

### *Orthopaedic Positioning in Diagnostic Radiology*

by A. Bernau & T.H. Berquist

Original publisher Urban & Schwarzenberg,  
Gage Publishing Limited, Agincourt, Ontario, 1983  
230 pages, \$70.30

This book covers skeletal plain film radiology by presenting more than 150 positioning techniques. A very systematic and organized presentation approach is used. Many excellent photographic illustrations depicting patient and equipment position are used. These are combined with excellent radiographic reproductions giving a vivid display of the text descriptions.

This book is laid out in two sections. The first is a brief review of topics such as terminology, radiation protection, screen film combinations, exposure data, radiographic accessories and radiographic labeling. In the second section each position is described under the following headings: cassette size, screen film speed combinations, labeling, patient preparation, positioning, shielding, procedure, average adult exposure factors and radiographic objectives.

As in any book of this type there are variations from the "norm". Some of these variations develop into drawbacks. One such example is the plentiful and sometimes excessive use of radiographic aids (foam wedges) in patient and cassette positioning. Many times it would have been much easier and more logical to change the x-ray tube angulation. These, however, would not affect the quality of the films just the time and effort to obtain them. Differences in angulation, centering position, film size, collimation, and patient protection are found in the text but in most cases they are feasible substitutes. Occasionally inadequate positional description leaves you examining and extracting the missing information from the accompanying illustrations.

Many times the variations from the "norm" present a very innovative technique that produces a specialized film saving on time and material use or producing specialized information. These techniques and many others are supported by a reference describing the technique and their usefulness. The text also describes numerous stress views that are very effective diagnostic aids.

Although this book is expensive it is a very comprehensive and cohesive collection of radiographic position that would be very helpful to students as well as an asset in any clinicians library.

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Books may be purchased at COOPS

### *The Biomechanics of Trauma*

A.M. Nahum & J. Melvin (editors)

Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1985. Available from  
Gage Publishing in Toronto \$89.05 Cdn.

This hard cover book, on 475 pages, is devoted to a special area of biomechanics; the mechanism, treatment, and prevention of accidental trauma.

The text is divided into two parts. The first part deals with basic issues in biomechanics such as restraint systems, structural properties of human tissues and mathematical simulation of human structures. The second part considers the clinical and experimental aspects of injury to specific anatomical areas. Areas covered are head, face and facial bones, vertebral column, chest and extremities.

The book, with contributions from nearly thirty authors, covers trauma in a remarkably comprehensive manner. From statistical analysis of trauma, through mathematical models to clinical application. Diagnosis and treatment measures are given.

A useful reference text for students and clinicians alike with an interest in the mechanism of injury, accident prevention, injury reduction and trauma treatment.

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### *Evaluation and Treatment of Chronic Pain*

Edited by Gerald M. Aronoff, M.D.

Urban and Schwarzenberg, Baltimore - Munich, 1985,  
684 pages. \$92.30.

Gerald M. Aronoff, M.D., Director of the Boston Pain Center, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, had two valid reasons to add another thick volume to the already existing array of textbooks on pain. First, chronic pain is still among the major unsolved medical problems and is probably the number one medically based socioeconomic burden in North America today. Second, since the appearance of Melzack and Wall's paper proposing the gate control theory of pain, there have been many important and recent advances with respect to treatment and management of the chronic pain patient: eventually leading to the formation of a new medical specialty termed "Algology."

This comprehensive text is a collection of papers written by 55 different contributors, each of who demonstrated expertise in a specific area related to chronic pain management. It was meant to be practical, rather than research oriented, or concentrated on the basic sciences. Many of its 39 chapters contain important information for the practitioner and student alike.

The chapters on "Facial Pain" and "Headache" are very well written and comprehensive. It was nice to see that a part of the chapter on Headache, although small, implicated disorders of the cervical spine to play an important role in the creation of headache. The chapter on the "Radiologic Evaluation of Back Pain" is of a very introductory nature and has not very much to offer. The entity of the three-joint complex, as well as the posterior facet syndrome are mentioned as possible etiological factors for chronic low back pain in the chapter

termed "Physiatric Approach to Chronic Pain". Some of the other chapters that may be of interest to the chiropractic practitioner include: "Thermography as a Diagnostic Aid", offering an excellent introduction to this noninvasive diagnostic procedure, "Joint Pains and Associated Disorders", "Painful Metabolic Bone Disorders" and "Back Pain". In "Back Pain", mechanical derangements of the vertebral body, disc, ligament and joint complex, are listed as pathological entities affecting the spine and the author states that the great majority of back pain arises as a result of a spondylogenic etiology. Unfortunately, this chapter lacks a more detailed discussion of these aforementioned diagnoses. The value of mobilization and manipulation for back pain is seen to give short-term relief, and it is doubted that this therapeutic approach will alter the ultimate course of the respective disability.

