

Preface



Gerard P. Varlotta, DO, FACS M Barry Jordan, MD, MPH, FACS M
Guest Editors

Medical injuries are the unfortunate consequence of all sports but the prevalence is higher in combative sports participation. In boxing, injuries can be found crossing the standard lines of medical care and include neurologic, ophthalmologic, musculoskeletal, and behavioral. The ringside physician needs to be aware and capable of handling all emergent neurologic and non-neurologic aspects of the sport for the protection of the participants. Unanticipated catastrophic occurrences need to be minimized through education of the medical aspects of the sport and knowledge of the sport itself.

This issue of the *Clinics of Sports Medicine* is a comprehensive accumulation of the variety of issues that need to be recognized by those participating in the health care of boxers to ensure their safety. It is not intended to be a complete in-depth analysis on each aspect but is meant to provide a basis for further learning to ensure the safety of the participants. This issue will discuss the administrative and legal issues, and the pre-participation assessment, as well as the acute and nonacute neurologic, ophthalmologic, facial, infectious disease, cardiac, orthopedic, and rehabilitation treatment of the injured boxer. Additionally, an understanding of the state of performance enhancement in sports and its relevance to boxing is also included.

“Medical Issues in Boxing” concentrates on the sport-specific issues that concern those participating in the medical care of the boxer. Rehabilitation and injury prophylaxis is the next level of achievement that will provide a better understanding of the risks associated with the sport. A better national tracking system of injuries and the long-term sequelae is necessary to continue to improve the safety of participation in the sport of boxing.

Gerard P. Varlotta, DO, FACS M
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
New York University School of Medicine
Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine
317 East 34th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016, USA

Barry Jordan, MD, MPH, FACSM
Brain Injury Program
Burke Rehabilitation Hospital
785 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603, USA

E-mail addresses:
gerard.varlotta@nyumc.org (G.P. Varlotta)
bjordan@burke.org (B. Jordan)