

Book Reviews

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Localization in Clinical Neurology 4th edition

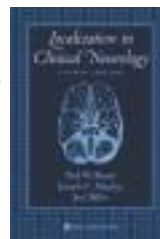
As an SHO considering whether or not to pursue a career in neurology, I noted my registrar (Hugh Willison) reading a weighty tome entitled *Localization in Clinical Neurology*. Evidently this was required reading for the budding neurologist, so I purchased a copy (3rd edition). Its now dog-eared pages, crumbling spine, copious marginalia, and multiple index additions attest to my frequent recourse to it over the years. I believe I have learned more from its pages than any other neurology text, hence it is one of my favourite books. That others feel similarly may be indicated by the fact that it is the only one of my neurology books ever to have been stolen (by person(s) unknown), which I was fortunate to recover quite by chance, lurking in a filing cabinet it had no purpose to be in. Does this new edition amount to a steal?

Uncompromisingly, the authors state at the outset, in a new chapter discussing the general principles of localization, that the "key to localization" and "the roadmap for a correct assessment" is neuroanatomy (so admirably served by the primer in ACNR). Chapters then proceed, as in previous editions, centripetally from peripheral nerves to cerebral hemispheres, the largest (more than one sixth of the book) devoted to the ocular motor system. The text is clear and coherent, perhaps reflecting the restricted authorship,

now so unusual in major neurology books. The text is supplemented with line diagrams and tables, but there is no neuroimaging, congruent with the authors' hope, stated in the preface, that diagnosis be achieved at the least cost and avoiding unnecessary testing. The whole work remains, as originally conceived, primarily for the clinician, a manifesto for the importance of the clinical method supplemented by modern paraclinical (particularly imaging) methods, rather than vice versa.

More than any other neurology text with which I am familiar, this book conveys the scope of clinical phenomenology and its potential value in making inferences about the anatomical location of pathology, the critical step in focusing subsequent investigations. The major (and unforgivable) deficiency is the index: slimmed considerably from the previous edition, it misses page references to some topics and omits many headings. For those dipping into the book, rather than reading systematically (the majority, I would suspect), this will profoundly impair the utility of the book. At £102.00 it is not cheap but, index notwithstanding, to my way of thinking it represents excellent value for money for the reader prepared to engage with it. Highly recommended.

AJ Larner



Authors: Paul W Brazis, Joseph C Masdeu, José Biller
Publisher: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 2001
Pages: 596
ISBN No: 0-7817-2843-6
Price: £102.00

Neuropsychological sequelae of subarachnoid hemorrhage and its treatment

This book is claimed to be the first monograph on the subject of the neuropsychological sequelae of subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH), stemming from the author's researches over the past decade in Aachen. The findings are disturbing. Although many patients are judged to make an excellent neurological recovery from SAH, cognitive and behavioural problems which impair quality of life and the ability to return to employment are common; four years post-bleed one-third of operated patients fulfil diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Impairments of short-term memory (i.e. attention) and cognitive slowing, without impairments of general intelligence as measured by IQ tests, are the most frequent long-term neuropsychological sequelae; aphasic language disorders may occur but are less common. These deficits are similar to those seen following mild closed head injury, as are the impairments in everyday life. Assessments performed in the acute or chronic stage suggest the pattern of deficits is static.

The pattern and severity of abnormalities correlates poorly with morphological damage seen with structural imaging (CT, MRI). Hence the morphological substrate of the observed deficits is attributed to diffuse damage of paracastern grey substance, with fronto-basal emphasis,

rather than a focal lesion dependent on aneurysm location. The prevalent idea that anterior communicating artery aneurysms are most prone to cause memory deficit and psycho-organic syndromes of Korsakoff type is rejected as a consequence of selective case reporting and small series, as opposed to systematic studies.

The similarity of findings from patients with aneurysm rupture compared with spontaneous non-traumatic SAH without a proven source of bleeding suggests that SAH causes nonspecific brain damage, independent of the location of the ruptured aneurysm. Hence bleeding per se is adjudged to be the main cause of cognitive impairment. A corollary of this finding is that surgery may have advantages over newer (and expensive) endovascular coiling techniques by removing subarachnoid blood. No additional damaging effects of surgical intervention were identified.

This is a challenging book which should be read by all involved in the management of patients with SAH. Regrettably the translation is not into idiomatic English, which makes for a rather bumpy read, and there is no index, deficiencies which might profitably be redressed in a second edition.

AJ Larner



Authors: BO Hütter
Publisher: Springer 2000
Pages: 178
ISBN No: 3-211-83442-7
Price: £50

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Clinical Neurology of the Older Adult

Joseph I. Sirven, MD

& Barbara L. Malamut, Ph.D.,

This is a practical and easily accessible guide to the evaluation and treatment of neurological problems in older adults. Split into four sections the book is organised so that clinicians can quickly look up either a patient's symptoms (or a disease) and includes many helpful medication charts and diagnostic algorithms.

The book is extensively cross-referenced between symptom orientated and disease orientated chapters.

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Normal Retail Price: £49.00
ACNR Price: £44.10

Pediatric Neurology

Michael E. Cohen, MD, Patricia Duffner, MD,
Howard Weiner, MD & Lawrence P. Levitt, MD,

Extensively reorganised, thoroughly updated, and now including many algorithms and tables, there are six sections to this book.

The first offers introductory chapters under the heading of evaluation, and includes neurological history, neuro exam and localisation. Most material is contained in two sections which cover common complaints and specific diseases whilst the remaining sections cover drugs and diagnostic and neuropsychological tests.

ISBN • 0-7817-2931-9 • September 2002 • Paperback
Normal Retail Price: £22.00
ACNR Price: £19.80



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