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Encephalitis, a guide

'Encephalitis, a guide' comes in an interesting format. Slightly reduced A4 size, turned lengthways to open on strong spiral rings and holding a DVD in a pocket inside the end cover immediately says that this is a book production out of the ordinary. The pages open up easily, displaying two pages at a time and the dividers, well known to all with bulging ring folders, invite further exploration. Certainly a lot of time and trouble has been taken with the design. There are 6 sections. The style is clear, headings and paragraphs, highlights and encapsulated 'pearls of wisdom' appear with the same even editorial style. No obvious multi-author text here!

- Section 1 – 'Encephalitis the Illness'
- Section 2 – 'The Effects of Encephalitis'
- Section 3 – 'Specialists and Services'
- Section 4 – 'Returning to Normal Life'
- Section 5 – 'Further Reading'

The factual presentation of the book is softened by the very personal approach of the DVD starring Martin Kemp, Patron to the Encephalitis Society, patients and families whilst not holding back on medical detail good or bad. The DVD ends with the place and purpose of the



Published by: The Encephalitis Society
Price: £10 + postage/packaging
ISBN: 780955218033

Encephalitis Society.

The book itself will find a place in every medical library. Professionals will be able to read it quickly. Patients and their families will read and re-read the book. So who is the real target audience?

There is a timely reminder for the professionals in Section 6 – 'pathways through a Medico-Legal Investigation' in other words 'how to start a medico-legal investigation if in the rare cases where recovery is compromised by poor medical care there is a legal entitlement to financial compensation'.

So the book is for families of Encephalitis sufferers from the Encephalitis Society who clearly mean business! If it makes us, the professionals, more aware of encephalitis in terms of early diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation process then the book has succeeded. It will be improved upon one day but certainly it will serve its purpose for a long time to come. Incidentally, I like the design and layout and as DVD's go, it is well produced.

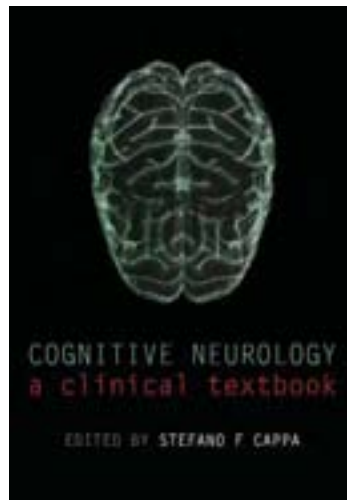
Reviewed by: Dr Rudy Capildeo,
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Cognitive Neurology: A Clinical Textbook

Neurology in the UK sits within the group of physicianically specialties. Most UK neurologists, in order to get MRCP, will have been on medical rotations comprising cardiology, gastroenterology etc. While this can be helpful when managing a sick neurological in-patient with multi-system disease, it must be admitted that a knowledge of some medical subspecialties is of little value to the neurologist most of the time. Due to the quite separate training structures for neurology and psychiatry, most neurologists will not, however, have done any psychiatry, not even a six month SHO post. This is regrettable given that a knowledge of psychiatry is so helpful and indeed necessary to practise good neurology. It is particularly unfortunate, however, for those who practise in the borderland between neurology and psychiatry, namely cognitive neurology.

Due to the traditional lack of neurologists in Britain, many neurological diseases are managed by non-neurologists. As neurology has expanded, this has led to some jostling with other specialties for conditions such as stroke and Parkinson's. Most dementia is assessed and treated by old age psychiatry, who have multi-disciplinary teams well set up to manage the overall requirements of dementia patients and their families. This raises the question of what role, if any, does neurology have in the dementias. Traditionally, it is younger patients and those with atypical presentations who are seen in neurology. This is mainly due to neurology having better access to investigation in order to refine the diagnosis, but services for the ongoing management of dementia patients tend to be in old age psychiatry settings.

Focal cognitive deficits, whether due to stroke or tumour, or cognitive deficits due to disease, such as multiple sclerosis or epilepsy, are managed by the relevant neurological subspecialist.



Editors: Stefano F Cappa,
Jubin Abutalebi,
Jean-Francois Demonet,
Paul Fletcher and
Peter Garrard
Published by: Oxford University Press;
1 edition (28 Feb 2008)
Price: £49.95
ISBN: 9780198569275

Memory and cognitive disorders clinics have sprung up in a few of the larger neurology centres, and are mainly concerned with investigating memory complaints, the bread and butter being differentiating early dementia, mild cognitive impairment and psychological causes of impaired memory. A few of the more esoteric focal cognitive disturbances also present in such clinics.

