

each new microsatellite on as many families as possible to verify correct mendelian segregation.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**Oehmichen M, Kirchner H (eds) (1996) The wound healing process – forensic pathological aspects.** Schmidt-Römhild-Verlag, Lübeck, 344 pages, DM 48.–. ISBN 3-7950-0310-5

The wound healing process including estimating wound age and distinguishing intravital from postmortem processes is a topic of forensic practice and a particular focus of forensic research. Many other medical disciplines do research on this complex topic with other goals. This book is a presentation of previous and new interdisciplinary results without claiming completeness. It presents the experience of the pathogenetic background of wound repair and describes possibilities of estimating wound age.

The individual chapters are mainly based on lectures given at the 5th Lübeck Congress of North German Forensic Scientists in 1994. The individual papers include dermatological, pathological and surgical aspects, functions and effects of various humoral fac-

tors such as cytokines and interleukines, cathepsin D, proteinase inhibitors, ions, prostaglandins, and cell adhesion molecules, cellular reactions such as RNA/DNA synthesis of epidermal basal cells, reaction of platelets, mast cells, macrophages, erythrocytes, hemoglobin degradation and synthesis and extracellular distribution of collagen. Finally the book deals with the forensic application of wound age estimation including vital and supravital reactions, estimating the age of hematomas in living subjects based on spectrometric measurements, time-dependent morphological alterations of injection marks, and early vital reactions in bleedings of the laryngeal muscles after laryngeal injuries. This recommendable book therefore gives an up-to-date overview of time-dependent mechanisms of wound healing for forensic theory and routine practice.

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