



Spinal Infections and Trauma



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Foreword

In the past twenty years, the field of spinal surgery has expanded greatly, and no where is this more easily seen than in the areas of infection and trauma. While there has been a recent surge in the literature being published in this arena, the abundance of information occasionally makes the treatment of these patients less clear. Additionally, the management of these difficult patients is often on an emergent or urgent basis, leaving very little time for extensive literature reviews. Therefore, there is a real need for a concise, complete, and up-to-date reference on this topic. No where in the world is the experience with the management of spinal infections more abundant than that witnessed by the authors of the textbook *Spinal Infections and Trauma*, by Chief Editor S. Rajasekaran. The chapter selections and contributors have among themselves treated a myriad of complex spinal infections and traumatic injuries not seen with any degree of regularity or severity in the vast majority of tertiary referral centers throughout the world.

S Rajasekaran and the team of authors in conjunction with the Association of Spine Surgeons of India have attempted to answer all of our questions on the evaluation and management of these complex problems in one concise textbook. They ought to be congratulated on their ability to produce such a book, and in doing so, they have provided us with a reference which is easily readable and should be a part of every spine surgeons' library!



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Preface

The global burdens of spinal problems requiring surgery is on the increase. While there is no such thing as a *simple spine surgery* operation, management of neglected trauma and complex infections is particularly challenging and prone to complications. These problems still present in huge numbers to the practicing spinal surgeons in many parts of the world. Much of the current spine literature come from the western world and do not elaborate on the management of these challenging issues. As a result, there is a knowledge gap on the current and best methods to treat and manage these difficult problems. The members of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India have a huge area of expertise in this field which has not been adequately documented. This book is a compilation of the experience of ASSI members and is being published in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee Year of the Association. It is a matter of pride for us that all lead authors of the book are members of ASSI.



The book will serve as a reference and much information is available in the 60 chapters which have been contributed by 88 authors. Apart from surgical techniques, adequate emphasis has been laid on clinical features, value of modern diagnostic facilities and appropriate drug therapy. The success of treatment depends on all the above and it is our sincere belief that this book will help achieve the goal of safe spine surgery.

I thank my associate editors Anil Jain, Ajoy P Shetty, Rishi M Kanna and all the authors for their very valuable contributions. I also thank Ms Chetna Malhotra and all the staff of M/s Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, New Delhi for their total support. Without their tolerance and acceptance for many late submissions and numerous requests for revisions, publications of this book would not have been possible.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of ASSI for giving me the privilege of editing and compiling this book. It is an honor which I fondly cherish.

S Rajasekaran

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