

INTRODUCTION

Elbow pain is a common presenting complaint to clinicians who treat patients with musculoskeletal injury. It is the intent of this issue of the *Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation* to provide clinicians with a logical and systematic approach to the diagnosis and treatment of elbow disorders.

Biomechanics of the Elbow provides an overview of pertinent kinesiology, physiology, and functional anatomy, an understanding of which will facilitate diagnosis and treatment of elbow injury. Anatomy and Physical Examination of the Elbow reviews the anatomy of the elbow joint and associated structures and presents a rational approach to the evaluation of the injured elbow. Overuse Injuries of the Elbow outlines basic concepts regarding the etiology of overuse injuries and describes a number of the more common overuse elbow injuries with an emphasis on diagnosis and rehabilitative management. Entrapment Neuropathies about the Elbow provides a comprehensive summary of common peripheral nerve entrapments with an emphasis on electrodiagnostic findings. Pediatric Elbow Injury reviews the osseous development of the elbow and relates these stages of development to elbow injuries commonly seen in children. Special emphasis is placed on differentiation of normal radiologic development from pathologic conditions. Surgical Aspects of Tennis Elbow Tendinosis describes the author's technique for the surgical and postoperative management of cases of this common overuse injury that do not respond to rehabilitative measures alone.

Each author has a special interest in the treatment of elbow injury. Robert Nirschl, MD, MS, founding director of the Nirschl Orthopedic and Sportsmedicine Clinic, is recognized internationally as an authority on disorders of the elbow. Robert Shapiro, PhD, is director of the Biodynamics Laboratory at the University of Kentucky. He is assisted by doctoral candidate, J.A. Nyland, M.Ed.L., PT, ATC. Michael Vennix, MD, assistant professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Baylor College of Medicine, recently completed a fellowship in Electrodiagnosis Medicine under the direction of Jacqueline Wertsch, MD, director of Electrodiagnostic Services at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Zablocki VA Medical Center. Drs. O'Connor, Ollivierre, Guidi, and Wilder have all completed sports medicine fellowships. Frank Pettrone, MD, serves as team physician for several clubs on the high school, university, and national levels, and has a number of publications on the orthopedic management of upper extremity injuries to his credit. Janet Sobel, PT, is director of rehabilitation at the Virginia Sportsmedicine Institute.

I wish to extend thanks to each author whose effort has contributed to the quality of this issue. Special gratitude is extended to co-editor, Robert P. Nirschl, MD, MS, who as my fellowship director has been an ideal mentor and educator, always emphasizing an individualized approach to each athlete and patient we assessed.

Robert P. Wilder, MD