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Neurotrauma - Evidence-Based Answers to Common Questions

There is a paucity of randomised controlled trial evidence covering neurotrauma topics. However, this book provides an excellent review of the available literature and addresses many clinical controversies.

Neurotrauma is a multi-author text, mainly of North American origin. It comprises 48 chapters covering seven domains of care. Each chapter is prefaced by a management-based question, directed at relevant clinical situations. These cover immediate care through acute hospitalization to after care. Although such an approach is not universal it does provide focused well-researched accounts.

A recognised expert author scribes each chapter. The chapters are designed to review the literature for each topic from an evidence-based perspective. Where appropriate, evidence and recommendations are categorised into levels I – III. A personalised view, based upon experience in the subject area is also valuable. The highlighting of ‘pearls of wisdom’ provides an accessible synopsis of each subsection.

Many of the chapters are of extremely high quality and

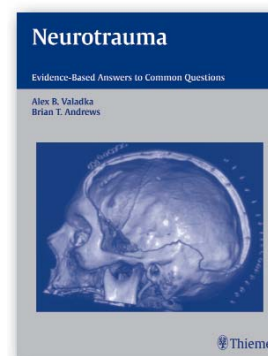
merit a wide readership. A well-informed account of the use of head injury assessment scales is worthy of attention. The use of intensive care monitoring, such as jugular venous oxygen saturation and brain tissue PO₂ in the modern setting are reviewed. Outstanding contributions covering the use of mannitol therapy, the diagnosis and management of hyponatraemia and hypothermia are included. Finally, a balanced view on the management of spinal cord injury is presented.

As is expected in a book of this nature, some useful references are omitted, presumably due to the lengthy process of writing, editing and publishing.

Overall, I strongly recommend this book to Accident & Emergency doctors, neurosurgeons and intensivists. Many paramedical therapists may also find the content useful and accessible.

Peter C Whitfield,

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Alex B Valadka, Brian T Andrews

Published by:

Thieme Medical Publishers

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Neurology - 2nd Edition

In this book the author aims to provide a sound clinical approach to the common problems encountered in neurological practice, and to teach pertinent neurological examination. Let's face it, neurology is a tricky subject to get your head round, especially when just beginning. Often texts in neurology try to tempt medical students by shortening and trying to make the subject 'snappy'. Unfortunately this difficult subject does need some time spent on it, and the time spent reading this book will be well rewarded.

The book is divided into chapters, the first couple being dedicated to basic neurological history and examination skills. The concept of 'weakness' is then tackled in a systematic way including that due to brain and spinal cord, nerve root, peripheral nerve and lastly muscle. Further chapters are based on more specific neurological problems such as facial pain, speech, and disorders of gait. Some subjects appear to have been given slightly more coverage than others. For instance, peripheral neuropathies are discussed in far greater depth than other subjects such as seizures or issues to do with enablement. This may indicate the author's subject of interest, but may not entirely reflect the needs of the average medical student.

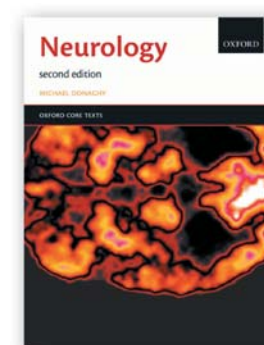
Excellent clinical and radiological illustrations are used throughout. Case histories are used well, either to demonstrate 'real life' situations related to diagnoses in the chapter, or to discuss important differential diagnoses. The case

histories keep the reader interested and are very sensitively written, the majority being of 'real-life' experiences encountered by the author.

The book explains which parts of the neurological examination are useful screening tests, and which are more suitable if examining for specific problems. Useful practical advice is given regarding technique and interpretation. We thought it was useful to have the four stations of the neurology examination made explicit: whilst the patient is telling their story, standing (and walking), sitting, and lying. The relevance and shortcomings of tests such as Romberg's test are considered, with the emphasis being on the useful information such tests offer the examiner. Such clinical advice is invaluable to this target audience.

We argued for some time about whether the illustrations on page 76 show how to test abductor pollicis longus or brevis and concluded that it was more longus than brevis! However this is a minor point and reflects how much we have used the book. Michael Donaghy's *Neurology* is a valuable introduction to clinical neurology for undergraduate medical students and we recommend it.

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Michael Donaghy

Published by:

Oxford University Press

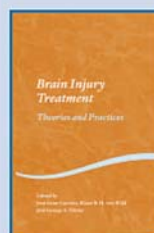
ISBN: 0-19-852636-9

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SERIES EDITOR: Linas Bieliauskas, University of Michigan, USA



Brain Injury Treatment: Theories and Practices

by José León-Carrión,
Klaus R.H. von Wild and
George A. Zitnay

Mar 2006: 608pp
Hbk: 1-84169-572-6: £70.00 / \$125.00



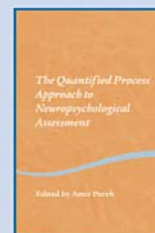
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