OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES, THE field of cardiovascular intervention has strikingly expanded in terms of technique, technology and information. It has gained sound acceptance owing to both its short and long-term proven benefits. Consequently, the interventionalist should be aware about these procedures in a tactile, cognitive and clinical sense.

The authors’ philosophy in writing this book is to discuss the potential clinical benefits of interventional versus surgical modalities for adult cardiovascular disease patients who require either percutaneous or surgical interventional procedures.

This textbook has 64 chapters covering a wide range of topics related to cardiovascular and extracardiac interventional techniques. They are organised into five sections: 1) septal defects and valvular heart disease; 2) coronary interventions; 3) aortic coarctation, aneurysms and dissections; 4) carotid and cerebral artery interventions, and 5) renal and peripheral arterial interventions.

In general, the chosen topics are well written, with easily understood subtitles. The selected coloured as well as black and white photos and images are lucid with self-explanatory legends. Each chapter has an extensive bibliography to support the review of the materials presented thus making the book attractive to readers.

The data presented provides the latest scientific information in techniques and technology as well as new surgical alternatives. The chapters on chronic total occlusions and bifurcation lesions show that interventional cardiology can be a very sophisticated art when fully supported by new and refined technology.

The main strength of this book, as compared to others in the same field, lies in the sections on the application of new technologies like optical coherence tomography (OCT), the increasing role of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in cardiology, as well as new procedures such as transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI). In my opinion, most interventional cardiologists will find all
chapters worth reading, either to refresh their basic knowledge or to refine techniques.

Training and hands-on experience are the fundamental foundation for the interventionalist and no single text can displace this. There are some topics that I found missing in this otherwise valuable book. First, vascular access approaches, the first and most crucial step in any percutaneous technique. Second, the difficulties associated with each procedure and tips and tricks to overcome these. Third, given that complications related to interventional procedures were Gruentzig’s (the father of interventional cardiology) greatest concern. I think the editors did not give the prevention and management of complications the central role that they should merit.

This book describes the recent advances in the field of cardiovascular intervention. The intended audiences, according to the authors, include students, residents, general practitioners, cardiologists, neurologists and surgeons. I believe that the book is not suitable for students, general practitioners or even for cardiology residents in their early clinical practice.

Despite these few negative points, a textbook like *Cardiovascular Interventions in Clinical Practice* can advance the knowledge of an experienced interventionalist performing percutaneous coronary and peripheral interventions as well as being of interest to cardiac surgeons. The editors, authors, and publisher must be congratulated on delivering a first edition of such high quality. Personally, I consider this book to be a tremendous addition to the library of cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and radiologists interested in intervention.

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