

Book Review

Ureters: Anatomy, Physiology and Disorders

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The ureters remain unnoticed in the field of urology. Richard Santucci and Mang Chen, helped by more than 20 contributors, wrote an original textbook dedicated to ureteral pathology and its treatment. The conceptualization and publication of such a textbook was long overdue, and the final product is worth the wait. This book is appropriately targeted to urologists who are familiar with trauma and reconstructions.

The introducing chapter considers definition and general aspects such as anatomy, physiology and ureteral disorders. Ureteral disorders are described in the succeeding part and focused on ureteral obstructions, ureteral stones, vesico-ureteral reflux, retroperitoneal fibrosis ureteral trauma and urothelial carcinoma of ureter. This chapter summarizes salient points regarding anatomy and physiology and provides a brief overview of the most common disorders.

An overview of traumatic and iatrogenic ureteral trauma includes helpful reminders regarding etiology of the ureteral injury, its diagnosis and proper evaluation. The reader is also provided with a thorough review of treatment modalities related to the place of injury. As a specialty of the Editors, this chapter displays many instructive schematics and surgical figures and offers comprehensive information.

Special consideration is given to the endoscopic management of urolithiasis and role of the ureteral stents. The authors first describe principles of ureteroscopy and other approaches based on anatomical variations in different patients. An overview of ureteral stents is followed by a description of ureteral stent-related symptoms and prevention of possible complications. This way, the authors introduces us in next chapter and management of ureteric obstruction. The progress of indwelling stent technology and expansion of uses and applications arise many great advances of endourology. Diagnosis and assessment of ureteric structure are considered in a dedicated chapter, including useful tables with classification and management.

Emerging applications are considered in a special chapter, including management of malignant upper urinary tract obstruction. Upper urinary tract obstruction is an everyday situation for practicing urologists. In malignancy, it is caused by retroperitoneal lymphatic masses, post-radiation or chemotherapy strictures and advanced bladder or prostate cancer. This chapter is dedicated to descriptive information, including etiology and treatment with metallic stents as well their efficacy and limitations.

The issue on conservative management of upper urinary tract transitional cell carcinoma is discussed with great balance and sensibility. Conservative strategies such as segmental ureterectomy and endoscopic management have been developed in recent decades and are now proposed in the carefully selected patients in imperative indications such as solitary kidneys, impaired renal function, bilateral tumors and the necessity for chemotherapy in the future.

Lower urinary tract symptoms and neurogenic bladder are explained thoroughly, with special attention on pathology in spinal disorders. Anatomical changes affecting micturition and neurologic conditions manifesting as voiding dysfunction are well presented. Small bladder capacity with high intravesical pressure presents an indication for bladder augmentation. Augmentation enterocystoplasty is the point of success for this condition with acceptable results.

The last section of the book presents a review from autologous to tissue-engineered grafts. This “Outlook for the future” opens our mind to understand the reasons for ideal material for ureteral replacement. Since the engineered urologic tissue has been successfully employed for the bladder and urethral reconstruction, it will be the future of ureteral reconstruction.

Undoubtedly, this textbook is intended for reconstructive urologists. Nevertheless, all urologists involved in ureteric surgery will find ample amount of information, essential in multi-disciplinary clinical exchanges. This book provides me with hope that I would be treated competently for any ureteric condition as a dignified and elegant creature, no matter how old I become!

*Review provided by **Miroslav L. Djordjevic, MD, PhD**, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Serbia*