

If you would like to review books for ACNR, please contact Andrew Lerner, Book Review Editor, c/o patriciamcdonnell@btinternet.com

## Epilepsy in Children 2nd Edition

I've read this book in the last six months of my training as a specialist registrar in paediatric neurology – and I wish I'd read it in the first six months! The investigation and management of epilepsy in children is interesting, often complex and very different to the management of adults. This book is up-to-date and gives an in-depth overview of all aspects of looking after children with epilepsy. It is aimed at paediatric neurologists, paediatric epilepsy nurse specialists, and paediatricians with an interest in epilepsy, but would also be invaluable to an adult epileptologist, especially if they are involved in the transitional care of young people with epilepsy.

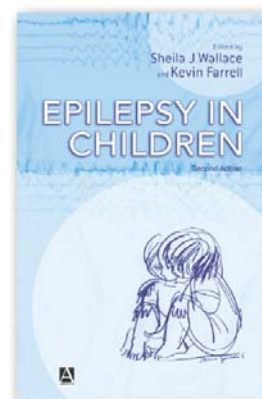
It is divided up into sections which are broadly divided into aetiology, pathology, pathophysiology, epilepsy syndromes by age, investigations, imaging, pharmacology, treatment and the cognitive, psychiatric and social aspects of epilepsy in children. Although there are contributions from many international authors, the layout of chapters is systematic and similar and includes 'key points' summary tables which are bordered and printed in a grey colour. These are very useful if just dipping in and out of the book, although it is annoying that sometimes they start on one page and end on the next. My only small disappointments were the lack of inclusion of some of the less

well used antiepileptic drugs such as stiripentol, bromides and acetazolamide in the 'Review of individual drugs' chapter. Also it would have been helpful to have a review of the modified ketogenic diet which is used by most centres in the UK as opposed or in addition to the chapter on the classical ketogenic diet. I didn't find any errors in any section of the book.

Very poignantly, the book's main editor developed a brain tumour and died during the publishing of the book. Having never met or worked with Dr Wallace, I read the section movingly titled 'Sheila Wallace - an appreciation' with interest. She sounded like a truly inspirational hands-on paediatric neurologist and I'm sure she would have been delighted with her new book.

In summary, this book will be an invaluable addition to any department looking after children or young adults with epilepsy. With the new NICE guidelines there is an expectation that children with epilepsy will be managed by a paediatrician with a special interest in epilepsy or a paediatric neurologist, giving a book like this an increased audience for the future.

*Dr Rachel Kneen, Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust,  
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**Editors:** Sheila Wallace and Kevin Farrell  
**Published by:** Arnold  
**ISBN:** 0340808144  
**Price:** £125

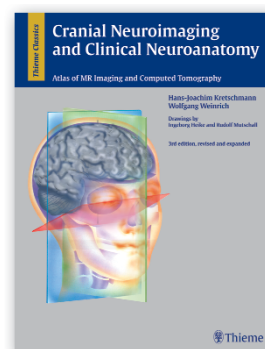
## Cranial Neuroimaging and Clinical Neuroanatomy 3rd Edition

Now that neuroanatomy is barely taught in medical school, post mortems have become a rarity, and brain cutting sections are almost a historical relic, where do junior doctors learn their neuroanatomy? Increasingly the answer is in the radiology department. However, neuroradiology meetings tend to be hurried affairs. There are many scans to get through; and what is crystal clear to the seniors sitting at the front, may be rather obtuse to those at the back. But it takes a brave junior to keep interrupting: Where exactly is the semioval centre? Could you point out again the infundibulum? Show me again the supramarginal gyrus? This is where Cranial Neuroimaging and Clinical Neuroanatomy comes in. It's a very useful atlas comparing CT and MRI images with carefully constructed line drawings. The first edition appeared in 1984 followed the introduction of CT imaging, and the second edition, in 1992, incorporated magnetic resonance imaging. In this third edition all the CT and MRI images have been replaced with large sized illustrations, and there are double the number of images; in addition, the arterial territories of the infraten-

torial space have been introduced.

After introductory chapters, which include guidance on the choice of neuroimaging techniques now available, the book systematically goes through the skeletal structures, intracranial and vascular structures, neurofunctional systems, and neurotransmitters and modulators. There is clever use of colour and shading in the illustrations. The book will be helpful for students and experienced physicians alike, from a range of specialties linked with the neurosciences. I think readers will dip into it, rather than read it cover to cover. Thus it would have been helpful to have a simple "how to use this book" guide in a single page at the beginning, because many readers won't want to plough through the introductory pages. Also it might have been sensible to use the same numbers on the scans and graphic illustrations that accompany them. In general though, an excellent book that will be a useful addition to many collections.

*Dr Tom Solomon, WCNN, Liverpool, UK.*



**Published by:** Thieme Classics  
**ISBN:** 1588901459  
**Price:** 199.00

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## Cerebral Vasospasm: Advances in Research and Treatment

That hectoring criticism of the book review editor was necessary before I could muster the enthusiasm to review a book which had glowered from my shelf for six months, should tell you all that you need to know about this niche text, which is destined for institutional purgatory. Yet the importance of vasospasm to the morbidity of subarachnoid haemorrhages certainly justifies the editorial ambition to present an update on aetiology, pathogenesis, investigation and treatment of vasospasm. Although the title refers to advances in research and treatment it is in reality a compilation of research papers presented at the Eighth International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm in Chicago, July 2003, rather than a considered critical review.

