



Introduction

The articles in this series on rotator cuff injuries stem from presentations made at the 2003 Southern Orthopaedic Association meeting. Evaluations from the symposium indicated that the registrants felt this was a considerable help to them in understanding current concepts in evaluation and treatment of rotator cuff injuries. We have asked the presenters to stay true to the presentations at the meeting but with updates that have occurred in their area since that time. It is our hope that this will be a value to you in organizing your thoughts regarding the different areas of evaluation and management of rotator cuff injuries.

Included in the series is an article by Bytowski and Black detailing nonoperative management of rotator cuff

injuries. Cothran has done an excellent job updating our knowledge on imaging techniques, particularly related to MRI. A special focus section on the contact athlete serves to highlight some of the subtleties in this particular high-risk group of athletes. Finally, both mini-open and arthroscopic repair techniques are discussed with the most recent developments outlined.

Undoubtedly, as those of us in the baby boomer generation reach the rotator cuff age, this information will be more rather than less important for the treating orthopaedist. We hope that the JSOA readership will benefit as much from this compilation as we have in compiling it.