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Book Review

Intervertebral Fusion using Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer Implants

Editors: John W Brantigan, MD and Carl Laurysen, MD

Quality Medical Publishing Inc., St Louis

Pages 650; 2 DVDs

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Dr Paul Brantigan has been closely involved with the development of carbon fibre reinforced polymer (CFRP) implants for intervertebral fusion. He has co-edited this book with Dr Carl Laurysen on the use of CFRP implants in anterior column spinal fusion. One of the main stated aims of Dr Brantigan in producing this book is to document 'safety and efficacy' of CFRP devices in intervertebral fusion, as he has financially benefitted from these devices, which is commendable. The editors have assembled mainly leading spinal orthopaedic surgeons from North America, Europe and Japan to detail their experience with CFRP implants.

The publisher has done a impressive job in producing a handsome book. The font used, the generous line-spacing and the high quality of the paper makes reading of the book a joy. The line drawing, photographs and radiological images are plentiful and are of excellent quality. There are two accompanying DVDs containing operative videos. The operative videos are of superb visual quality with commentary and animations.

The book is divided into six sections: principles and planning, implants and clinical results, patient education, surgical techniques, complications and case reports. These six sections contain 37 chapters. Each chapter is well written and detailed. The book reads flawlessly.

Dr Brantigan has declared that he has financial stake in Brantigan CFRP implants. However, other authors have not declared any conflict of interests. The book is almost on Brantigan CFRP implants. Therefore the reader does not get any perspective on other intervertebral implants that are available on the market or the merit of CFRP implants compared to others.

The book would be ideal for those surgeons who are already using Brantigan CFRP implants. For them the book would be a comprehensive manual. It would be useful for those seriously considering using Brantigan CFRP in their practice. However, others might find better use of the \$275.00 which this book costs.

In co-editing a book, on devices that Dr Brantigan was instrumental in developing, he has set a standard for other innovative physicians to do the same to document and reflect on the efficacy and safety of their inventions.

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Competing interests: The book reviewer retains the book after reviewing it. This is in accordance with the policy of the journal.

