
BOOK REVIEW

Laparoscopic Biliary Surgery. By A Cuschieri and G Berci. (Pp 197; illustrated; £45.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1992.

It is a reflection on the great interest in laparoscopic techniques that a second edition of this excellent book has been produced only two years after the first with nearly twice the number of pages. The first edition was translated into four languages and the new edition has extra chapters on laparoscopic treatment of common duct stones, laparoscopic management of pancreatic cancer, and diagnostic laparoscopy tissue diagnosis and other procedures. As in the first edition, the whole emphasis is on safety, training, and careful technique. Far from the very experienced authors implying that all cholecystectomies are easy for the expert, they devote a whole chapter to 'the difficult cholecystectomy', which discusses exposure difficulties, abnormal anatomy, etc.

There is realistic advice about problems and their management, should they arise but with careful attention to the details of this book, many problems can be avoided.

This new edition is far better illustrated than the first with many colour photographs of excellent quality and the use of line diagrams, as well as halftone photographs. The line drawings are particularly useful when they are set beside the laparoscopic view and explain the anatomy and the details. As in the first edition, there is a chapter on laparoscopic cholecystolithotomy and cholecystostomy for the particular situations where these are indicated, such as previous peptic ulcer surgery or patients who wish to retain a functioning (emptying) gall bladder. There are detailed descriptions of the treatment of common bile duct stones with the various options and instruments: and honest results of the success rate and complications are given.

The laparoscopic management of palliative treatment for pancreatic cancer will allow

patients, who are already ill, to have a bypass procedure as a genuine alternative to stenting; and the careful biopsy of suspected tumours under vision can be obtained through the laparoscope.

Although the authors would recommend that all surgeons have personal tuition on the technique before doing it on their own, this honest and detailed account that leaves nothing out, is a genuine, practical guide to all aspects of laparoscopic biliary surgery. It can be very strongly recommended and it is very moderately priced at £45.00

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NOTES

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1994

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1994 Award. Applications (**Fifteen copies**) should include:

- (1) A manuscript (2 A4 pages *only*) describing the work conducted.
- (2) A bibliography of relevant personal publications.
- (3) An outline of the proposed content of the lecture, including title.

(4) A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted in the United Kingdom or Eire.

Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1994 but need not be a member of the BSG. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Spring Meeting of the Society in 1994. Applications (**Fifteen copies**) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 1993.

Advanced Course in Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases

An Advanced Course in Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases will be held in Edinburgh from 11-15 October 1993. Further information from: Mrs C Devoy, Education, Audit and Research Department, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ. Tel: 031 225 7324; fax: 031 220 3939.

International Conference on Gastrointestinal Hormones and Gastrointestinal Motility

The International Conference on Gastrointestinal Hormones and Gastrointestinal Motility (GIH-GIM'93) will be held in Beijing, China, on 25-28 October 1993. This conference is organised by Peking Union Medical College Hospital. Further information from: Co-Chairs of GIH-GIM'93, Professors Yuan-Fang Chen and Mei-Yun KE, Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMC Hospital), 1 Shuai Fu Yuan, Wang Fu Jing, Beijing 100730, PR China. Tel: 86-1-5127733 ext 304; fax: 86-1-5124875.

Postgraduate Gastroenterology Course 1994

The 1994 Oxford Postgraduate Course in Gastroenterology will be held from 5-7 January 1994. Further information from Dr D P Jewell, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford OX2 6HE. Tel: 0865 224829.