

Preface



Jerome K. Steck, DPM, FACFAS
Guest Editor

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestioned ability of a man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.

—Henry David Thoreau

It is an honor to be the guest editor for this issue of *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery*. Revisional foot and ankle surgery is an expansive topic and these authors have done a tremendous job of anatomically breaking down the foot and ankle and giving rationale approaches to failed surgical procedures.

Failed or less than satisfactory surgical results can be disheartening to surgeons and even worse, devastating for our patients. The ability to successfully revise these complications is an art that is learned from competent mentors and colleagues, as well as from years of experience and often times heartache. Each revision case presents unique obstacles and challenges making it impossible to present everything the surgeon may encounter in this compilation or any other text. The surgeon must rely on his own acumen and prowess to plan and execute these very difficult cases properly.

Revisional surgery not only tests surgical skills but also the surgeon's ability to interact with patients. The surgeon may need to explain to a patient and their family why a previous surgery failed and why the next procedures will work. Alternatively and equally as difficult, is explaining in a professional and non provoking manner why another doctor's surgery didn't work. Good original surgery can be negated by non compliant and metabolic decrepit patients and revisional surgery in these patients must be extremely well thought out if attempted. An accurate assessment of all of the risks and benefits of revisional surgery must be weighed out, and sometimes certainly the best option is to not operate at all.

I would like to thank the contributors for their diligence and expertise. It has been a pleasure to work with each of them. My wife and family have also been very supportive during this endeavor and I am forever grateful to them.

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