BOOK REVIEW
Karen T. Pitman, MD, Section Editor

REVISION SURGERY IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY
By David R. Edelstein, Thieme, New York, NY, 2008, 504 pp, $170.00

Numerous surgical atlases and texts are available that detail the steps and important anatomic considerations of the major procedures of otolaryngology. Few sources exist, however, that address the complexities of revision surgery in our field. David Edelstein’s Revision Surgery in Otolaryngology attempts to fill this gap in the literature. This first edition text is designed as a concise treatise on the breadth of revision otolaryngic surgery. While there are books written on specific revision surgeries, such as revision sinus surgery, to my knowledge this is the first book designed to encompass revision otolaryngic surgery as a whole.

The book is organized into 6 sections: general otolaryngology, otology, head and neck surgery, facial plastic surgery, nasal and sinus surgery, and pediatrics. Each chapter commences with a “decision tree” or algorithm for management of the recurrent disease described in the chapter. Experienced, well-known surgeons author the majority of the chapters, and each chapter is designed to outline the important details of appropriate preoperative evaluation, surgical nuances, potential complications, and postsurgical care.

The head and neck surgery section comprises 15 chapters (97 pages) that cover all the major subsites of mucosal malignancies, in addition to thyroid and parathyroid surgery, recurrent salivary tumors, non-melanoma skin cancers, and revision neck dissection. Additional chapters on revision free flap reconstruction and recurrent Zenker diverticulum management are valuable additions to this section. The algorithms given at the outset of each chapter are helpful to guide the reader and synthesize the authors’ approach to each topic. While each chapter is organized at the discretion of the individual author, the prose is overall clean and concise, and the information well organized in each chapter. Each chapter is a short lesson from an expert surgeon relating their approach and concerns for revision head and neck surgery. Variability in the quality of the chapters occurs with the photos and figures, however. The chapters on non-melanoma skin cancer revision surgery, Zenker diverticulum, and revision free flap surgery have excellent color photographs that complement the accompanying text. The remaining chapters have either no photographs or dark, poor-quality black and white photos. The quality of the figures also varies widely throughout the text. Given the complexities of revision surgery and the anticipated interest in such a surgical tome, it would be helpful to have better operative photos and diagrams throughout the text.

The value of this book is in its attempt to address the many subspecialties of otolaryngology. It is well written, well organized, and not overwhelming in length or laborious detail of historical points or previous studies. It is a practical text that appeals to not only residents and fellows in training but also practicing general otolaryngologists who may not see the volume of revision cases seen at tertiary centers. This book would be a welcome addition to a departmental library and excellent for board review purposes. As a new text, Revision Surgery in Otolaryngology attempts to add to the body of knowledge on a topic that is all too often poorly addressed in the literature and that many surgeons of all experience levels are eager to learn more about.

KELLY MICHELE MALLOY, MD
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania