

BOOKS RECEIVED

EMERGING STRATEGIES FOR THE TREATMENT OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN. 2006. Edited by James N. Campbell, Allan I. Basbaum, André Dray, Donald Dubner, Robert H. Dworkin, Christine N. Sang. Published by IASP Press. 514 pages. C\$120 approx.

ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY. VOLUME 31. 2006. Edited by J.D. Pickard, N. Akalan, C. Di Rocco, V.V. Dolenc, R. Fahlbusch, J. Lobo Antunes, J.J. Mooij, M. Sindou, C.A.F. Tulleken. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 289 pages. C\$200 approx.

DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA IN NEUROLOGY. 2006. Edited by Alan J. Lerner. Published by Humana Press. 227 pages. C\$150 approx.

CONTROVERSIES IN NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY. NEUROVASCULAR DISEASES. 2006. By Michael T. Lawton, Daryl R. Gress, Randall T. Higashida. Published by Thieme. 286 pages. C\$210 approx.

INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE AND BRAIN MONITORING XII. 2005. Edited by W.S. Poon, C.J.J. Avezaat, M.T.V. Chan, M. Czosnyka, K.Y.C. Goh, P.J.A Hutchinson, Yoichi Katayama, J.M.K. Lam, A. Marmarou, S.C.P. Ng, J.D. Pickard. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 484 pages. C\$245 approx.

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS. 2005. Edited by W.W. Fleischhacker, D.J. Brooks. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 141 pages. C\$140 approx.

HOW TO EXAMINE THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. FOURTH EDITION. 2006. By R.T. Ross. Published by Humana Press. 242 pages. C\$150 approx.

NEURAL PLASTICITY AND DISORDERS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 2006. By Aage R. Møller. Published by Cambridge University Press. 394 pages. C\$180 approx.

THE PATHS OF PAIN 1975-2005. 2005. Edited by Harold Merskey, John D. Loeser, Ronald Dubner. Published by IASP Press. 549 pages. C\$97 approx.

THINKING ABOUT DEMENTIA. CULTURE; LOSS, AND THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF SENILITY. 2006. Edited by Annette Leibing, Lawrence Cohen. Published by Rutgers University Press. 299 pages. C\$40 approx.

ADRENALINE AND THE INNER WORLD - AN INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE. 2006. By David S. Goldstein. Published by The John Hopkins University Press. 309 pages. C\$40 approx.

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CHALLENGING CASES IN SPINE SURGERY. 2006. By Muwaffak Abdulhak, Shaden Marzouk. Published by Thieme. 196 pages. Price C\$120.

The topic of this book is one of importance and significant breadth and the individual chapter titles are well chosen to reflect this. Unfortunately the authors fail to present a balanced or even comprehensive review of each topic. Each case is presented and summarized in just a few lines, allowing too few details to properly appreciate the complexity of the case (e.g. in Chapter 36 – Transverse myelitis: there is not enough information for the reader to develop a proper understanding of the case or to build a differential diagnosis.)

The presentation of the imaging studies is, in most chapters, lacking in both quality and quantity (e.g. Axial MRI cuts are presented without corresponding sagittal images.) Black and white histopathological specimens should simply be omitted as they add little to no value to the accompanying text.

The discussion section lacks valuable information. The authors have chosen to present their own views on management which seems based on personal experience rather than a comprehensive review of the literature. This is made obvious by the limited list of

suggested readings at the end of each chapter. Comments such as "Decompression is not indicated in patients with complete spinal cord injury regardless of the status of the canal" in Chapter 12 not only illustrate the authors' bias, but also their ignorance of the present day management of spinal cord injury patients. In Chapter 13, as another example, the significant instability associated with AO type C injury is not mentioned.

Presenting the different options in management of the challenging cases would be of great benefit to the reader however this is missing in the discussions. Chapter 20 covers the C1 to C2 fusion and instrumentation, however, no mention is made of the C1 lateral mass screw. This latter is a good technique used in present day management by fellowship-trained spine surgeons.

A number of controversies exist in the management of various spinal pathologies. Every treating physician must strike a careful balance between the appropriate use of our collective resources and patient care. Cases such as those presented in this book provide an excellent platform for generating discussion.

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