Although this book is meant to assist physicians primarily of non-psychiatric specialities in the management of pain, it is a text that is also focused on psychosocial issues. Various chapters are concerned with the psychodynamics and the psychotherapy of the chronic pain syndrome.

Despite its typical orthodox medical approach to the chronic back pain sufferer, this impressive compendium contains a lot of information on the various chronic pain syndromes and is a valuable reference text for the chiropractic field practitioner and the advanced student.

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**Alternative Health Guide**  
**Brian Inglis and Ruth West**  
**Knopf, New York, 1983**

Most chiropractors know Brian Inglis because of his book "Fringe Medicine" (1964) which described chiropractic in what we might say, in retrospect, would be 'neutral' terms, given the state of our profession at that time. His newest book (co-authored with Ruth West, an educator specializing in alternative forms of medicine) is an encyclopedia of alternative health systems covering 63 different groups. The whole range of alternatives from chiropractic and osteopathy through to such esoteric fields as polarity therapy, iridology, and aromatherapy are covered.

Inglis and West give reasonably fair coverage of chiropractic in the 8 page section covering our profession. They describe the general nature of chiropractic and give up to date references including the recent New Zealand Commission findings. However, as might be expected, they describe some of the well-worn medical come-backs such as "lack of research" and "no scientific basis". To their credit they imply that these are not to be taken as serious reasons in deciding whether or not to see a chiropractor. In a section entitled "suitable cases" they describe the type of cases who should consult a chiropractor. These include the usual range of musculoskeletal problems, and regrettably, no mention is made of the importance of chiropractic in general health maintenance.

I found the book to be of great interest because I was not aware of the nature of many of the fields covered. Not only was the book useful to me in understanding many of the alternative fields, but, having been newly introduced to some of these, I intend to pursue them in more detail. The clearly organized and well-illustrated text seems to encourage greater study of these fields since you are given a short, but comprehensive teaser in each area.

I would recommend this book to D.C.'s in the interests of being well-informed in other areas of non-medical healing.

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**Manual Medicine Diagnostics**  
**By Jiri Dvorak and Valclav Dvorak**  
**Translated by Wolfgang Gilliar and Philip Greenman**  
**Publisher Thieme-Stratton Inc., 1984, 170 pages - \$55.40**

This well-illustrated book, originally written in German by Jiri and Valclav Dvorak was later translated to English by Wolfgang Gilliar and Philip Greenman in 1984. The book contains chapters dealing with anatomy, biomechanics, neuropathophysiology, differential diagnosis of the vertebral column and the spondylogenic reflex syndrome.

With these topics the book has the potential to be a great text in the field of manual medicine. Unfortunately, many of the chapters are disappointingly brief. Topics are covered too quickly to be called a "good review". Except for the chapters on spondylogenic reflex syndromes, very little original work is presented.

One cannot help but notice the appearance that this book was hurriedly written. It is difficult to know if some of the problems are related to translation. Nevertheless, translation should not affect a mistake such as the improper numbering of charts or the omission of the cervical spine flexion extension examination, both of which are found in Chapter one.

The book does present, in great detail, an interesting group of empirically collected spondylogenic reflex syndromes. Through their own and their colleagues clinical work, the authors try to correlate alterations in the soft tissues associated with the spine and spinal "zones of irritation". Empirically collected clinical data is always a difficult topic to approach. Never was it stated that the spondylogenic reflex syndromes were fact and this is a strength. The authors mention the need for the search for neurophysiological explanations that could help in the interpretation of these phenomena and thus scientifically substantiate their valuable clinical experiences.

In general, I was disappointed in this book because it did not approach its potential and, therefore, I cannot recommend buying this book. I would suggest borrowing it for a brief review if the opportunity presents itself.

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