

Book Review

WOUND CARE PRACTICE: A REVIEW

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Wound Care Practice, one of the newest publications from Best Publishing Company, sports an all-star cast of authors and editors. Paul J. Sheffield, PhD is the senior editor of this comprehensive text of nearly 800 pages. Caroline Fife, M.D. and Adrienne P.S. (Patti) Smith, M.D. are co-editors along with more than 50 contributors to this unique book.

More to the point, I now own 2 copies of this book. Most reference texts are quickly relegated to a shelf, rarely to see the light of day with a much rarer dusting. Not so with Wound Care Practice. The chapters are copiously filled with illustrations, graphs, tables, and photographs. The text and formatting are clear and comfortable to the eye. Each chapter flows well with similar writing style, highlighting out the efforts of the editors in making this a readable resource.

In other texts, I might find that reading a chapter about a certain aspect of wound care leaves me with more questions than before I started. That is not the case for Wound Care Practice. Here is a brief outline of Chapter 8 by Dr. Timothy Emhoff and Sherry Ferro who discuss wound debridement. First, they talk about the rationale for debriding non-viable

tissue from wounds. Next, they include a mnemonic as a memory aid to assist one in making a proper debridement choice along with advantages and disadvantages for different types of debridement techniques. Then each debridement method is illustrated with photographs so that a practitioner new to chronic wound care will know what to look for in properly debrided wounds. Analgesia and hemostatic techniques are also effectively covered. Finally, newer techniques of debridement such as laser and biosurgical tools are also discussed. There are 40 chapters in Wound Care Practice, and each is as well written as this one.

Are there problems in the book? I have noted only rare misspellings and awkward legends for a few graphs or diagrams. On the whole, errors are precious few, and the editors and publisher are committed to eradicating them in the next edition. Would I hesitate to buy the book on this basis? Certainly not!

Whether a novice or a seasoned wound care provider, this book will be a valuable addition to your library. I recommend it to you without reservation.