Fractures of the Calcaneus

Fractures of the calcaneus are commonly encountered in clinical practice and possess a challenge to the treating surgeon owing to the complexity of this fracture and lack of knowledge regarding this fracture. There are a lot of articles discussing various problems pertaining to calcaneus fracture, but a dedicated book addressing this fracture was long awaited.

This book has contributions from several eminent foot and ankle surgeons across the globe. The first three chapters of the book addresses the historical aspects, clinical anatomy and injury mechanics, and the imaging techniques and interpretation of images that have been simplified and made crystal clear with the help of well-illustrated figures. The next chapter 4 discusses the fracture classification in detail and the planning for treatment. Nonoperative treatment of calcaneus fracture has a separate dedicated chapter 5.

Chapter 6 deals with the surgical approaches available for fracture of the calcaneus, followed by chapters on percutaneous fixation and extensile lateral approach. The illustrations and images used are appropriate and well detailed to enable the reader a better understanding of the surgical technique. Open calcaneus fracture which is commonly encountered as a part of crush foot in daily practice is dealt as a separate chapter in a detailed way. Evolution of implants for calcaneus fracture and role of bone graft substitute are also discussed in separate chapters elaborately.

The next few chapters deal with complications of calcaneus fracture, their identification, and their treatment. Malunion, which is a common complication, is discussed as a separate chapter and its treatment strategy discussed as case illustrations. There is a separate chapter which deals with the outcome evaluation and various scoring systems used for calcaneus fractures. Chapter 18 on rehabilitation protocols following calcaneus fracture has been well written by a physiotherapist. The last chapter is an interesting chapter on evidence-based orthopedics with respect to calcaneus fracture and addresses what is optimal for the present day based on available evidence.

The DVD available with the book has nine useful videos covering various aspects on clinical signs, surgical exposures, fracture reduction techniques, void fillers, implants, and closure of wounds.
Summarily, this is a wonderfully written book with good illustrations and images in an attempt to simplify one of the most difficult fractures. I strongly recommend this book for all orthopedic surgeons, and this book must be made compulsory in all institutional libraries.

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