

Comprehensive techniques in CSF leak repair and skull base reconstruction

By BS Bleier (Editor)

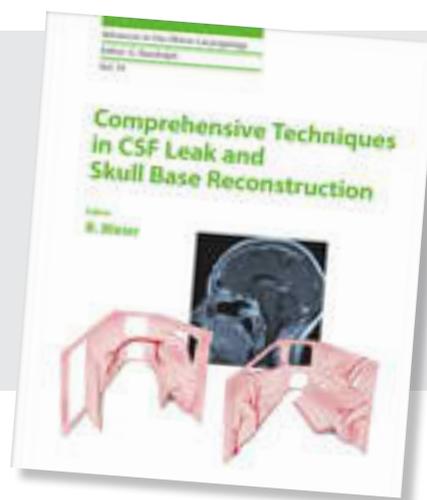
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This textbook is written as a practical guide to anterior skull base reconstruction, and covers the subject in a relatively concise 180 pages. The first chapter is a nice introduction, covering skull base anatomy, CSF physiology and diagnostic tests, but would perhaps benefit from some more radiological illustrations. There is a helpful chapter discussing the different graft materials available, both autologous and commercially available products including tissue glues and dural sealants.

The chapters then progress step-wise through different methods of anterior skull base repair, beginning with free graft techniques and the workhorse nasoseptal flap. The intraoperative techniques are detailed, with tips on avoiding complications as well as postoperative management. There are several chapters covering other pedicled flaps from within the nose, as well as some extranasal options which may not be as commonly used. These include pericranial and palatal flaps as well as the facial buccinator flap, pedicled on the facial artery and more commonly used in oral reconstructions. Microvascular free flap options are also discussed.

Skull base repairs are discussed according to site in subsequent chapters, which cross-references with the chapters relating to specific flaps and techniques. Additional helpful chapters include the management of intracranial pressure, particularly in relation to spontaneous CSF leaks, and general postoperative care.

Each chapter is well-referenced and the illustrations are clear. In addition, there are links to online supplementary material including surgical videos, which are clearly marked at their relevant positions in the book. Overall this book provides a helpful overview of the options available to the anterior skull base surgeon.

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