

INTRODUCTION

The shoulder joint must provide the stability and strength to anchor the upper limb to the trunk and, at the same time, provide the flexibility to move the arm and hand through space for functional activities. This issue discusses some of the many painful disorders, both acute and chronic, that can result from the high demands placed on the shoulder. It also outlines how the clinician should approach the examination and diagnosis of common disorders of the shoulder and details treatment regimens.

"Clinical Assessment of the Shoulder," by Drs. Cole and Reid, provides an overview of the comprehensive approach to the shoulder, detailing key aspects of the history, physical examination, and diagnostic testing. Dr. Brown's "Shoulder Pain and the Instrumental Musician" and Dr. Bonfiglio's "Management of Work-Related Shoulder Disorders" identify common causes of shoulder dysfunction in the respective patient populations and discuss specific rehabilitation programs for these disorders. The complex problem of reflex sympathetic dystrophy of the upper limb is clearly examined in "Diagnosis and Treatment of

the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome of the Upper Extremity," by Drs. Priebe, Werner, and Davidoff. Two of the more common patient populations with shoulder pain, the rheumatoid arthritic and geriatric populations, are discussed in "The Shoulder in Rheumatoid Arthritis," by Drs. Brander and Lim, and in "Geriatric Shoulder Pain," by Dr. Garden. Shoulder dysfunction in the disabled population is common but typically underreported. Dr. Strickler's "Shoulder Dysfunction Secondary to Axillary Nerve Palsy in the Disabled" looks at entrapment injuries of the axillary nerve as a cause. These articles provide a broad-based exposure to common and some uncommon acute and chronic shoulder disorders, as well as useful treatment plans.

This issue is dedicated to Gary Davidoff, MD, a great academician, an advocate for persons with disabilities, and a friend to all who knew him, who passed away since the initial version of his article was written.

*David X. Cifu, MD, Issue Editor
Medical College of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia*