

## The fundamentals of phlebology

*Venous disease for clinicians*

**EDITOR** Helane S. Fronck  
**PUBLISHER** Royal Society of Medicine Press Ltd, 1 Wimpole St, London, UK W1G 0AE  
**TELEPHONE** 44 (0)20 7290 2921  
**FAX** 44 (0)20 7290 2929  
**WEBSITE** www.rsmppress.co.uk  
**PUBLISHED** 2007/112 pp/\$82.95

**OVERALL RATING** Good

**STRENGTHS** Review of anatomy; descriptions of newer techniques, treatments, and diagnostic equipment

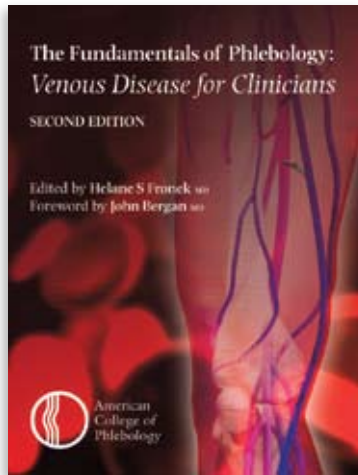
**WEAKNESSES** Price; mediocre photographs; US pharmacology

**AUDIENCE** Physicians interested in the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of venous disease

*The Fundamentals of Phlebology* is a primer for clinicians on the pathophysiology and treatment of venous diseases. As stated by the editor, it is born of the lack of medical education and training in the care of a common morbidity.

The book contains good overviews of newer techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of venous disease, including light-pulse therapy, duplex ultrasonography-directed treatment, and radiofrequency ablation. It helpfully describes common pitfalls, sclerosing agents (albeit based on US pharmacopeia), and practice pearls such as postprocedure ambulation.

The book's discussion of possible adverse events is wanting (eg, there is no mention of pulmonary embolus),



but it does emphasize the necessity of planning rapid responses in case of medical emergencies well in advance (such as the suggestion of automated external defibrillators in every medical clinic in the event of anaphylaxis). It also stresses the importance of meeting or exceeding state (or provincial) standards and organizing malpractice insurance coverage for procedures as well as aftercare.

Chapters could be better organized with main headings at the beginning, and the book's index is insufficient (eg, there is no listing under "necrosis," one of the more common adverse reactions, although it is discussed). For \$82.95, I was disappointed that the photo illustrations resembled those in glossy-print "miracle-cure" advertisements: the before and after shots had completely different lighting, which can inflate improvement.

Nothing can substitute hands-on experience in surgical procedures, so the book might best serve as a good companion text for physicians taking courses to upgrade their current skills, for residents training in phlebology, or for anyone interested in the newer techniques available.

—Wendy R. Mooney MD

**Dr Mooney** is a medical evaluator in the Centre for Evaluation of Radiopharmaceuticals and Biotherapeutics at Health Canada in Ottawa, Ont.

## Your child's best shot

*A parent's guide to vaccination*

**AUTHOR** Ronald Gold  
**PUBLISHER** Canadian Paediatric Society, 2305 St Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, ON K1G 4J8  
**TELEPHONE** 613 526-9397  
**FAX** 613 526-3332  
**WEBSITE** www.cps.ca  
**PUBLISHED** 2006/392 pp/\$21.95

**OVERALL RATING** Mediocre

**STRENGTHS** Provides excellent information; covers all aspects of vaccination

**WEAKNESSES** Lengthy and dense; technical language makes it difficult to read

**AUDIENCE** Parents

This book is meant to inform parents about the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines available for prevention of childhood infectious diseases. It is also clearly meant to help parents overcome fears about vaccines, which originate from a number of sources and have led some jurisdictions to decrease

