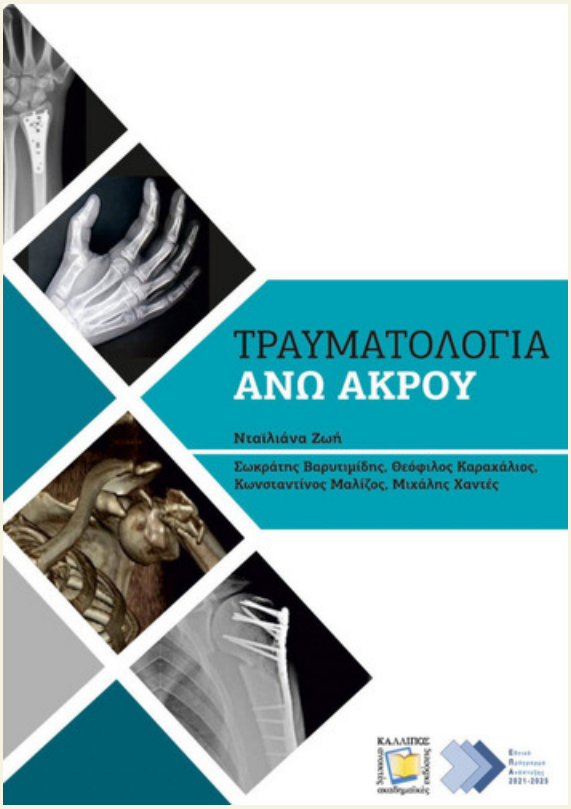

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Abstract

In the present textbook the traumatology of the upper extremity (shoulder, arm, elbow, forearm, wrist, hand), including injuries to bones, joints, muscles, tendons, ligaments, vessels, nerves and skin defects, in adults and children, is presented. Upper extremity trauma is particularly common, varying in severity -from simple injuries and skin lacerations to severely injured extremities (mangled) and amputations- and represents a frequent cause of disability. The textbook presents in detail the anatomy of the upper limb, the basic mechanisms of trauma (soft tissue and skeletal) and the biomechanics of fractures and lists: the diagnostic approach to upper extremity injuries, the clinical problems according to the injured tissue and age, the treatment options [first aid, placement of splints and conservative treatment, methods of bone fixation (osteosynthesis) and soft tissue reconstruction (tendon suturing, nerve suturing, ligament repair)] as well as minimally invasive techniques, the complications, the rehabilitation. Early and correct diagnosis and treatment of upper extremity trauma ensure the best functional outcome and the avoidance of complications, while the knowledge of the latest surgical reconstructive techniques contributes to the best possible outcome. Emphasis has been placed on the presentation of clinical series, as well as on reduction/reconstruction techniques (non-surgical and surgical), with multiple photographs and illustrations, aiming at the training of students and residents and at the continuous education of doctors of different specialties (orthopaedic surgery, traumatology, emergency medicine, neurosurgery, physical and rehabilitation medicine, sports medicine), health professionals (nurses, physical therapists) and coaches, in the context of lifelong learning.

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