

INTRODUCTION

At one time or another all practitioners of musculoskeletal medicine will be faced with the challenge of diagnosing and treating ankle injuries. These injuries may range from a simple sprain to a complex fracture dislocation with neurovascular compromise. Whether your patient is young or old, active or sedentary, a recreational athlete or professional, the goal of treatment must be the restoration of as near normal ankle function as possible. There is virtually no aspect of mobility that is not considerably affected by ankle function. Even simple standing and static balance are dependent upon the ankle.

In this issue of the *Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation*, we have tried to provide a balanced presentation for all aspects of ankle injury, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation. For readers interested in more comprehensive coverage, the references at the end of each article will direct them to the voluminous and exquisitely detailed works available on this subject. The goal of this issue is to bring the reader through the basic sciences of ankle kinesiology and function to

an understanding of how to approach persistently painful or problematic ankle injuries and how to develop appropriate and effective treatment strategies for their rehabilitation.

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Lastly, I would like to thank the individual authors all whom have repeatedly demonstrated excellence in their field and in the educational process by being committed researchers, superb clinicians and patient teachers. Their work and dedication continues to inspire this author and hopefully the readers of this journal in similar pursuits.

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