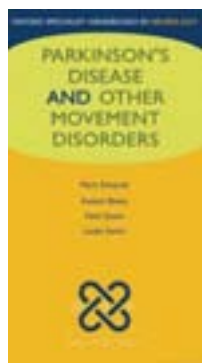


Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders



Authors: M Edwards, N Quinn, K Bhatia
Published by: Oxford University Press 2008-06-03
Price: £39.95
ISBN: 978-0-19-856984-8

Reviewed by:
 Tom Foltynie, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, UK.

Dr Edwards et al are to be congratulated in having completely achieved what they set out to do, namely create a comprehensive yet portable and robust reference on Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. This book is accessible to novices and yet contains sufficient detail about the rarities to be a valuable reminder to even the most seasoned movement disorder practitioner. The accompanying excellent DVD shows examples of all the common and many of the rarer movement disorders and will form the basis for many a teaching session for both students and post-graduates interested in the subject.

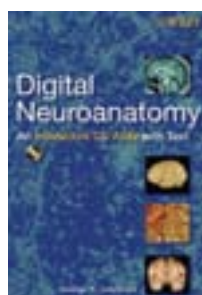
Naturally there is a large section of Parkinson's disease and atypical parkinsonisms with up to date information regarding genetic risk factors for the disease, a guide to the management of the early and later stages of the illness including the newer treatments for the condition such as the dopamine agonist patch and the intra-jejunal formulation of levodopa. There is also the necessary emphasis on the non-motor symptoms of PD including the increasingly recognised dopa dysregulation syndrome, and the role of non-medical therapies for PD.

Many of the chapters begin with "an approach to the patient with e.g. myoclonus" which describes the useful features from the history and examination to guide the

examiner towards a particular path of investigation. There are tables and lists throughout the book e.g. on the subject of tremor, the authors give appropriate emphasis to the features that distinguish tremor subtypes like essential tremor and dystonic tremor together with excellent advice regarding treatment strategies. Personally I found that the most useful features of this book are the lists of causes e.g. "Causes of dystonia with peripheral neuropathy", and descriptions of the "neurological diseases associated with acanthocytosis" and other esoterica frequently discussed but rarely seen. For those infrequent moments when I need to check how to introduce medications for Wilson's disease, I also now know where to look! The final chapter covers psychogenic movement disorders, often the most challenging group of patients to diagnose and manage, and gives very useful advice regarding techniques to help confirm the diagnosis at the bedside and most importantly the strategies for management in terms of communication, withdrawal of medications and introduction of non-medical therapies.

This book fits nicely in my briefcase, weighs next to nothing and is both quicker and a more useful way of accessing movement disorders related information than even Google. I thoroughly recommend it. ♦

Digital Neuroanatomy



Author: George R Leichnetz
Published by: Wiley-Liss Publishing
Price: £46.95
ISBN: 978-0-470-04000-3

Reviewed by:
 John Bowen, Consultant Neurologist, Lincoln County Hospital, UK.

If, like me, you were rubbish at art at school you probably reacted to your Art Report with a similar combination of sniffy dismissiveness, pseudo-scientific disdain for the impossibility of defining 'art' itself let alone what constitutes quality in the stuff, and a grudging acceptance of the comment that whilst effort had been acknowledged by teacher, the fruits have admittedly been, well .. underwhelming. An especially bad year would invoke various accompanying barbed epithets you know the sort of stuff, "shows little interest and less talent", "against fierce competition quite the worst pupil I can recall", "may do better to try the hairy end of the brush", that sort of thing. Well I now appreciate poor Mr Bennett's task. Not the *Pride & Prejudice* one, but my old art teacher.

This book has the stated aim "to present what is considered that every medical student should know about neuroanatomy taught in wet laboratory in a first year neuroscience course.... [but] does not purport to be an exhaustive presentation of this subject material...our medical students have a second-year course in which pathology of the brain is discussed more extensively." Hmmm.

So what you get here is 77 pages moving through light microscopic neurohistology, e-m neurohistology, skull, meninges & cord, brain (gross), brain (sectional), and introduction to MRI (including a few tumours – an interesting conceptual leap bypassing the small matter of clinical neurology and fertilizing the rampant growth of disbelief that "all you need is one of them "MIR" scans, Doc" as my dustbin man regularly advises me when I put the wrong coloured bin out each week.

Well frankly the pictures in the book are poor. The black & white photos add to the sense of histology lab

gloominess that helped to uninspire most of my undergraduate chums (who could face neurohistology and actually turned up!)

I still have my undergraduate LM/ and gross neuroanatomy text (*Structure of the Human Brain* 2nd ed, S.DeArmond et al: New York OUP 1976) and it is far superior. Though admittedly lacking either EM or MR chapters this ring bound folder far exceeds anything this book has to offer. Similarly, if you are going to teach / learn neuroanatomy with MR technology, and I see no reason not to, the pictures need to be better than this. Radiological anatomy books of far greater quality already exist.

Which leaves the CD-ROM and let's be honest we all like a CD-ROM. Well this is quite fun admittedly and clearly set out and easy to navigate. The macroscopic images are of good quality, in colour, and well labelled. Again the MR images are pretty ordinary and irritatingly the macroscopic correlative slices overlap the radiographic images. One can click a bit & see the answer which is how it should be but it could be so much better. For example click the bit and see in glorious colour the interconnections both anatomical and functional (colour coded by neurotransmitter red for GABA, green for Dopamine, I could go on...) enlarging phoenix-like from the 2-D image rather than click A - hippocampus click B - fornix etc etc.

I suppose the hook of a CD may attract a few well off medical students to buy this out of curiosity but I would probably not have been one of them. Had one of my chums acquired a copy I would have "borrowed" the CD though, as it is a more enjoyable (and therefore more effective) way to learn. In summary, fair effort could do better B-. ♦

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