

## Book review: Compendium of Orthopaedics

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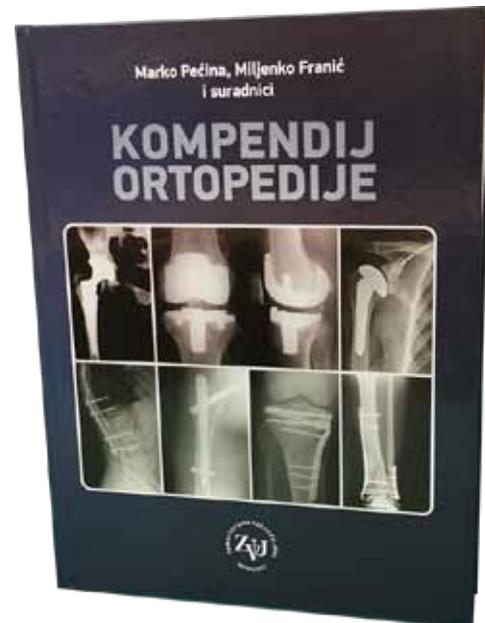
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Orthopaedics is a medical specialty dealing with the study, prevention and treatment of the diseases and injuries of the locomotor or musculoskeletal system. A word compendium is an abridged presentation of the basic notions related to a particular science, research, etc.

The authors of this textbook wished to contribute to a better knowledge regarding the diseases and injuries of the locomotor system in the sense of their significance for the population of today. Musculoskeletal diseases and injuries present a pathology in civilised society considering the fact that human life expectancy is increasing. In this regard, equally increasing are the following problems: degenerative changes of the joints, osteoporosis, and pathological bone fractures. The modern way of life leads to enormous increase in the number of spinal diseases (due to which a great number of working days may be lost), whereas treating consequences of traumatism in traffic will in the near future cause expenses in the height of one quarter of the total funds allocated to the healthcare domain. Engaging in sports and recreation represents a phenomenon of modern life; acute injuries and overuse injuries of the musculoskeletal system occur thereby. The problem issue regarding the possibility of preventing and treating the diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system has been recognised on global scale too: World Health Organization (WHO) founded in 2000 the *Bone and Joint Decade*, an initiative continually ongoing.

The example of orthopaedics may be of use is following the way in which the content of a particular profession changes in course of time depending on the change in pathology, progress primarily in basic medical sciences, and the application of modern technology in medicine. The European Union of Medical Specialties (UEMS) drafted the present programme and created the name of the specialty – orthopaedics and traumatology. The aforementioned content-related and formal changes within the framework of orthopaedics have resulted in the need for a new orthopaedics textbook. Marko Pečina and Miljenko Franić – principal authors and editors, in collaboration with 18 more highly competent experts and subspecialists, have attempted to tackle the subject issues in a summarised, compendium-like manner.

This book is the result of many years of clinical experience of the authors in working with patients and the participation of the authors in all forms of teaching in orthopaedics and traumatology of the locomotor system. The book is divided in two parts: general and special. The general one consists of 15 chapters including the descriptions of the history of orthopaedics, the basics of diagnostics, general affections of the skeleton, infections, tumours, overuse syndromes, canalicular syndromes and regenerative orthopaedics, and orthopaedic aids. The traumatology of the locomotor system is the subject of a comprehensive chapter of major importance and the basic principles of the treatments in sports traumatology is also subject of one chapter of the book. The special part of the textbook includes chapters tackling classically divided regions: neck, chest,



spine, shoulder, elbow, hand, hip, knee, and foot. A comprehensive Subject Index may be found on the closing pages of the book.

On 416 pages of the book with interesting and well-chosen images and drawings that make it easier to understand the text and facilitate learning, the authors have made the book attractive and complete. The textbook consists of 25 chapters with 260 photographs and drawings, and 367 references. With the content and scope of the provided knowledge, documented by original clinical photographs and drawings, the book is intended for a wider circle of readers and experts. It will primarily be useful for orthopaedists, traumatologists, radiologists, paediatricians, physiatrists, family physicians, medical students in regular graduate and postgraduate specialist classes, and in continuing education. It will also be a useful read for a wide range of professionals, such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

The educational value of the book leaves the deepest impression on the reader. As special features of the textbook, we would like to mention precision, systematic quality, logical sequence and gradual presentation, all together making the work easily readable and understandable.

Apart from the authors, special thanks should be extended to eminent orthopaedists and reviewers, especially Professor DSc Miroslav Hašpl. This graphically rather demanding book would not have seen the light of day without great effort made by the staff of ZVU. The book is very well organised, comprehensive, written by twenty experts from well-known Croatian institutions, and supported by an extensive list of references. It will be of use to healthcare professionals (and associated professions) insofar that it will enrich their professional biomedical culture, improving their day-to-day work and the services they provide their patients with. It is a valuable contribution to a better knowledge regarding the diseases and injuries of the locomotor system, which seriously affect our existence.