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Comments on a book review

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Sir: Having read Dr. van Bockel's review [1] of the book *Extracorporeal renal surgery and autotransplantation* [2], I fear some obvious misconceptions, due to important statements in various chapters having been overlooked. So please allow me to comment on some of van Bockel's remarks.

Contrary to what is claimed by the reviewer, extracorporeal repair and renal autotransplantation is by no means proposed by the editors or by the authors of this book as the one and only therapy for renovascular disease. In every chapter dealing with therapy for renovascular disease, alternatives such as various

kinds of in situ vascular surgery techniques, as well as PTRAs, are mentioned (pages 63, 81, 92, 97, 134).

It is further claimed that leaving the ureter intact as an alternative to ureteroneocystostomy is "not even mentioned". In chapter 5, which describes the technical details of renal autotransplantation, this alternative is, indeed, discussed (page 70).

It is also claimed that chapter 6 does not state whether all procedures were technically successful. However, this is stated on page 82. In chapter 7, as well as in other chapters, PTRAs are discussed as an alternative to surgery.

The review ends with once again claiming that alternative techniques are not mentioned in the book. As I have pointed out already, alternative treatment procedures are, in fact, mentioned in the appropriate chapters. Perhaps they are not described in detail, but this is because,

as the title indicates, this is a book on renal autotransplantation. The purpose of this book is to draw attention to a technical procedure which, in many patients, is a valid alternative to in situ surgery and, in some cases, is the best way to correct complex renal or renovascular abnormalities.

References

1. Bockel JH van (1998) Book review: Extracorporeal renal surgery and autotransplantation. *Transpl Int* 11: 390
2. Brekke IB, Flatmark (eds) (1997) *Extracorporeal renal surgery and autotransplantation*. Berlin, Springer

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