
Preface

This textbook originated from the idea that few pediatric fractures can impose changes upon the lives of affected children and their families as significantly as femur fractures. These injuries present a great challenge in avoiding complications, preventing permanent disability, and returning patients to their previous state of health and activity. In the same light, few topics in pediatric orthopedic trauma have evolved as rapidly, in terms of the principles of evaluation and management, as femur fractures. An explosion of literature and new technology has emerged in the last two decades to forward our thinking on optimizing femur fracture care in children.

Our goal was to consolidate the many pieces of the complex puzzle of pediatric femur fracture management into a comprehensive and up-to-date resource for clinicians managing these injuries. We hope we have succeeded in providing a highly readable and exhaustive evidence-based reference tool. The chapters herein are designed to simplify the most complex principles and elucidate the range of techniques utilized to heal the broken femur of a child.

We would like to express our most sincere appreciation for the large number of surgeons colleagues from across the country who worked tirelessly to produce the expert material contained in these chapters. We would also like to acknowledge our mentors at Children's Hospital in Boston who have always adhered to the principle of strong clinical abilities supported by academic research and teaching. Special mention needs to be given to James Kasser MD, who, through clinical mentorship, societal leadership, and editorial experience, has always stressed the importance of expert pediatric trauma care to countless residents, fellows, and colleagues throughout the United States.

Finally, and most importantly, we would like to thank our wives and children for the patience and support to allow us to pursue the academic endeavors, such as this textbook, that may help our generation and future generations to provide the best orthopedic care possible for injured children and their families.

Boston, MA, USA

Daniel J. Hedequist
Benton E. Heyworth

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