“possible” pathways and “may be helpful” alternatives. This will confuse novice readers. The chapter on small bowel injuries converts an “open the patient—find the hole(s)—close it(them)” decision process into an algorithm with 36 decision points. Although the guidance for the novice trauma surgeon is usually clear, I was struck by the fact that detailed, well-illustrated, instruction on exposing the fourth portion of the duodenum is included but methods of exposing the pancreas are not.

The editors have made a conscious effort to avoid becoming “mired down” in controversy. On the other hand, to be a leadership work, some controversies need to be examined. Two important ones were given short shrift, indeed. Resuscitation of the head-injured patient in shock is not described in a clear or coherent manner in the head injury chapter. The authors seem to recommend hypertonic saline despite the lack of clinical data to support this. The second controversy not examined was the use of corticosteroids for spinal cord injury. No attempt was made to put this approach (which is the current standard of practice) into perspective. An important set of questions include: What is the clinical significance of the statistically significant neurologic improvement which has been reported? What is the downside of the therapy? Neither was examined.

My final criticism is that the book, as a whole, is over-referenced. Why is it necessary to have 176 references for one 14-page chapter (Patterns of Injury, Chapter 7)? It would be useful for the editors, instead, to direct the reader to certain particularly valuable references.

Overall, the book is valuable and worth the price ($150). Readers of the Journal of Vascular Surgery will find vascular topics superbly reviewed. Surgery residents will find many, if not most, of their trauma questions answered in this work. Time will tell if the remainder of the vast audience targeted by the editors is satisfied. I enjoyed reading the third edition and recommend it heartily.

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Atlas of vascular anatomy: An angiographic approach
Renan Uflacker; Baltimore; 1997; Williams & Wilkins; 811 pages.

Vascular imaging is performed with many different methods, most of which are noninvasive. The role of catheter-based angiography (hereafter referred to as “angiography”) as a diagnostic method has steadily decreased in importance as the noninvasive methods have improved. Nevertheless, textbooks of vascular anatomy based on angiographic images are still necessary in current practice. A knowledge of the angiographic appearance of blood vessels is useful in the interpretation of noninvasive images. In addition, noninvasive imaging techniques do not yet provide sufficient detail to image small vessels or subtle abnormalities. Perhaps most important is the rapid growth of catheter-based vascular interventions, which by definition involve angiographic images.

The intent of an Atlas of vascular anatomy: An angiographic approach, edited by Renan Uflacker, is to provide a practical reference for clinical practice based on angiograms and anatomic drawings. The 811 pages of the book are divided into 25 chapters. Each chapter begins with a short written description of the relevant anatomy, followed by numerous images. The written text is appropriately focused on basic information such as embryology, blood vessel dimensions, incidence of anomalies, and branching patterns. References are not provided in text, but suggested readings are listed collectively in chapter 25.

The images are comprised of angiograms, excellent colored anatomic drawings, color photographs of vascular casts of anatomic specimens, and occasional CT scans, MR images, or photomicrographs. The angiographic images are generally high-quality film-screen and intraarterial digital subtraction studies, crisply reproduced. The anatomic drawings are clear, precise, and plentiful. In most instances the drawings complement rather than substitute for the angiographic images. The anatomic casts of the liver, kidney, and heart are fascinating but less useful in printed format than the angiograms or drawings. Overall, the balance of the book is decidedly towards images, with multiple examples of most entities.

This atlas is comprehensive, thorough, and easy to use. In addition to chapters on the arterial and venous anatomy of the extremities, thorax, abdomen, and pelvis, there are chapters on fetal, coronary, neurovascular, and lymphatic anatomy. Normal anatomy is extensively illustrated, and most common variants are presented as well. There are some small gaps, such as popliteal artery entrapment and persistent sciatric artery. Pathologic conditions are not illustrated.

This book is so comprehensive that few readers will find every chapter useful, but the material is so detailed that each reader will find useful chapters. For example, the chapters on renal vascular anatomy contain numerous endocasts showing the relationship of the collecting system to the arteries and veins. These may be of passing interest to vascular surgeons, but very informative for interventional radiologists and urologists. In general, this book would be appropriate for practicing clinicians and trainees at the fellowship level, but is too focused for residents or medical students.

The primary alternative angiographic anatomy text to which this book should be compared is Saadoon Kadir’s Atlas of normal and variant angiographic anatomy, W. B. Saunders, 1991. The Kadir text is an older, less-comprehensive work, with far fewer anatomic drawings (none in color), and no anatomic specimens. As a quick reference for angiographic anatomy, the Kadir book is sufficient for most situations. The Uflacker atlas will appeal to those clinicians who require a more detailed and sophisticated angiographic atlas of vascular anatomy.

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The Vascular System: Normal and Pathologic Anatomy and Hemodynamic Principles. This atlas details the vascular anatomy seen on angiographic images and in the new imaging modalities. The book presents the complete anatomy of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system by body region. Full-color drawings are correlated with angiographic images to guide evaluation and management of vascular disease and performance of endovascular procedures. For this Second Edition, Dr. Uflacker has added more than 100 pictures and extensively reviewed the anatomical description of the vascular system. He has expanded the cardiac chapter with new CTA and MRI images, added percutaneous access. This atlas details the vascular anatomy seen on angiographic images and in the new imaging modalities. The book presents the complete anatomy of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system by body region. Full-color drawings are correlated with angiographic images to guide evaluation and management of vascular disease and performance of endovascular procedures. For this Second Edition, Dr. Uflacker has added more than 100 pictures and extensively reviewed the anatomical description of the vascular system. He has expanded the cardiac chapter with new CTA and MRI images, added percutaneous access. This atlas details the vascular anatomy seen on angiographic images and in the new imaging modalities. The book presents the complete anatomy of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system by body region. Full-color drawings are correlated with angiographic images to guide evaluation and management of vascular disease and performance of endovascular procedures. For this Second Edition, Dr. Uflacker has added more than 100 pictures and extensively reviewed the anatomical description of the vascular system. He has expanded the cardiac chapter with new CTA and MRI images, added percutaneous access. This atlas details the vascular anatomy seen on angiographic images and in the new imaging modalities. The book presents the complete anatomy of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system by body region. Full-color drawings are correlated with angiographic images to guide evaluation and management of vascular disease and performance of endovascular procedures. For this Second Edition, Dr. Uflacker has added more than 100 pictures and extensively reviewed the anatomical description of the vascular system. He has expanded the cardiac chapter with new CTA and MRI images, added percutaneous access. This atlas details the vascular anatomy seen on angiographic images and in the new imaging modalities. The book presents the complete anatomy of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system by body region. Full-color drawings are correlated with angiographic images to guide evaluation and management of vascular disease and performance of endovascular procedures. For this Second Edition, Dr. Uflacker has added more than 100 pictures and extensively reviewed the anatomical description of the vascular system. He has expanded the cardiac chapter with new CTA and MRI images, added percutaneous access.