

surgeons who are members of the Oneiro Travel Club. The emphasis is on a pragmatic look at regional reconstruction, with a review of the available solutions and alternatives. Related surgical anatomy and surgical techniques are also included. The text is richly illustrated with black and white and colour figures and clinical photographs.

This 300-page textbook deals with head and neck reconstruction, breast reconstruction, chest reconstruction, upper-extremity reconstruction, abdominal reconstruction, penineal reconstruction, and lower-extremity reconstruction. Each anatomical region is presented with sections titled 'The problem', 'Treatment options', 'The solution', 'Techniques of reconstruction', and 'Round table discussion'. The 'Round table discussion' is presented in dialogue form and is a record of genuine discussion of the reconstructive problem at

hand. Each discussion represents the distillation and amalgamation of unique experiences of seasoned clinicians.

*Flaps: Decision Making in Clinical Practice* is highly recommended to general surgeons, surgical oncologists, and plastic and reconstructive surgeons. They will no doubt find this book an excellent reference source in the management of skin and soft-tissue wound defects.

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## Social work intervention in health care

Ed: Chan CLW, Rhind N

Hong Kong University Press, 14/F, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong  
HK\$195.00, pp 440, ISBN 962 209 419 8

*Social Work Intervention In Health Care* is a publication that contains contributions from some of the leading social work practitioners and academics in the health care field in Hong Kong. As a prompt response to the lack of indigenised literature on social work in the health care field, the book is written in the style of a user-friendly manual.

Section I deals with the cultural and knowledge issues in social work intervention in health settings in Hong Kong. Section II comprises two chapters on crisis intervention and one on stress management. Section III contains a detailed description on psychosocial intervention for patients with mental retardation, chronic illness, or epilepsy. Section IV has four chapters that outline various interventions: social skills training for those with schizophrenia, a reminiscence group for the elderly, and a therapeutic community treatment centre for women with drug addiction. The three chapters in section V discuss empowering intervention models such as self-help groups for patients with renal diseases or diabetes mellitus, and for children with Cooley's anaemia. Section VI has four chapters that address meso- and macro- issues such as family care for patients with schizophrenia, discharge

planning for patients who have had cardiovascular accident, policy making concerning rehabilitation, and health promotion such as oral hygiene.

As a whole, the contents of the book are comprehensive and cover a wide range of intervention models for patients with different types of illnesses, especially the chronic ones. The editors try to demonstrate a psychosocial perspective in understanding and dealing with psychosocial problems in the process of illness, treatment, and rehabilitation. Nevertheless, the cultural and knowledge issues that are introduced in the first two chapters are not properly followed up or elaborated in later chapters. While the authors in most chapters attempt to describe social work interventions with a local context, most of them fail to address the traditional Chinese cultural elements in health, illness, treatment, and rehabilitation. It would be more enriching if, for example, chapter one could include a refined discussion about the health concepts described by some classical texts of Chinese medicine such as *The Yellow Emperor Internal Classics*. Then, the authors of the later chapters could have added to this discussion by referring to the actual practice in Hong Kong.

The intervention models suggested by the authors, such as social skill training, crisis intervention, stress management, family care, and self-help groups, concern not only social work professionals, but also other professionals, especially medical professionals, such as nurses and occupational therapists. The unique contribution of social workers within a multidisciplinary team has not been discussed in this book. In fact, it is generally agreed that the treatment and rehabilitation of most illnesses are now performed within a

multidisciplinary context. It is a pity that this book does not have sufficient coverage and discussion in this crucial area.

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## Hand surgery study guide

By: Viegas SF

Springer-Verlag Hong Kong Ltd., 1702 Tower I, Enterprise Square, 9 Sheung Yuet Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

HK\$413.10, pp 168, ISBN 0 387 94749 3

The *Hand Surgery Study Guide* is written for medical students, residents, fellows, and practising family physicians as a quick reference to topics in hand surgery. Orthopaedic trainees will find this book useful, because the selection of topics very much follows those recommended for orthopaedic trainees who are preparing for examination. The author, Prof Viegas, claims that he had 20 years' experience in those training courses. The study guide could be too detailed for a medical student and too brief for a trainee hand surgeon. The author certainly has nevertheless succeeded in giving a short account on most of the important topics in hand surgery. Perhaps the most obvious deficiency lies in the coverage of the rheumatological affection of the hand. This condition is briefly covered under sections on tenosynovitis, metacarpophalangeal joints, and thumb functions. The fragmented information will thus be insufficient for the reader who uses the study guide as a quick reference.

A brief study guide that covers a lot of topics might be disappointing because the short descriptions might affect their accuracy. The author is very much conscious about this and has overcome the dilemma by including the minimal amount of substance. Consequently, he ignores rheumatological discussions and hand changes due to cerebral damage. The most disappointing deficiencies, however, are related to

infection and arthroplasty. Firstly, hand infection these days may be complex and unusual, and may involve special organisms such as atypical microbacteria. The chapter on hand infection is too simple. Secondly, in this era of total joint replacement, there should be a more serious analysis of the indications and results of finger joint replacements—particularly the most commonly used silicone models.

It might still be questionable whether the wrist should be included in hand surgery for orthopaedic surgeons: hand surgeons uniformly believe that the wrist joint is part of the hand. The frank omission of the wrist in this study guide is thus again problematic.

In conclusion, as long as the readers and users of this book are aware of the intentional or unintentional omissions, they will find the *Hand Surgery Study Guide* practical, readable, and well presented. The question and answer sections add further appeal to the small volume when other parallel editions are compared.

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