

***Clinical Pediatric Orthopedics:
The art of diagnosis and principles of management***
Mihran O. Tachdjian
Appleton & Lange, 1997
Hardcover, 518 pages, illustrated, \$209.25
ISBN 0-8385-1106-6

This text was written as a practical reference for health professionals involved in the diagnosis and treatment of orthopedic conditions in children. The author emphasizes the importance of a skillfully obtained clinical history and states that the 'purpose of the book is to revive the art of medical diagnosis'.

The book contains six chapters. The first five chapters each focus on a specific anatomical region of the body: Foot and Ankle, Knee and Leg, Hip and Thigh, Neck and Upper Limb and The Spine. Chapter 6 takes a more global approach and considers conditions relating to the entire musculoskeletal system.

The text is uniform in format. Each chapter begins with an outline then moves into a brief overview of each orthopedic condition, typical presenting complaints, associated etiology and pertinent questions that must be asked during the history taking. This is followed by the presentation of an organized physical examination, treatment alternatives and prognosis. Where appropriate, differential diagnoses are discussed in relation to medical management issues.

The author discusses only the most common orthopedic problems found in children. The topics vary from benign conditions such as physiological genu valgus to life threatening pathological and congenital processes. Numerous tables and figures are found throughout the text highlighting important diagnostic considerations. Each chapter ends with a comprehensive reference list.

The text is well indexed and information is easily located. However, not all conditions are given the same attention and it can be difficult to differentiate distinct orthopedic entities from those that fall under a larger category. This could be easily remedied by the systematic use of headings and subheadings. The tables and illustrations are excellent and the x-ray images provide the reader with a good overview of radiographic diagnosis in children. The reference lists provided are thorough and organized according to orthopedic condition. This greatly enhances the ease with which the reader can look up

further information on topics of interest. A small number of grammatical errors are found throughout the text but do not distract from the content.

For those chiropractors with a special interest in the physical examination, diagnosis and appropriate management of orthopedic conditions in children and adolescents, this is a useful reference text to have close at hand. Priced at \$209.25, *Clinical Pediatric Orthopedics* will be an invaluable addition to your library.

Danielle R. Smith, DC
Clinical Sciences Resident, CMCC
Department of Graduate Studies and Research

Therapeutics Modalities for Allied Health Professionals
William E. Prentice
McGraw-Hill, 1998
Hardcover, 532 pages, illustrated, \$77.95
ISBN 0-070-50771-6

The objective of this textbook is to present the basis for using a variety of modalities in order to equip therapists with the knowledge necessary for effective clinical decision-making.

The format is tailored for use in an educational setting. Pedagogical aids include a clear outline of the objectives for each chapter, numerous figures and tables, chapter summaries and a glossary of key terms. In addition, case studies and 'hands on' assignments are outlined for students.

The text is divided into six parts: Foundations of Therapeutic Modalities, Electrical Modalities, Thermal Modalities, Light Therapy, Mechanical Modalities and Manual Modalities. Each section discusses underlying theory and superficially evaluates supporting evidence. Recent advances in each field are not discussed and the majority of articles cited date back to the 1980s. The figures used are effective and though a small number of grammatical and definitional errors are noted in the titles and throughout the text, they are not distracting to the reader.

Of the six sections, four contained information that might be of interest to the chiropractor. The sections on Thermal Modalities and Light Therapy, focus on therapeutic interventions and techniques not included in the chiropractic curriculum. Section Six, Manual Modalities,

discusses joint mobilization and soft tissue techniques. Manipulation is mentioned only twice in the text with the cautionary note that ‘manipulation should be used only by individuals trained specifically in these techniques, because a great deal of skill and judgment are necessary for safe and effective treatment’.

This textbook is useful as an educational tool. The practical, user-friendly format will be appreciated by educators and students alike. For the chiropractor who frequently utilizes modalities, this text is a useful reference to consult on your next library visit. However, at a cost of \$77.45 it is not likely to be worth the money spent.

Danielle R. Smith, DC
Clinical Sciences Resident, CMCC
Department of Graduate Studies and Research

***Functional Soft Tissue
Examination and Treatment by Manual Methods
New Perspectives, Second Edition
Warren I. Hammer
Aspen Publishers, Inc., Gaithersburg, 1999
625 pages, hardcover, \$165.00
ISBN 0-8342-0630-7***

Functional Soft Tissue Examination and Treatment by Manual Methods is an impressive compilation of useful and practical techniques for soft tissue conditions that can be employed in any chiropractic office. This text contains contributions from eighteen authors representing the medical, osteopathic, physical therapy and chiropractic professions.

The book is organized into four parts and eighteen chapters in total. Part One discusses the basics of soft tissue examination as well as the pathology of musculoskeletal soft tissues. Part Two deals with the upper and lower extremities. Functional anatomy and pertinent biomechanics of each articulation are described, followed by related common soft tissue pathologies. Each condition is presented in a concise manner organized by etiology, signs and symptoms, functional tests, differential diagnosis and treatment. Part Three presents the various manual treatments including joint mobilization, somatic technique, muscular imbalance and post-facilitation stretch, and concludes with strain/counterstrain. The last part describes the

effects of various soft tissue techniques at the cellular level.

As a chiropractor reviewing this book, it is interesting to note that the term manipulation has different semantics dependent upon which profession is represented. For instance, Chapter Thirteen is written by an osteopath who discusses the “physiology of manipulation” and “manipulation of specific regions of the spine”. The term manipulation is used in the osteopathic context and does not refer to the definition utilized by chiropractors. For example, the cervical spine is manipulated using the strain/counterstrain technique developed by Dr. Jones, an osteopathic physician. The technique involves placing the cervical spine in a variety of positions depending on the cervical tender points being treated and applying digital pressure to the tender points. This manipulation does not involve a high-velocity, low-amplitude thrust.

The text is filled with visually stimulating photographs and illustrations of various techniques that help reinforce their utilization. The tables and figures, also abundant throughout the book, are very effective in summarizing the written text for quick reference. The majority of the chapters include an extensive bibliography of relatively recent scientific papers, although some of the techniques are heavily referenced by work done solely by their founders.

Although spelling errors are found throughout the text, they are minor and minimally disruptive during the read. Unfortunately, several figures in Chapter Three do not correspond with their captions which creates some confusion on the part of the reader.

Overall Hammer’s text is an excellent reference source for examination and treatment of soft tissue conditions by manual methods. It is written in a reader-friendly fashion with organized, predictable and bolded headings and sub-headings. The information presented is concise and highly appropriate for the treatment of soft tissue pathologies. One constraint that may exist is the hefty price of this volume; however, I believe it is well worth it. In my opinion, any manual therapist that reads this text would greatly expand his or her knowledge base of soft tissue injuries, leading to the ultimate goal of providing the best possible patient care.

Natalia Lishchyna, BSc, DC
Clinical Sciences Resident II