

Preface



John T. Campbell, MD
Guest Editor

The hallux and first ray play a crucial role in stance, ambulation, and propulsion. During stance phase, normal gait demonstrates progression of pressure through the foot, terminating in the hallux. Disorders of the hallux and first metatarsal can impair this function, resulting in dramatic effects on gait. Hallux valgus has commanded significant attention as a disorder that alters forefoot mechanics and disrupts patients' function. Other conditions of the hallux and first ray may draw less attention, but can similarly cause severe pain and impairment. This issue of *Foot and Ankle Clinics* will focus on these other topics, some of which are common and others which are esoteric but no less important.

A series of authors have focused in depth on hallux rigidus. The etiology and pathophysiology of this condition are covered, followed by proper evaluation and nonoperative treatments. Surgical options are then explored in depth, covering cheilectomy, metatarsal and phalangeal osteotomies, resection and interposition arthroplasties, implant arthroplasty, and arthrodesis. The authors are to be commended for exploring in detail the proper indications, meticulous operative techniques, postoperative management, and outcomes of these varied approaches.

Other articles address iatrogenic problems, including malunion, nonunion and osteonecrosis of the first metatarsal, nerve disorders of the hallux, and the challenging problem of hallux varus deformity. These authors lead the reader through etiology, clinical evaluation, and treatment options to properly manage these troublesome conditions. Sesamoid disorders occur due to numerous etiologies, affecting athletes and non-athletes alike. A discussion of causative factors along with a methodical approach to diagnosis and management is presented. Arthroscopy of the first metatarsophalangeal joint has improved with advances in small joint arthroscopic equipment and instrumentation; a comprehensive guide is provided, including proper indications, patient set-up, and surgical techniques.

A diverse panel of experts has been assembled to provide experienced insight into the appropriate management of these challenging problems, whether common or unusual. We hope that our efforts will assist in the treatment of patients, leading ultimately to improved function and quality of life.

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