

# Preface to the First Edition

Injury and the subsequent reparative response of the developing skeleton are frequently disparate from the mature skeleton. This book is an outgrowth of a desire to attain a morphologic understanding of the nuances of pediatric orthopaedic trauma. As clinicians, we have a tendency to focus on specific injuries, often ignoring trauma mechanisms and the relevance of underlying anatomy to both the initial injury and long-term consequences.

This book introduces the principles of diagnosis and treatment of fractures in children in a manner that first establishes a solid foundation of anatomy and pathomechanics on which treatment principles are based. Developmental anatomy is an overlooked facet of children's injuries, primarily because of the paucity of morphologic material available for use as source material. The unique opportunity to include the resources of the Skeletal Growth and Development Study Unit at Yale University allowed the inclusion of much material. In particular, I have attempted to translate the anatomic details into a form that has practical value. I believe that the emphasis on normal structure and function and the mechanisms of response to trauma is essential to good clinical practice.

Decision making in orthopaedics is experience-dependent in that it requires a proper mental set for what is normal for the given anatomic part at a particular age. Because of the lack of available anatomic material, the orthopaedist must rely on whatever resources he or she can muster for normal references for most of development. One can more readily accept the importance and significance of basic anatomic developmental changes if they are presented in close relation to current clinical situations in which the information is germane.

This work is primarily a clinical textbook, although discussions encompass aspects of skeletal developmental biology, particularly the response to trauma. My hope is that this book provides the medical student, the resident, and the practicing physician a logical and progressive plan of approach to children's fractures and allows ready storage retrieval and utilization of knowledge concerning each of the specific regions of injury. Because the study of orthopaedics must be a life-long process, this book is intended to serve both as an introduction to the study of skeletal injury and a basic text for continuing study. Hopefully, it will also have import to pediatricians, general practitioners, and radiologists. The orientation is to furnish a reference book that comprehensively covers the field of musculoskeletal trauma in the child and provides adequate information for both the specialist and the resident physician.

I have tried to develop a text for the teaching of basic and applied anatomy, mechanisms, concepts, and principles that are applicable to each area of injury in the pediatric patient. The factual and patient material has been carefully selected to support an understanding of these concepts and principles. In doing so I have attempted to integrate a scientific basis with the art of medicine. The test of the value of this book will be its effectiveness in stimulating further insight into the diagnosis and care of patients who face a lifetime of challenge. If this has been achieved, the work will have been worth the effort.

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