tions in mg/dl instead of mmol/l and errors such as in table 7, p 461 which reports a gene frequency of familial hypercholesterolaemia of 1:1000 instead of 1:500.

The chapter on the genetics of the human apolipoproteins by Jan Breslow is well written, by an established expert in the field. However, due to the limitations outlined previously, there is no mention of the recent reports suggesting that specific apolipoprotein restriction fragment length polymorphisms may be genetic markers for susceptibility to develop obstructive coronary artery disease. Furthermore, there is no discussion of current clinical controversies regarding the value of measuring plasma apoproteins such as apo A-I, A-II, and B in predicting the presence of significant coronary artery disease.

In summary, this volume provides a good reference to the current concepts in lipid metabolism, but will appeal mainly to the non-clinician and basic scientists interested in this field.

**Alan Rees**

**Chorionic Villi Sampling**


There are now several useful books about chorionic villus sampling so one may ask, do we really need another just yet? The answer seems to be yes. This is a worth while little volume containing short, clear, and well illustrated articles by members of several European groups with considerable experience and a pleasing scientific approach. It contains something of value for most workers in the field and will be read with pleasure much more widely. It will prove particularly suitable for the audience that it is aimed at, namely obstetricians.

It starts with a review of obstetric approaches for CVS by Bruno Brambati, with particular emphasis on obstetric complications, and a reassuring short term follow up of the newborn babies in the large Milan series. There is also a careful description of the problems and solutions of karyotyping chorionic villus material by G Terzoli and G Simoni, with up to date recommendations on how to maximise the number of mitotic figures available in short term (48 hour) chorionic villus cultures.

B Gustavii has three short articles in which he explains that he abandoned CVS under direct vision because it carries a greater risk of spontaneous abortion than other approaches; describes his simple method of transabdominal chorionic villus sampling; and discusses reasons for the high frequency of non-viable pregnancies found by ultrasound in women presenting with the request for CVS.

An obstetrician, a clinical geneticist, and a cytogeneticist describe their experience in Lausanne in three chapters that make easy reading because of their anecdotal nature. Three articles from Paris, on CVS using biopsy forceps, on a method for selective early abortion in multiple pregnancies, and on the application of molecular methods for prenatal diagnosis of the haemoglobinopathies are particularly welcome, as we might easily miss such articles in the French literature.

In addition, there is an interesting article by Kleijer from Rotterdam on the present state of play in first trimester diagnosis of metabolic disorders, and one on the principles of DNA diagnosis from D N Cooper of the UK.

The book provides a good technical introduction to CVS. Its shortcoming is the absence of a discussion of the principles of evaluating the short and long term risks of the new procedure. Most practitioners are likely to become involved in a national or international collaborative register, or, better, in a randomised controlled trial. For those entering the field, this is one of the most difficult scientific aspects to come to terms with. A short crisp article explaining the need for, and the practitioner's moral responsibility to participate in, good scientific follow up studies would have been particularly valuable.

**Bernadette Modell**
Chorionic Villi Sampling

Bernadette Modell

*J Med Genet* 1987 24: 720
doi: 10.1136/jmg.24.11.720

Updated information and services can be found at:
[http://jmg.bmj.com/content/24/11/720.citation](http://jmg.bmj.com/content/24/11/720.citation)

**Email alerting service**

*These include:*

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
[http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions](http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions)

To order reprints go to:
[http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform](http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform)

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
[http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/](http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/)