The Clubfoot Revisited
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To

the fond memory of my beloved parents

Sulakshana Pandey

and

Ramjanam Pandey

• who were, are, and will be always with me to love, teach and guide

• who gave me everything, but never even desired to have anything from me, and

• my illustrious teacher Emeritus Professor B Mukhopadhyay

who carved me as orthopaedic surgeon and teacher
The clubfoot, perhaps, the commonest congenital deformity of the skeletal system, is most likely as old as mankind. In spite of advancements in all around arena of the medical sciences, the incidence of clubfoot is not decreasing, rather appears to be on increase in certain regions of the globe. This problem is probably waiting for the advanced interventions, through the genetic engineering, to go.

We all treat clubfeet and claim for correction, but perhaps none with all perfection and lasting results is achieved.

The methods of management of clubfoot hover around manipulation, massage, physiotherapy, splintage, straping, manipulative plaster casting, soft tissue release (limited or extensive) operations, tendon transfers, various osteotomies, correction by external fixators, stabilisation of joints and so on. Whatever may be the method (original or modified), none can claim the perfect, lasting cosmetic and functional results on overall considerations.

The monographs on ‘clubfoot’ are required. We have attempted to summarise a few well-known views, including that of ours, on the art, craft and science of clubfoot. We eagerly look forward to improve our attempt based on your healthy, constructive and educative criticism.

We beg apology of our non-intentional omission, if any, about citing the source at suitable place. The number of source-books and articles is numerous, and are ever esteemed for us.

The credit for tolerance of my eccentricities while preparing the monograph goes entirely to my (SP’s) sweet family—my loving wife, my sons (Dr. Anil—the co-author, Arun and Akhil); my charming daughter-in-laws (Dr. Pushpa, Asha and Sandhya)—I simply cannot repay their debt. Moreover, my sweet fragrant grandchildren (the baby Doctor Pallavi, Shivam, Vaishnavi, Shruti, Saumya and Satyam) are the angels, who lightened me in my dark tense moments and remained the real source of happiness, pleasure and joy in my life—may God bless and guide them always.

My secretary dear Sheeja with her friend Surajmani worked hard in giving the initial shape to the manuscript and arranging the photographs. May God bless them.
Shri Shyamjee Shrivastava, the computer wizard, has done the real work of reshaping the manuscript and illustrations. We are grateful to him.

We are grateful to our colleagues Prof (Dr) SS Jha, Dr RA Agrawal and Dr Maneesh Khanna for their constructive advices, guidance and pruning of the manuscript. Our therapist colleagues Dr Rajeev Ranjan and Dr Pramod Kumar have helped immensely in operative procedures and taking the photographs of the patients, besides their specialised jobs. We are much thankful to them.

We acknowledge with deep sense of gratitude the literature, articles, monographs and books (such as Campbell’s Operative Orthopaedics, The Clubfoot: The Present and A View of the Future, etc.) which we have consulted and taken help from, in the process of preparing this monograph. We beg sincere apology if, unmindfully, the source could not be mentioned at the desired place.

Shri JP Vij, CMD and Mr. Tarun Duneja, Director (Publishing), Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers and their entire team of workers always behaved like our own, and they should be credited for bringing out this monograph in such a presentable form. We are deeply obliged to them.

Ranchi

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