

BOOK REVIEW

Hepato-pancreato-biliary and transplant surgery: practical management of dilemmas, Quyen D. Chu, Charles M. Vollmer, Gazi B. Zibari, Susan L. Orloff, Mallory Williams, Mariano E. Gimenez, First ed. (2018) 1284, ISBN: 978-0-9977721-9-7

Benjamin P.T. Loveday & Sanjay Pandanaboyana

Department of Surgery, University of Auckland, and HPB Unit, Department of Surgery, Auckland District Health Board, Auckland, New Zealand

Correspondence

Benjamin P.T. Loveday, Department of Surgery, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. E-mail:

b.loveday@auckland.ac.nz

HPB and transplant surgery continue to rapidly expand and progress, with thought leaders located around the world. With a number of books already in these specialties, the inaugural edition of “Review of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas”, needs to take a fresh approach. The editors of this book have indeed taken an approach that is comprehensive, novel, accessible, and of high educational value, which makes this book a worthwhile addition to the HPB and transplant surgery library. As with other high quality books, this one also has a stellar cast of editors, five of whom are based in the USA, one is from France/Argentina, and all of whom represent AHPBA leadership. While the list of authors includes a few residents and fellows, each chapter is senior authored by a leading expert in their field. This is a good model, by providing opportunities and mentorship to young HPB and transplant surgeons. This model demonstrates, in a practical way, the AHPBA's commitment to mentorship and training, and in no way diminishes the content of the book.

The book is structured into six sections (hepatic, biliary, pancreatic, transplantation, trauma, and innovation and technology), with a total of 181 chapters spread over 1284 pages. These sections are divided into preoperative, operative and postoperative components. Most chapters are short, on average 6–7 pages. Therefore, this new text sits easily within a library of books on HPB and transplant surgery that range in length from 300 pages to over 2000 pages. This book covers all the main areas of practice within HPB and transplant surgery, and it is quite an achievement by the editorial team to put together this many topics. The content is definitely applicable to residents, fellows and experienced surgeons.

The majority of chapters set out to address a specific question or dilemma (e.g. How should the HPB surgeon manage the patient with polycystic liver disease?). Where a question has multiple valid, evidence-based, and yet opposing views, these are

presented as Pro/Con Debates (e.g. Should I place an intra-operative drain for Whipple's resection?). These debate chapters represent many of the topics discussed in major HPB and transplant conferences, and act as a helpful summary of the evidence and discussions held in such conferences. The authors have captured the key clinical questions well, and give balanced reasoning to their positions. It is important for residents and fellows training in HPB and transplant surgery to understand that many clinical situations do not have a single best approach, and this concept has been captured by the debates. An interesting addition for future editions would be brief recommendations for further research at the end of each chapter.

The liberal use of clinical images, diagrams, algorithms, and tables make the content accessible and visually appealing. This point is important, as books that engage their readers will enjoy a wider readership. From an educational perspective, images employ the long-term memory better than text alone, and this fact has been harnessed well in this book. The editorial and production team have put thought into how they can maximise the educational value of their content. Therefore, the format has a strong focus on education, providing readers with a clear clinical framework on which to apply knowledge. The topics covered and questions asked would provide an excellent basis for teaching sessions in any academic HPB or transplant surgery unit. The format could also be borrowed for case-based discussion with residents and fellows.

This book targets an international readership, and has done well to include authors from around the globe. Despite this, some of the content has been written from a purely United States (rather than international) perspective. In general, texts for an international audience should be deliberate in limiting their use of single nation statistics. For example, we would unlikely see an international book chapter on management of colorectal liver metastases which reported that colorectal cancer

is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Uruguay, without reporting statistics for any other country. Likewise, to give a more equitable international feel, the author affiliations and locations should have been reported in a standard format for all countries (this means listing state and country when an author is from USA).

There are other books on HPB surgery that use a format where each chapter is devoted to a specific clinical question or difficult and controversial decision, although they are not as comprehensive as “Review of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas”. Success and ongoing relevance of a medical book are somewhat reliant on good content, organisation and outreach. This book appears to have the right recipe for success. Ongoing relevance is becoming

increasing difficult, as HPB and transplant surgery gather pace in their advancement. The editorial team will need to employ modern and potentially disruptive methods to ensure that the content remains up-to-date, is balanced from an international perspective, and is presented in a format that is accessible and affordable. Controversial questions this year may be resolved next year, and this book would do well to ensure it does not become a record of past controversies.

In summary, “Review of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas”, is a new and novel addition to the HPB and transplant surgery library. While that library may already look somewhat full, this book has taken an approach that makes it a worthwhile and relevant addition to the library.