
Preface

Since the publication of the first edition of this book 6 years ago there have been further significant advances in endovascular therapy. As our patients survive longer because of advances in treatment in other areas, such as coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease is becoming an increasingly common problem. In addition, those requiring treatment are increasingly likely to be elderly and less able to tolerate open surgical procedures. Increasingly, published evidence supports the use of endovascular therapies for a wide range of vascular conditions. While they are applicable to the whole spectrum of patients, such procedures can be of particular benefit to those with significant comorbidities that can make open surgery hazardous.

Although in some countries the prevalence of smoking appears to be reducing in response to public health measures, other risk factors such as hypertension and hyperlipidaemia remain common. In addition, the incidence of diabetes is actually increasing, probably in association with obesity. As a result, there has been a gradual shift in the type of peripheral vascular disease we now encounter clinically, so that diabetic foot problems are much more prevalent than previously, for example.

It is possible to diagnose peripheral vascular problems non-invasively using Doppler ultrasound, Computerised Tomographic angiography, and Magnetic Resonance angiography. These techniques serve to further lower the risk involved in managing these patients, as well as potentially reducing cost and as a result routine diagnostic catheter angiography is now effectively a thing of the past. In recent years there have been significant developments in the management of diabetic foot disease as well as further developments in the management of aortic aneurysms, notably with the publication of major clinical trials demonstrating the safety and efficacy of the endovascular aneurysm repair.

There are also significant advances in management of venous disorders, such as endovenous laser therapy for varicose veins, showing that Interventional Radiologists have skills that can be applied ever more widely to assist in the management of important clinical problems. This volume aims to provide up-to-date evidence on both established and developing techniques. It is only with such information that practitioners can encourage their more widespread use.

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