pacted rectal objects transanally. Foley's catheters have been passed around the object to break intraluminal suction and facilitate extraction. Hughes described the use of Sengstaken-Blakemore tube to extract an impacted glass; 5 plaster of Paris with an umbilical wick has been described by Sachdev 6 to remove an inverted urine glass. The plaster of Paris gets stuck to the hollow of the glass object and facilitates traction and helps in maneuvering out the glass object. Glass objects pose considerable risk of secondary injury due to breaking during transanal extraction. Repeated attempts at extraction greatly increase the risk of rectal injury. In such instances, in the absence of gross fecal contamination or obstruction, removal through a longitudinal colotomy via a transabdominal route may be safer.

Sudip Sanyal, Kh. Devinder Singh, Pramod Kumar, Lileswar Kaman
Department of Surgery

Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and
Research, Chandigarh 160 012

References

Book Review


Research is the heart of science and communication is the soul of research. Every young scientist dreams of publishing his/her research in a peer-reviewed journal and every experienced scientist wishes to be a popular communicator. Communication skills, which are an essential part of a biomedical scientist's repertoire, are not covered in medical curriculum. The scientist has to learn these, painstakingly, on the job from seniors or peers or by attending communication workshops. As such workshops provide a one-time learning, they are not effective in developing a culture of effective communication and the scientists have to depend on reference books for regular guidance. Most foreign books are either expensive or not easily available and Indian publications on biomedical communication have been scarce. This book fulfills this long-felt need.

The editors of the book are well known for their pioneering contributions to research communication. The list of authors includes experts who have tremendous experience as editors and writers.

The book covers a variety of topics related to biomedical communication. The opening chapters discuss the why and how of communication and give tips on getting started. There is in-depth focus on original articles, with separate chapters devoted to introduction, methods, results and discussion. Similarly, all aspects of oral and poster presentation are covered in detail. A variety of examples of tables, graphs and figures guide the reader in preparation of the written manuscript and oral and poster presentations. There is useful advice on writing a thesis, choosing a journal, and using computers in research and writing. The book also provides insight into editorial and peer review process and guidance on writing reviews, book chapters and books. The chapter on writing style is a literary gem while the chapter on grammar and syntax is exhaustive. The controversial themes — authorship, conflict of interest, fraud and copyright, and current challenges — communication with patients and society, will be of interest to senior biomedical scientists.

The style is direct and clear; and the authors give useful tips. The book also has some deficiencies. There is lack of uniformity in organization and content of chapters, and reference style. Young scientists would have benefited if the chapter on grammar and syntax had cited references. There are some proofing errors, e.g., units are missing in figure 6(a). There is also some confusing advice for making slides — a good rule of thumb is one slide per minute (p 136); each slide is typically shown for only about half a minute (p 147). Addition of some important topics — how to write references / bibliography, prepare title and abstract, and select key words for original articles — would be a welcome feature.

Nevertheless, these deficiencies do not diminish the overall usefulness of this book. Communication for Biomedical Scientists is an excellent resource both for the postgraduate student and the experienced biomedical scientist.

Arun Bhatt