

Book Reviews

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CHIVA 1988 Claude Franceschi Book Review

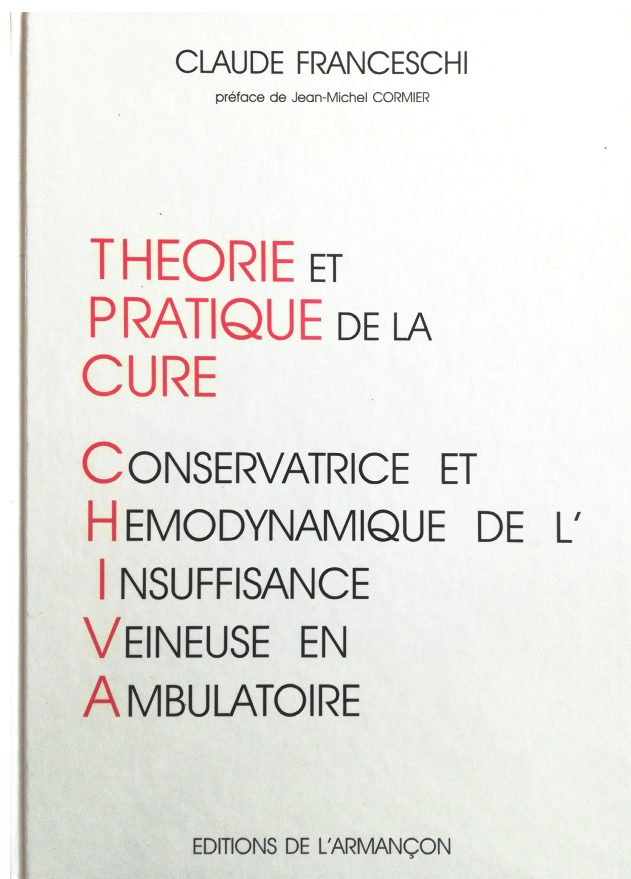
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Franceschi C. *Théorie et Pratique de la Cure Conservatrice et Hémodynamique de l'Insuffisance Veineuse en Ambulatoire*. (1988)

Reviewing today the CHIVA book¹ handwritten in French that Claude Franceschi published and presented to the scientific community in 1988, then translated in Italian²

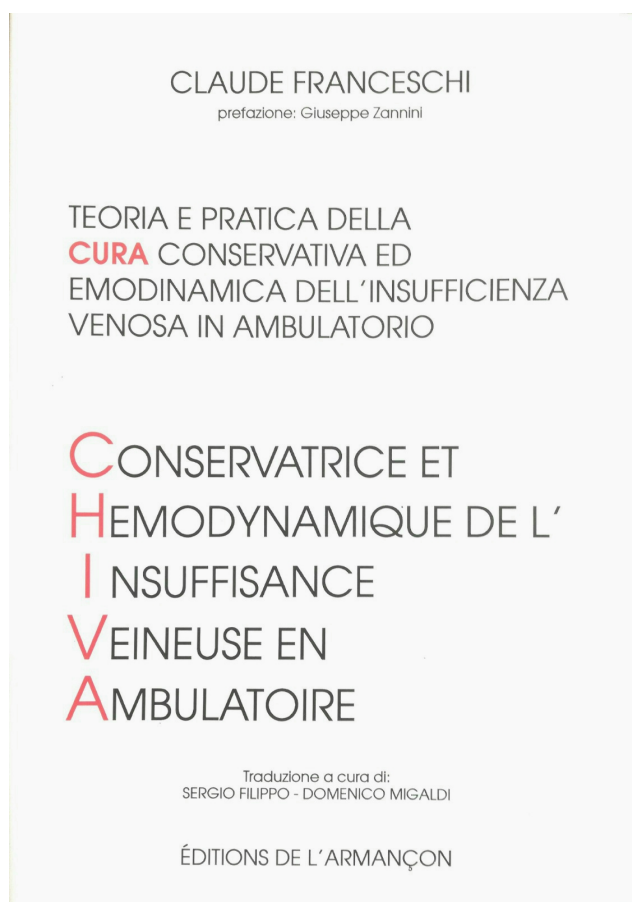
and English³, may seem anachronistic, but only if we do not consider what has happened in the world of phlebology since that date. The irruption of an early pioneer in arterial hemodynamics in the parlour of the phlebologists appeared to most a real cultural provocation

To treat the varicose vein according to a renewed approach - addressing its hemodynamic causes and evolution as well as sparing the venous network with the dual purpose of allowing an optimal drainage of tissues and preserving the saphenous vein for a possible future by-pass - was a cause for shock which shook the world of phlebology, convinced, now as then, that the absolute evil is represented by varicose veins themselves, rather than by their causes.

