



ELSEVIER
SAUNDERS

Orthop Clin N Am 35 (2004) ix

ORTHOPEDIC
CLINICS
OF NORTH AMERICA

Preface

Chronic low back pain: issues and management, part II



Ashish D. Diwan, MBBS, PhD



Safdar N. Khan, MD

Guest Editors

One way to strive for excellence in caring for patients with chronic low back pain is to review the utility and efficacy of current forms of treatments, diagnostic modalities, and newer treatment options on an ongoing basis. In this issue of the *Orthopedic Clinics of North America*, Carragee's group addresses the issue of diagnostic evaluation for this challenging group of patients. Gorman et al discuss the neuropathic aspects of the symptom complex and make some useful suggestions regarding pharmacologic management. Nonfusion technologies have always been an attractive alternative to lumbar arthrodesis; however, none of these devices currently has regulatory approval. It is imperative to advance the understanding of our readership in these areas, which are likely to become a future option in select patients. The articles on intervertebral disc replacement and dynamic stabilization of the spine in this issue complement the article on nuclear replacement strategies from Part I of this series (the *Orthopedic Clinics of North America*, April 2003).

Intradiscal therapeutic strategies have been in vogue for decades, but their efficacy is still not backed with substantial clinicopathologic evidence. Newer strategies are evolving, however, and they are addressed by Yung Chen in this issue and Tim Davis et al in Part I. The classical operation of lumbar arthrodesis has been proven to be efficacious by a series of careful clinical trials augmented with a significant body of preclinical studies. Burkus et al's

article on anterior lumbar interbody fusion surgery, which appears to abrogate the use of bone graft, is a "must read" in this issue. Similarly, Maher has done an excellent job in summarizing the nonoperative physical therapy modalities for our readership. Tim Yoon and Brisby et al's articles also help us look toward the future by addressing molecular strategies and potential cell-based treatment for patients with chronic low back pain.

We hope that readers enjoy and gain from this issue just as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. We would like to acknowledge our trans-Pacific team: Deb Dellapena at Elsevier and Vanessa Thomas at the St. George Hospital, Sydney.

Ashish D. Diwan, MBBS, PhD
*St. George Hospital Campus
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
University of New South Wales
Research and Education Centre
Suite 247, 4-10 South Street, Kogarah
Sydney, New South Wales 2217, Australia
E-mail address: a.diwan@unsw.edu.au*

Safdar N. Khan, MD
*East River Professional Building
523 East 72nd Street
New York, NY 10021, USA
E-mail address: khans@hss.edu*