



ment injuries, bone tumours or congenital deformities would be seen in a family practitioner's office in a year? And if the practitioner covers emergencies in hospital, how much does he or she need to know about open fractures, complex fractures of the pelvis, human bites or acute spinal cord injury? In most parts of Canada, specialist help for most of these conditions is available on site or within reach by air ambulance.

Nevertheless, this book is a good, up-to-date summary of current orthopedic practice and worth having available in hospital libraries, particularly those in rural areas.

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**Sharing the Final Journey:
Walking with the Dying**

Norma Wylie, Terrill Mast and Jay Kennerly.
176 pp. Illust. Robert Pope Foundation;
Lancelot Press, PO Box 425, Hantsport NS
B0P 1P0. 1996. \$9.95. ISBN 0-88999-608-3

Overall rating: Good
Strengths: Outlines role of listener and "helping presence"
Weaknesses: Thoughts seem a little disconnected at times
Audience: Health care providers

This book is a series of stories about living, dying and death and the thoughts, feelings and struggles of 7 dying people and their families as seen through the eyes of the principal author. The stories illustrate how a skilled listener can help people adapt to profound loss and how "the paradox of wounded story tellers is that their sharing of the story often becomes a gift of caring for others, rather than a plea for receiving care."

The principal author is a nurse with experience as a head nurse, director of nursing, educator and clinical nurse specialist. Her role as an advocate for patients and their families and her "helping presence" come through very strongly throughout these narratives. She describes becoming more involved than many health care professionals would think necessary or appropriate (for example, she goes on a long weekend excursion with a dead patient's wife and sister).

The stories of these families are told to improve our understanding of the emotional and spiritual needs of people experiencing loss or death. The authors hope that the stories convey the importance of truth telling, listening, compassion and celebration in the midst of dying. The stories include illustrations of the complex emotions of terminally ill people and their families, of reconciliation and of unresolved conflicts. One story is about a medical faculty member's struggle with his son's death and his own death from cancer. Some of the problems of loss and grief associated with the gradual decline that occurs in dementia are illustrated in another chapter. The removal of a respirator from a woman with end-stage emphysema is described in another story, and the death of a 19-year-old man with leukemia is also explored.

The narrative style of this book is somewhat unfamiliar. At times it seems to ramble, and the thoughts are disconnected. But, as Dr. Glen Davidson says in the foreword, "To the trained ear . . . the story provides a framework within which the teller may be helped to a better understanding of himself."

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**Venous Disorders: A Manual
of Diagnosis and Treatment**

G. Belcaro, A.N. Nicolaidis and M. Veller. 194 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company/Harcourt Brace and Company, Philadelphia; W.B. Saunders Canada, Toronto. 1995. \$51.95. ISBN 0-7020-2016-8

Overall rating: Excellent
Strengths: Anatomic and physiologic aspects of the venous system correlated with symptoms, diagnosis and diagnostic steps; well illustrated; easy to read
Weaknesses: Brief discussion of drug therapy
Audience: Internal medicine and surgical residents as well as technologists in vascular-system imaging

This book provides an excellent synopsis of venous disorders, owing to a good review of basic principles of the anatomic and physiologic aspects of the venous system. The authors correlate physiologic aspects with symptoms, diagnosis and diagnostic steps. There are numerous diagrams and clinical photos of physical signs and of test images, particularly Doppler results. This collection of diagrams and images is rarely found in one volume, and it serves as an excellent resource to explain to students or patients the anatomic aspects and symptoms of disorders.

The book is organized into 15 chapters that quickly point the reader to clinical areas of interest. The chapters cover topics ranging from venous thrombosis and thromboembolism to less common and even unusual sites of thrombosis. There is also a section on genital disorders of the venous system such as varicocele and hemorrhoids.

Drug treatment and surgical therapy are discussed in each relevant chapter. There is a brief synopsis of current therapy in each drug category with appropriate recommendations but without much detail. Although this book would be an excellent refer-