The resulting debate continues today. On the one hand the rampant proliferation of endovascular techniques, which facilitates the destruction of the saphenous vein, on the other the growth of phlebologists, passionate about challenging conservative and hemodynamic cure of venous insufficiency supported by rigorous scientific studies and trials but too often poorly understood.

Yet, we can note that, after so many years spent trying to ghettoise CHIVA, even its most ardent detractors, aware or not, now use some of its terms and procedures, if not concepts, in pathophysiology, that this fundamental and innovative work introduced.

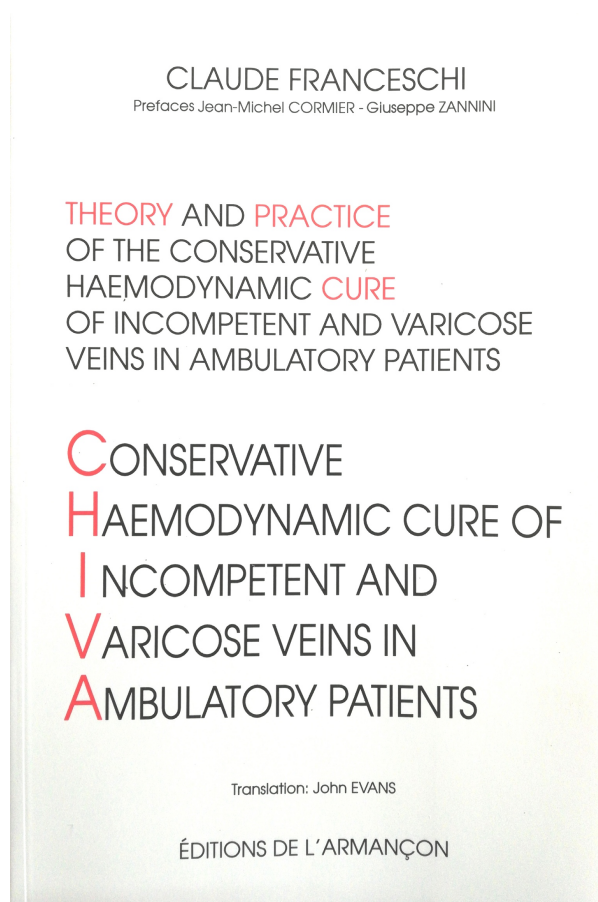
In fact, there are no more phlebologists who are not convinced of the need to draw up a venous cartography, though they do not include veno-venous shunts, re-entry perforators nor venous shunts classification. As these words are the Trojan horse of ideas, we can trust that, in the future, this new phlebological lexicon may end up arousing interest in its meanings and its therapeutic implications. "Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit" [Captured Greece conquered its savage captor], we will then say with Horace⁴.



The Italian translation. (1993)

CHIVA was hotly contested at the beginning because it was not supported by evidence, but today four RCTs and the COCHRANE review, published in 2012, have confirmed its benefits. The objection now is the difficulty of learning the technique. I think there can be no better exhortation to read, reread and study this book. The so-called Cinderella of vascular pathology has not yet found its Prince Charming, but perhaps it is not the gentleness of the conjugal yoke that is appropriate to a path of knowledge in continuous evolution...

As for me, I can only testify that the hard work in learning the theoretical foundations and the practical skills are largely compensated by the satisfaction of observing the clinical result of a well-made CHIVA and verifying its compliance with the foreseen and correctly realized hemodynamic corrections. Understanding the causes of failures, while painful, constitutes a legacy no less important, since it has allowed progress to be made in the knowledge of the pathophysiology of venous insufficiency.



The English translation. (1993)

The book is short and fluid but one should focus slowly on the coherent and rational development of the argument, the clarity of the exhibition, accompanied by diagrams and illustrations that reveal here and there the ironic humour of the author. Indeed, if reading gratifies us and takes little time, the reflection it raises can last for years, be filled with doubts and accompany us throughout our professional adventure.

To conclude, I have no more adequate words to spend on the work of Claude Franceschi than those that Italo Calvino dedicates to books that challenge time and fashion: "The classics are books that have never finished saying what they have to say ... that incessantly provoke a dust of critical discourse on themselves, but continually they shake it off and ... the more one thinks one knows them by hearsay, the more when they are really read they are felt as new, unexpected, unpublished"⁵.

Mauro Pinelli

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