
Introduction

Textbooks of trauma surgery have traditionally been produced for surgeons. Yet operating room personnel (ORP) are as involved in the technical aspects of trauma surgery as the surgeons with whom they work. Indeed the surgeon is totally reliant on them before surgery to understand what will be required and have the right equipment when needed, and during the operation to understand what is happening and anticipate the surgeon's needs.

The *Techniques and Principles for the Operating Room* book is intended to bridge this gap. The first section, written by very experienced trauma ORP worldwide provides an overview of elements that make up an efficient trauma operating room. The second section, written by distinguished AO surgeons discusses the principles on which modern trauma management is based to give ORP an understanding of why certain fractures are managed in one way rather than another. This section is not intended to be comprehensive but to provide a concise outline of the theory of fracture management with suggestions in the further-reading part of available sources for those wishing to extend their understanding.

The final section describes individual common operations. These are laid out in a standard logical method and are intended primarily for the ORP about to undertake an unfamiliar procedure, although junior surgeons may also find them helpful. In each operation one method of fixation is described in detail; however, common alternatives are mentioned in the operative details or in the surgeon's key points at the end.

A book of this type cannot be fully comprehensive and cover every conceivable operation. We have tried to select operations that are either common or representative yet inevitably we will not have covered all eventualities.

We expect that this book will make interesting and informative reading and studying for those with an inquisitive mind wanting to know more about the rationale for using one technique as opposed to another. We trust that our book will also help and reassure any ORP with preparing and assisting at an unfamiliar procedure.