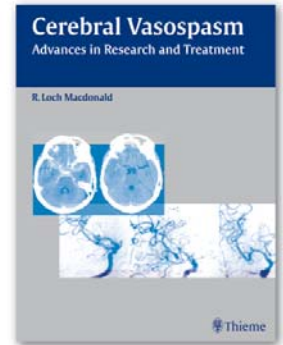
Compilations of proceedings from small international meetings are seldom cohesive or readable and are unlikely to be purchased by the generalist looking for a concise treatise on the state of art management. The editors have succeeded in producing a surprisingly readable text with high quality image reproduction, but it still feels more like an expanded meeting abstract compilation, than a definitive text.

Inevitably the focus of the text is neurosurgical and neuroradiological but despite its intention to consider

research advances it revisits ad nauseam established tenets of neurovascular medicine, with an early emphasis on vasospasm as a function of endothelium and myocyte alone and a curious indifference to neurogenic mechanisms. A notable omission is reference to inflammatory mediators such as matrix-metalloproteinase in vasospasm given only one short review chapter. Those interested in genetic influences will struggle to find a précis that distils the interactions of endothelial factors and myocyte cellular signalling pathways involved.

I find it difficult to see who would purchase this book. Researchers active in the field will not find anything new within it. There are sections devoted to clinical medical, surgical and radiological management, and interesting series (some randomised) are presented, which explore intrathecal fibrinolysis, CSF drainage, protein kinase inhibitors, and transdermal nitroglycerin but they are insufficient to elevate this book to key text. A shame as there would be an eager readership for a definitive review of this important topic.

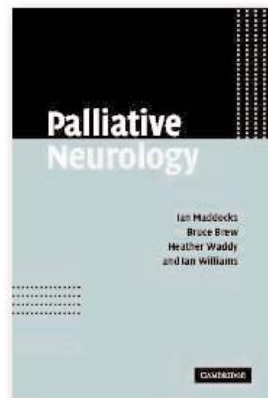
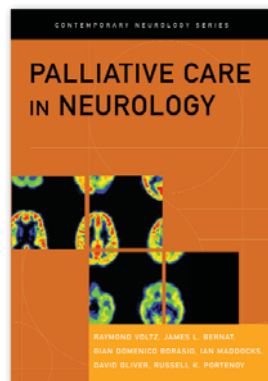
*Dr Richard P White,  
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R Loch Macdonald  
Published by: Thieme  
ISBN-10: 1588902838 / 3131400617  
Extent: 333 pages  
Price: £139.95

## Palliative Care in Neurology

There is a small but growing interest in the principles of palliative care and neurology. Recently two books have been published with deal with this area, Palliative Neurology (Maddocks et al, 2006) and Palliative Care in Neurology (Voltz et al 2004). Both are interesting, well written books by contributors in the forefront of their fields. Both begin by defining and discussing the principles of palliative care throughout the patient's illness to the terminal phase, both cover specific points of palliative care that arise within specific neurological conditions and also the treatment of common symptoms that occur in many patients with a range of chronic progressive neurological conditions. The Maddocks et al book is perhaps more aimed at neurologists who wish to learn more about the basics of palliative care, and want a quick referral guide to symptom control. It does not address the role of specialist palliative care versus general supportive and palliative care (as should be provided by the neurological multi-disciplinary team), and it is brief in the background pathophysiology and simplistic in some treatment recommendations. The Voltz et al book is a more weighty volume, densely written, without the quick reference boxes and summary diagrams of the Maddocks publication. However, the book would have appeal to both specialists in palliative care who are being asked to expand service provision into neurology and to neurologists who need to know in more depth symptom control, communication skills and terminal care provi-



sion. It has the space to provide case histories to hang the more in-depth discussion of pathology, possible treatment options and other team referrals. It does not offer a quick reference guide to treatment, more the principles surrounding treatment options, such as class of drug rather than specific doses. It offers a more comprehensive guide on a range of issues such as communication skills and has a fuller discussion around problems such as collusion, denial, anger etc. It is perhaps harder to find specific answers to questions such as 'What will help noisy terminal secretions?', and fails entirely to help with urinary spasms, both of which are easy to find in Palliative Neurology (Maddocks).

If you can only afford one - which one to buy? A difficult question and in true palliative care style one I will reflect back to you, 'What do you want?' If you need a quick and easy introduction to palliative care and answers to symptom control questions then Palliative Neurology (Maddocks et al, 2006, CUP) is for you; if you want a better understanding of the interface, application and pathophysiology behind aspects of palliative care and neurology and/or wish to develop the service, then Palliative Care in Neurology (Voltz et al 2004, OUP) is better.

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### Palliative Care in Neurology

Editors: R Voltz, JL Bernat, GD Borasio, I Maddocks, D Oliver, K Portenoy  
Published by: Oxford University Press 2004  
ISBN: 0-19-850843-3  
Extent: 448 pages  
Price: £79.50

and

### Palliative Neurology

J Maddocks, B Brew, H Waddy, I Williams  
Published by: Cambridge University Press 2006  
ISBN: 0-521-67249-X  
Extent: 260 pages  
Price: £29.99