

## BOOK REVIEW

**Ars Medici. Ambulante Chirurgie. Untersuchung, Diagnose, Therapie. (Ambulatory surgery. Examination, Diagnosis, Therapy.) Stiftung NeoCortex (ISBN 3-86126-802-7). Linder PE, editor. Wiesbaden: Ullstein Mosby, 1995. Multimedia CD-ROM.**

This CD-ROM was produced in cooperation with Mediothek der Medizinischen Fakultät der Universität Basel Kantonsspital, Hebelstraße 20, CH-4031, Basel, Germany. The program was designed for surgery residents and general practitioners, as well as for undergraduate medical students.

It uses a multimedia approach, i.e., a combination of text, sound and video sequences. It is divided into 14 topical groups gradually presenting various surgical techniques used in ambulatory surgery.

The introductory chapter offers a brief assessment of the benefits of multimedia use in medicine. The first chapter provides a concise description and definitions of a variety of injuries and wound healing patterns. The text is accompanied by precise drawings, which help understanding and memorizing the concept of injury. Vivid descriptions of the preparation and administration of regional anesthesia are offered in the second chapter, while the third covers pathogenesis, incubation, symptoms, active immunization and treatment of tetanus. The fourth chapter informs on rabies, whereas the fifth discusses peripheral infections frequently encountered in general practice and ambulatory surgery. The sixth chapter presents different nail diseases and deformities. The seventh chapter describes minor peripheral tumors encountered in ambulatory surgery. Skin and hand tumors are presented in a separate section of the chapter. The final section brings a diagnostic quiz which contains visual cues which lead to the correct answer. Diseases of the mucous membrane are covered in the eighth chapter. The ninth chapter focuses on fractures, while the tenth is concerned with luxations of the joints. The bone fractures of the clavicle, scapula, humerus, ulna, radius, hand, malleoli and foot are described. Both fractures and luxations are accompanied by examples of clinical findings and standard radiographs. The pictures are of high quality, allowing excellent distinction. Standard classifications of fractures are shown when available, as well as lists of potential complications related to a specified fracture location. The description and classification of an injury is followed by diagnostic methods, radiograph descriptions, a photograph of the injury, and treatment methods. The concluding section of the eleventh chapter, focused on traumatic injuries of the locomotor system, provides a description of distortions and ruptures. A discussion on hand tendon injuries and diagnostic methods employed in their treatment is offered in the twelfth, and syndromes of nerve compression in different parts of the body in the thirteenth chapter. The final chapter focuses on a variety of casting techniques and wound dressing methods used in ambulatory surgery. Particularly interesting are step-by-step drawings and descriptions of cast preparation and application procedures.

The program, supplied with an alphabetical list of methods and diseases described, provides a simple search and an easy access to a desired topic.

In conclusion, this program is a valuable contribution to the current methods of introduction into medical problems frequently encountered in ambulatory surgery. The user is offered a concise and well-organized presentation of the most frequent problems and treatment methods. It may prove, however, to be of particular use for medical students and young physicians familiar with ambulatory surgery, since written and graphic presentations alone cannot enable a user previously non-acquainted with the matter to employ a specified treatment method in practice. Videoclips on some procedures in ambulatory surgery, such as reanimation, handling of sick patients, surgical procedures (decompression of the carpal tunnel), orthopedic tests for knee joint injuries and reposition of the shoulder joint are particularly valuable.

The disc includes a technical description of the program and acknowledgments to the designers. It contains 765 screen pages, 800 color or black-and-white photographs, 108 voice recordings, 12 video clips and 485 key words. The program runs smoothly on a PC with the following characteristics: 486 DX2, MS-Windows 3.1, 4x CD-ROM, VGA graphic card, and a Soundblaster-pro sound card.