This multi-author text has been written to provide an introduction to the field. After an introductory section on investigation (neuropsychology, imaging and neurophysiology), there is a useful section with chapters on the various focal deficits. In addition to covering the usual suspects (memory, language, etc.) there is a helpful chapter on neurobehavioural disorders after stroke.

The dementias section has a helpful chapter on differential diagnosis, followed by descriptions of the four commonest causes of dementia. These chapters achieve a useful balance between the clinical features and underlying pathology.

There then follows a section covering areas sometimes neglected in other cognitive texts, namely trauma, MS, epilepsy, schizophrenia and depression. Lastly, to illustrate that diagnosing cognitive disturbances is not an academic exercise, there follows a useful section on drug treatment and rehabilitation of cognitive disorders.

The book is excellently referenced. While bigger tomes covering this area exist (e.g. Rizzo & Eslinger), this book nevertheless provides a very useful introduction to cognitive neurology. It will be of use to neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists and others interested in this field.

Reviewed by: John Greene, Institute of Neurological Sciences,
Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, UK.

Greenfield's Neuropathology 8th Edition

Greenfield's needs no introduction within the field of neuropathology. It is the primary reference text referred to by training and practising neuropathologists alike. This edition co-incidentally marks the 50th anniversary of the first edition of the book. The editors, from both sides of the Atlantic, have drawn upon the expertise of over seventy contributors from across the globe. More than half of these contributors are new. The result is a dramatic refinement and re-working of the previous edition, which itself stood out as a remarkable text.

The stated aims of this book are "to provide an authoritative, comprehensive account of the pathological findings in neurological disease, their biological basis and clinical manifestations... underpinned by a clear description of molecular and cellular processes...". The editors have clearly achieved these aims with flourish. Much of the historical data has been removed, and replaced by recent research data, providing a modern and up-to-date stance. A reference text is usually used to provide an answer to a specific question, or to help the reader understand a single disease entity. This book is distinct in its digestibility. It is possible to read a chapter in one sitting and retain much of it, and that is a real achievement in writing.

This new edition contains more illustrations and tables, many of the former are new and all are good quality. The images are also available on the dvd, and, usefully, the publishers state that they can be used for non web-based teaching as long as the copyright label is visible. This makes the dvd incredibly useful for personal use, and also a fantastic resource for lectures.

This new edition has a different focus. The introductory chapters from



Authors: Seth Love, David N Louis, David W Ellison
Published by: Hodder Arnold
Price: £475.00 + VAT
ISBN13: 9780340906828

previous editions have been sacrificed for more detail elsewhere. The ophthalmic chapter has also been withdrawn. These changes are an understandable evolution. While the value of the lost chapters is undeniable, they are well represented in other books. The result is a collection of approachable chapters that stand alone as complete authorities and are arranged in a logical order.

This edition has an altered layout. The book still feels pleasant to handle, and has maintained its "quality feel". Page numbering is now continuous between the two volumes, preventing the frustration of picking up the wrong volume that I personally suffered with in the last edition. The new edition is a similar

length to its predecessor. The index, however, is shorter and only present at the back of volume II. This, and the lack of the page-keeper ribbons are two oversights that are minor compared to the book's many strengths.

This new-and-improved Greenfield's has exceeded my expectations and is likely to take up a much-used place on many Neuropathologists' bookshelves. It is also invaluable to other clinicians within the field, enhanced by the closer links with clinical data that this edition enjoys. I imagine the shift in emphasis towards genetic and research data, often from animal models of disease, will increase the readership of this book to include more from the non-clinical research community. There is simply nothing in paper-form that compares with it.

*Reviewed by: Nicki Cohen,
SpR Neuropathology, Southampton, UK.*

NEW



Neurobehavioral Toxicology: Neurological and Neuropsychological Perspectives, Volume III: Central Nervous System

By **Stanley Berent** and **James W. Albers**, both at University of Michigan, USA

This is the final volume in a three-volume work that has addressed the scientific methodologies relevant to clinical neurobehavioral toxicology. Volume III attends to what is known about industrial and environmental chemicals, medicines, and substances of abuse and how these agents affect the central nervous system.

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July 2005: 6x9: 280pp
 Hb: 978-1-84169-564-8: £59.95

Neurobehavioral Toxicology: Neurological and Neuropsychological Perspectives, Volume II: Peripheral Nervous System

This second volume concentrates on peripheral nervous system disorders and will be of interest to practicing neurologists and neuropsychologists, as well as to occupational medicine physicians and medical toxicologists.

July 2005: 6x9: 496pp
 Hb: 978-1-84169-565-5: £59.95

Previous Volumes



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