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Neurological Therapeutics. Principles and Practice

Everything about this book is massive: 345 authors, 271 chapters in 14 sections, over 3000 pages. If you stand atop the two volumes you will be 5 inches taller; if you try to pick them up you risk a hernia. Surely this is the ultimate riposte to those benighted souls who persist in the erroneous belief that the only condition neurologists can successfully treat is vitamin B12 deficiency?

In the interests of producing a timely review (i.e. before a second edition emerges), I have read only about one fifth of the chapters, selecting common conditions, disorders in which I have a particular interest, recently encountered clinical problems, and some just for the sake of curiosity. Chapters are of variable length, but most are fairly short (< 10 pages), and cover particular conditions, detailing epidemiology, aetiology, pathogenesis, genetics, clinical features, investigation findings and natural history, as well as therapeutics. Hence this is a textbook of neurology on a par with other major textbooks, but with a rather more systematic approach to the evidence base for treatment. At least, this is true in some chapters, since in some the treatment

component may be very brief, e.g. prion disease, which nonetheless merits two chapters, and also crops up in the "non-Alzheimer dementias" chapter. There is also repetition elsewhere, perhaps unavoidable in such a huge tome.

There are a few oddities: I am still puzzling over syringomyelia turning up in the movement disorders section. Certain omissions occurred to me: no mention of cannabis in the treatment of MS. I could find only a single sentence mentioning pituitary apoplexy.

Although a strong case may be made for every department of neurology possessing a copy of this handsomely produced book, I am uncertain whether it will appeal to individual neurologists, and not only on grounds of cost and size. With the trend to specialisation, much of the information may be redundant for many practitioners, or too simple for cognoscenti of particular subspecialties. A companion volume, a mere 656 pages containing 600 graphics from the book, is also available.

AJ Larner, WCNN, Liverpool



Edited by: John H Noseworthy
Publisher: Taylor and Francis
ISBN: 1-85317-623-0
Price: £275.00

Interactive Head and Neck CD

In all but one respect, this CD-Rom is the ideal resource to learn head and neck anatomy. As with the Primal Pictures' *Interactive Spine*, the software allows for layers of muscles, nerve and vessels to be slowly peeled off their bony structures. Each image can be rotated and tilted. There is no better way to appreciate the complex 3D anatomy of, say, the larynx or the orbit. This reviewer was pleased finally to understand splenius capitis, long the hoped-for target of the Botox needle. It turns out that neck muscle anatomy is incredibly complicated; can you honestly say you know what rectus capitis superior minor does? All is revealed here. There are accompanying MRI scans, co-registered with the computer images, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires. Videos demonstrate features of surface anatomy and there are a few slides of pathological specimens. My favourite feature was the animations of muscles acting at the tempero-mandibular joint (just like Tyrannosaurus rex, thought my three-year old son).

The beauty and elegance of the computer images of the neck raised great expectations for the depictions of the brain. And here was the disappointment. There were a few pictures of the surface anatomy of the brain and some frankly childish cartoons of the internal structures, poorly registered with MRI images, which went no higher than the level of the midbrain.

So, this CD-ROM is highly recommended for head and neck surgeons, less so for neurologists, except those who struggle to know just where that Botox is supposed to go.....

Alasdair Coles, Cambridge



The neck from the back. The orbit from above

Edited by: Bernard J. Moxham, Claudia Kirsh, Dr Barry Berkovitz, Gus Alusi, Tony Cheeseman
Publisher: Primal Pictures
ISBN: 1902470834
Price: £99 for readers of ACNR (see page 31), normally £150

● You can register for a free online trial to preview the software at www.anatomy.tv, or see page 31 for details of the ACNR special reader price

Clinical Pathways in Neuro-Ophthalmology: An Evidence-Based Approach

The Foreword by Dr Neil Miller sums up this book very well. "By providing basic, clinically relevant information regarding various disorders, their diagnosis, and treatment, this book teaches the reader how to approach a patient with a known or presumed neuro-ophthalmologic problem in a logical, straightforward, and cost-effective manner."

The 20 chapters address either clinical presentations, such as transient visual loss, diplopia, papilloedema and ptosis or diagnostic entities, such as optic neuritis, nonarteritic ischaemic optic neuropathy, ocular myasthenia gravis and thyroid eye disease. Section headings are commonly in the form of a question, e.g. What clinical features suggest giant cell arteritis? A great deal of detail is packed into the 125 tables, for example an exhaustive list of aetiologies of third nerve palsy by topographical location with relevant references. There are several algorithms, such as "Evaluation of sixth nerve palsy". There are no illustrations, which gives the text a rather "intense" appearance. It also means that a significant amount of background knowledge is assumed. The neurologist unfamiliar with the entity of optic disc oedema with a macular star will need to consult another text for guidance.

This book is crammed full of information, with a wealth of minutiae for such a relatively small volume and extensive lists of references. Although there is much emphasis on the provision of "evidence-based guidance" with reference to Class I-IV evidence and Level A-C or U strength recommendations, the most striking

feature is the constant impression that the book is written by people who "have been there". The authors' combined immense clinical experience is very apparent. Some readers will find the text too dense and pedantic, but that reflects the day-to-day practice of neuro-ophthalmology. If the finer points of clinical assessment are ignored, patients are at risk of being managed inappropriately. Similarly most patients will have run of the mill diagnoses but occasionally the esoteric needs to be considered. The tables in this book provide an easy reference for the busy clinician keen not to miss the unusual.

There are a few criticisms. In the section entitled "What is hypertropia or hyperglobus", the only clue given is that "hypertropia or hyperglobus may result in an abnormal position of the eye under a normal eyelid"! There is irritating repetition, for those reading through the whole chapter on Diplopia, between the sections on horizontal diplopia and those on vertical diplopia.

Overall the authors, an ophthalmologist and a neurologist, have managed to write a comprehensive, detailed and accessible guide to clinical neuro-ophthalmology. The book would be a useful addition to the personal library of anyone regularly seeing patients with neuro-ophthalmological problems. All trainee neurologists will benefit from it being available on the neurology ward.

Paul O'Riordan-Eva, London



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