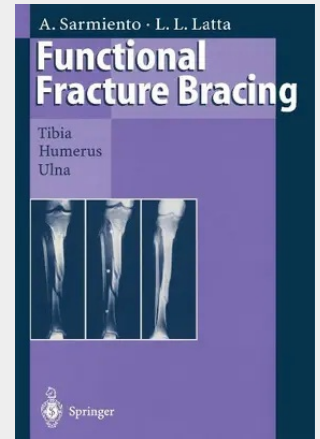


Functional Fracture Bracing

Tibia, Humerus, and Ulna

At the writing of this book, the United States is in the midst of an intense public debate concerning a widely perceived need for reform of the Health Care Delivery System. The reform is primarily aimed at the provision of medical insurance to a large segment of the population currently deprived of that coverage and to the reduction of the escalating costs of medical care. Solutions to the existing problems have been elusive because the causes of the dilemma are multifactorial, complex, and difficult to identify clearly. There is, however, general consensus that the use and abuse of technology has played a major role in the growing costs of medical care. The importance of fracture care in the overall financing of the health care reform is significant, since injuries to the musculoskeletal system are responsible for a very large percentage of the general expenditures in this area. The cost is not limited to hospitalization and professional services, but also impacts the economy with temporary or permanent interruption of individual productivity.

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234,33 €

219,00 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783662030950

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-3-662-03095-0

Verlag: Springer

Erscheinungstermin: 16.01.2013

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2013

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 554 g

Seiten: 282

Format (B x H): 178 x 254 mm

