botulinum toxin, and soft tissue and bone augmentation. Various chapters relating to each of these entities are well presented, including a superb review of the use of botulinum toxin type A in facial rejuvenation written by the founders of botulinum toxin treatment, Drs. Alastair Carruthers and Jean Carruthers. They review their extensive experience and give recommendations for injection sites in the traditional upper half of the face and the lower half of the face and neck. Complications are well summarized, showing the need for all persons undertaking botulinum toxin injections to understand the innervation of facial muscles so as to avoid problems such as brow and eyelid ptosis, reduction in the full range of perioral muscles, and other effects on muscles of facial expression.

Dermatological surgeons pioneered liposuction, hair transplantation, dermabrasion, and laser resurfacing. Individual chapters that cover these techniques were written by acknowledged experts. While individual chapters review laser treatments of tattoos and pigmented lesions, laser resurfacing, and laser treatment of vascular lesions, it would have been nice to have a chapter devoted to the exhaustive number of lasers of all types now currently available.

As the division between surgical subspecialties becomes blurred, the need for appropriate training by dermatological

surgeons is of paramount importance. Thus, I believe a chapter in part 1 relating to appropriate training would have allowed nondermatological physicians to understand why dermatologists consider the following procedures as part of their in-office armamentarium: minimum-incision facelifts, ambulatory phlebectomy for varicose veins, blepharoplasty, and brow lifts.

In the final part of this book, Drs. Greenway and Maggio review Mohs micrographic surgery for treatment of basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas, melanomas, and other malignancies of the skin and mucous membranes. The late Frederic E. Mohs was a general surgical trainee who developed his technique initially utilizing zinc chloride as a fixative. The authors review the history of the Mohs procedure, up to the founding in 1986 of the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery, which was subsequently named the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology to reflect changes in the clinical scope of the practice, which is now "enjoying increasingly widespread applications." Techniques for specimen marking, mapping, division of the specimen, and sequence numbering are well illustrated, as is the instrumentation required for optimizing surgery and outcomes. The rather controversial role of the micrographic technique for melanoma is well reviewed, and the role of melanocyte-specific immunohistochemical stains to enhance the accuracy of margin interpretation is likewise discussed.

In summary, this is an exceptionally well illustrated, comprehensive review of the whole subject of surgery of the skin. It will be of value not only to practicing dermatologists but to all clinicians interested in both therapeutic and aesthetic surgical procedures. Apart from one or two areas for improvement discussed above, the authors and contributors are to be congratulated on an excellent text, which will serve as an important addition to the libraries of all interested in this expanding field. I highly recommend it.

The reviewer, Alan Menter, MD, is chief of the Division of Dermatology at Baylor University Medical Center.