Orthotics and Prosthetics in Rehabilitation, ed 2

This comprehensive text on the use of orthoses and prostheses is designed for physical therapists and occupational therapists. Contributors include physical therapists, occupational therapists, orthotists, prosthetists, and physicians.

The book provides learning objectives for each chapter. Each chapter is well referenced and provides the current evidence, where available. A variety of case studies that use an evidence-based approach are interspersed in many of the chapters to demonstrate various concepts.

The text is divided into 3 parts. Part I lays the framework for the remainder of the text. Topics include the roles of the various health care professionals who interact with patients requiring orthoses or prostheses, the materials used in the design and construction of the devices, a comprehensive description of clinical assessment of pathological gait, and the effects of aging and activity tolerance on the use of orthoses and prostheses.

For the reader who is not versed in evidence-based practice, chapter 6 presents an in-depth discussion of the process. Using case examples to facilitate understanding, the chapter takes the reader through the process of developing a clinical question. A comprehensive list of sources, including textbooks, journals, and systematic reviews, is provided. To get the reader started in the search for evidence, search terms pertinent to the use of orthoses and prostheses, including rehabilitation, are provided. Electronic databases also are listed.

Part II addresses the use of orthoses in rehabilitation. The reader is provided with an in-depth description of the use of orthoses for a wide variety of neurological, orthopedic, and congenital disorders. Again, case studies illustrate how orthoses are used to treat a variety of disorders. Each case prompts the reader with questions.

Part III addresses amputations and the use of prostheses in rehabilitation. The reader is provided with an in-depth discussion of etiology, amputation surgeries, and rehabilitation. The components and design of various types of prostheses are described. As in the previous sections, a variety of case studies take the reader through clinical decision making.

This text is a well-written, comprehensive discussion of the use of orthoses and prostheses in rehabilitation and provides extensive background information relevant to an understanding of the principles of design, construction, and application. Numerous illustrations, photographs, and tables are provided to enhance the material. This text is an excellent resource for both students and practitioners in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Byron Russell
B Russell, PT, PhD, is Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy, Eastern Washington University, Spokane, Wash.

Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Secrets, ed 2

Are there really any secrets in orthopedic physical therapy? Probably not, but “Secrets” is a catchy name for a series of more than 100 books published by Elsevier. The vast majority of the books in the series are directed toward medicine and nursing. Only this text, edited by Placzek and Boyce, appears to be specifically geared to the physical therapist reader. Each book in the “Secrets” series covers a smaller specialty within a given field; this book is directed to those interested in the field of orthopedic physical therapy. The authors intend this text to be used as a reference for those studying for the specialist certification examination.

All of the books in the “Secrets” series are designed to provide up-to-date information on a specialty area using the guided questioning method. This method is certainly one that is used in most education programs, especially in clinical education settings. The key difference is that, in this text, the answers in each topic are provided by the person who posed the question, so the reader can verify the answers. This begs the question, why? The book purports to provide “your physical therapy questions answered by experts you trust” when, in fact, these are not necessarily the reader’s questions. In addition, the question-and-answer format does not add in any way to the ease of reading.

I believe, however, that the text does offer a wealth of information. The book is divided into 12 units with 78 chapters. The units cover basic science, electrotherapy and modalities, special topics, and each major anatomic region treated in orthopedic physical therapy.

Chapters are brief and to the point on the topic covered. The authors assume that the reader has a basic knowledge of orthopedic content, so the content is for the person who wants to develop an expert’s knowledge base. The
material, however, is presented in a way that encourages the reader to comprehend and digest facts rather than integrate them into clinical and critical thinking. This presentation style may not produce expertise in clinical practice, but it probably will produce expertise in the recitation of knowledge. In only one chapter are questions integrated into a case-based format that might lend itself more toward clinical application and the development of critical thinking.

The text is written by 87 contributors, with each making a contribution to one of the chapters. Some content is repeated among chapters. For instance, the definition of positive and negative predictive value is presented in 3 separate chapters. This information could have been synthesized with cross-referencing.

The approach to the development and selection of questions is not always transparent. Given that this text is a reference for board examination preparation, the reader would assume that the questions were taken from the matrix for the examination or from Description of Specialty Practice: Orthopedics. Instead, it sometimes appears that the author of a chapter read a single journal article and then wrote specific questions about that article’s results and implications. In other cases, the chapter author developed a series of questions without any regard for the content of other related chapters. In addition, orthopedic physical therapy does have unanswered questions. I would have liked to see these questions asked and documented and the authors acknowledge that there are gaps in our knowledge.

Each chapter contains its own bibliography; however, there are no in-text citations so it is difficult for the reader to locate an original source.

This book has a number of editorial drawbacks; nevertheless, it does contain valuable information, is very well indexed, and will sit on my shelf as a quick reference to orthopedic facts— but not orthopedic “secrets.”

Julia Chevan
J Chevan, PT, PhD, OCS, is Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.