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BOOK REVIEW

AAOS. Atlas de ortesis y dispositivos de ayuda.
En: Hsu JD, Michael JW, Fisk JR, editores.
4th ed. Elsevier Mosby; Barcelona. 2009;653.

There are topics that steal the limelight and others that are always popular but it is not always easy to obtain adequate information and training. In addition, there are aspects of our speciality that seem to remain in a no man's land: it is difficult to find them published in journals or presented at conferences, yet they occupy a pre-eminent place in the progress of surgical treatments. Orthosis is one of these and another is personal aid devices. For this reason, this book deserves to be reviewed so that more people know about its publication and, even more interestingly, so that it can arouse interest in the orthopaedic surgery and traumatology (OST), rehabilitation, physiotherapy and neurology departments and allow others to take advantage of this assistance.

Reviewing the index, it is possible to observe classical aspects and others that are not usually so familiar or are not explained at Medical School, and are often not discussed at clinical sessions. Apart from the various specific orthoses for the different illnesses that are easy to prescribe for, the devices have certain basic principles that must be understood. The authors present this fourth edition (the first came out in 1952) to reflect the fact that the technologies and materials used in industrialized countries are not always possible in other countries; they include ever more sophisticated technologies without overlooking the role of an orthotist as a member of the clinical team. Each chapter highlights the most interesting points, including the keys to clinical practice and tests, with a recommended bibliography.

This atlas contains many chapters of interest that are difficult to find in other treatises. Written by authors of

renowned prestige, it covers the basic general issues such as indications for orthoses, their construction materials, manufacturing and the biomechanical aspects of normal and pathological gait. Each of the sections is devoted to a particular segment of the body and starts with the basic principles followed by chapters on more specific aspects. On the vertebral column it is worth noting the orthoses for osteoporosis, vertebral deformities or pain of vertebral origin. In the upper limb, we find a chapter on orthoses for burnt hands, and others on protectors for the upper limbs during sports activities or disorders due to overloading of the upper limbs. It is worth mentioning the chapter by Latta and Sarmiento on functional orthoses for upper-limb fractures that we miss for lower limbs. For the lower limbs, there are such varied chapters as footwear, orthoses for medullar damage or for total hip change, knees in sports, neuropathies and vasculopathies as well as cranial trauma. Among the chapters devoted to paediatric orthoses, the most noteworthy are on congenital diseases, the hip, muscular disorders, cerebral palsy and myelomeningocele, apart from cranial remodelling.

Among the personal aid devices, reference is made to walking sticks, crutches and walking frames or wheelchairs as well as their characteristics and proper use, seats and posture supports for adults and children. It also deals with the use of electronics and computing for people with disabilities. As we said, classical subjects accompanied by other innovations highlighting the importance of this atlas well translated into Spanish to facilitate its reading and foster its greater dissemination.

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