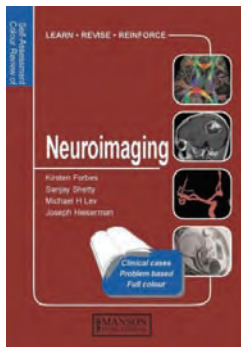


# Self-Assessment Colour Review of Neuroimaging



**Authors:** Kirsten Forbes, Michael H Lev, Sanjay Shetty, Joseph Heiserman  
**Published by:** Manson Publishing Ltd (2007)  
**ISBN:** 978-1840760781.  
**Price:** £21.95.

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

This book pleases, educates, and frustrates, though not in equal measure.

The authors provide “a case-based teaching text on imaging of the central nervous system...offering readers over one hundred real-life clinical cases for interpretation”. Hmm, but how often in anyone’s real-life practice does a cerebellopontine angle lesion in a dizzy forty-one year old come slap bang after a case of alobar holoprosencephaly in a foetus?

This book “while primarily written for radiologists...will also be of interest to neurologists” say the authors, and it is. But I’ll tell you what I want (what I really, really want) is not a book of completely random cases. It is order, Mr Speaker.

Though the cases are informative, well illustrated, and accompanied by helpful radiological differential diagnoses, the “crikey what’s the next case going to be?” frisson of excitement is rather trumped by the mind-boggling leap from rhombencephalosynapsis (I hadn’t heard of it, either) to Gibb’s “artifact” (which drew a heavy sigh and a “you really should get out more” type expression from one of my neuroradiologists when I tried to show off by lobbing it into a discussion recently).

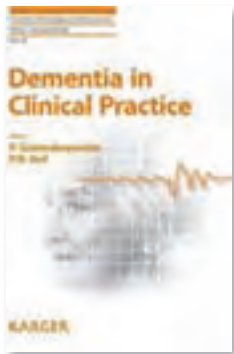
What would be really helpful is something

small that fits easily into a briefcase which I can dip into when faced with colleagues ambushing you as you nip to the loo with a “can I quickly show you these scans?” type corridor consult. What neurologists would find more practical (I think) would be a book structured into sections such as – “tumour or abscess – when you can be sure” or “perivascular space or stroke – you decide” or “multifocal cerebral calcification – sorting the wheat from the chaff”, that sort of thing.

Accessing, learning, and retaining information is facilitated by order and there seems little if any order (other than an alphabetical index) to this otherwise excellently presented series of radiological case vignettes which for this neurologist (and I imagine at least some radiologists) will make reading this book slightly more of a struggle than the pleasure it would otherwise be.

Oh and one other thing. I think that black or white (but not both?) is technically a colour but there are a grand total of two images in this entire book with hues other than these so in this current climate of transparency and accountability I’m not sure that the title of this book quite cuts the mustard. ♦

# Dementia in Clinical Practice



**Editors:** Giannakopoulos P, Hof PR.  
**Published by:** S Karger AG;  
 1st edition (2009).  
**ISBN:** 978-3805590150.  
**Price:** €141.50.

**Reviewed by:**  
 AJ Larner, Cognitive Function Clinic,  
 WCNN, Liverpool, UK.

This short and well-produced text, from the Karger Frontiers of Neurology and Neuroscience series, comprises four sections, devoted to Alzheimer’s disease (seven chapters), vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia (four chapters each). Each section has short chapters describing clinical features and investigation, neuropathology, neuroimaging, and pharmacotherapy, the additional chapters in the Alzheimer’s section addressing mild cognitive impairment, electrophysiological markers, and novel neuroimaging methods with PET ligands.

Although the UK National Dementia Strategy has emphasised the need for dementia to be diagnosed by a “clinician with specialist skills”, this book, by authors from continental Europe and North America, aims to “facilitate reading for a non-specialist” and the role of primary care physicians (PCPs) is emphasised (e.g. p. 54 et seq., 66 et seq. 126, 135 et seq.), although it is not clear to me whether PCPs will wish to immerse themselves in the arcana of frontal lobe dementia neuropathology and nomenclature or the molecular techniques of imaging in Alzheimer’s disease.

Having recently been accused, by a very experienced book reviewer who frequently contributes to these pages, of being a “fuss pot”

*Overall, I would think this book well suited to trainees developing an interest in cognitive disorders*

in my reviews, I shall eschew all comments on the typography etc. of this book, merely observing that some chapters seem a little truncated, for example the abstract of Kertesz’s chapter on the clinical features and diagnosis of frontotemporal dementia states that “galantamine in aphasia had symptomatic benefits in small trials” but there is no subsequent mention of this in the text of the chapter.

Overall, I would think this book well suited to trainees developing an interest in cognitive disorders, as well as more experienced dementia specialists, rather than for PCPs. However, cost may prove prohibitive. ♦

*If you would like to review books for ACNR, please contact Andrew Larner, Book Review Editor, clo.rachael@acnr.com*