

Hypermobility of Joints

Peter Beighton, Rodney Grahame and
Howard Bird

Hypermobility of Joints

Third Edition

With 73 Figures



Springer

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Foreword to the Third Edition

Ten years after the Second Edition and 16 years after the First Edition of this monograph (1983), I am called upon again to give blessing and introduction to the 6-year extension, even hyperextension, of the authors' collective wisdom in the field of joint hypermobility.

Sciences advances, and clearly the coverage and content has changed. Parts of the manuscript are retained to give continuity of reference but over half is new, a smaller print size allowing retention of early seminal references (including my own written with Barbara Ansell and the late Julian Kirk in 1967), as well as incorporation of the many new in this intriguing and proliferating field. It must give much satisfaction to the triumvirate of authors that their basic clinical classifications still correlate well with the aberrant genes and structural abnormalities in collagen and other proteins responsible for these diverse conditions, identified through the recent rapid advances in molecular biology. The excellent chapter by Karl Kadler, a new contributor, leads the reader skillfully through this important area of science.

Genetic engineering producing cure, hinted at in the last edition, still eludes us but may not be far away whilst the implications of the unravelling of these rare conditions, for the pathogenesis of more common conditions including osteoarthritis, are substantial.

Amidst the scholarship and practical advice (some of it still slightly contentious and to be further researched) we glimpse one of the justifications and attractions of work in this field. The chapter devoted to joint laxity and the performing arts, retained and expanded, continues to intrigue as a clinical contrast to the scientific chapters in this field.

Although each of the three editors has now had the opportunity to take responsibility for a separate edition, it is to be hoped that this will not be the last and that the monograph will serve to fuel the interest of future generations of rheumatologists, and others, in this area.

Reference

Kirk JH, Ansell BM, Bywaters EGL (1967) The hypermobility syndrome. *Ann Rheum Dis* 26: 419–425

April 1999

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