Glenn's Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. 6th Edn.

This 6th edition of Glenn's Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery with the participation of 110 different authors is an encyclopaedic textbook covering the entire field of general thoracic, cardiac and intrathoracic vascular pathologies. The textbook is divided into three main sections: general thoracic surgery, surgery for congenital heart disease and surgery for acquired heart disease including vascular diseases. Each chapter contains the basic science necessary for a good understanding of the subject, a description of surgical techniques, the main indications for surgery and the complications. Seven chapters deal with cardiac and pulmonary transplantation including one special chapter concerning immunology.

The first section comprising 55 chapters completely covers the different aspects of general thoracic surgery: chest wall, lung disease, oesophagus, trauma, mediastinum and diaphragm. The modern surgical technique of thoracoscopy is well described in two chapters with nice figures and interesting pictures of the special instruments required.

The second section of 38 chapters is dedicated to congenital heart disease. Several chapters on the general principles of cardiac paediatric surgery are very useful. Transplantation in childhood receives special attention in two chapters.

The third section is composed of 45 chapters dedicated to surgery for acquired heart disease. General principles and basic science related to cardiac surgery make up several chapters: cardiopulmonary bypass, myocardial protection, cardiac physiology, pharmacology etc. Modern explorative techniques are highlighted, focussing on the technique as well as the different pathologies. The post-surgical complications are detailed in each chapter for each technique or each group of techniques. The strong points of this textbook are that it is clear and simple and yet comprehensively covers every aspect of disease located between the thoracic outlet and the diaphragm. The quality of illustrations: numerous, clear and didactic is also a strong point.

Some specific chapters will be more interesting for the vascular surgeon. The chapter about combined carotid and coronary surgery is clear and didactic and the algorithm proposed may be helpful. The chapter on trauma of the great vessels gives a nice overview of the problem of choosing the right approach, and of the advantages and disadvantages of different measures for visceral protection. Four chapters cover aneurysms and dissection of the thoracic aorta with information clear about visceral protection, surgical techniques, indications and results. The chapter on thoracic outlet syndrome is disappointingly short for a peripheral vascular surgeon.

In conclusion, this is a large, comprehensive and authoritative textbook which manages to remain clear and didactic. It is more than adequate for any vascular surgeon working above the diaphragm.

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Surgical Management of Neurovascular Disease. 3rd Edn.

This is a comprehensive book on the surgical management of intra and extracerebral neurovascular disease. However, only the first 100 pages are of any real interest to peripheral vascular surgeons, and specialist carotid and vertebral surgeons at that. Sixty-six pages are devoted to carotid endarterectomy. The subject is well covered in a standard fashion with some 25 pages devoted to the perioperative management and operative technique. Whilst this is an excellent book for vascular neurosurgeons I would not really recommend its purchase to vascular surgeons at a price of £165.

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