

NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY  
ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY. VOLUME 64. 1993. Edited by  
Orrin Devinsky, Edward Feldman and Brian Hainline. Published by  
Raven Press. 286 pages. \$C117.00

Managing neurological disorders during pregnancy may represent a clinical challenge. One has to find whether the actual clinical syndrome is related to pregnancy or is totally coincidental. In both situations, the necessary investigatory procedures and the usual therapeutical gestures may actually harm the foetus.

The editors have succeeded in collecting a considerable number of valuable points and guidelines about related and incidental neurological disorders that may be encountered during pregnancy. It is clearly and concisely written, making it easy to read but nonetheless, very complete. Every chapter gives you an insight and a summary into the management of these diseases.

Well known complications such as eclampsia are reviewed in detail. Vascular disorders are discussed in depth in two dedicated chapters. Epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and migraine are also reviewed. Infections, muscle and peripheral nerve disorders are appropriately summarized. One chapter which is particularly helpful deals with imaging of the pregnant patient. Several chapters are dedicated to practical aspects like back pain, maternal head trauma, CNS neoplasm and neurological complications of rheumatologic diseases.

Advances in neurology (volume 64) is a good reference book for neurologists, obstetricians and perinatologists. This book is certainly one of the most valuable reviews available on this particular topic. We hope that updated editions will be issued in the future.

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MICROSURGICAL CAROTID ENDARTERECTOMY. 1995.  
Edited by Julian E. Bailes and Robert F. Spetzler. Published by  
Lippincott-Raven Publishers. 220 pages. \$C195.00

With the growing interest in carotid endarterectomy following publication of the results of NASCET, this book represents a useful contribution to the literature, concentrating on the technique of microendarterectomy. The editors have an extensive and successful experience with the use of the operating microscope in endarterectomy (microendarterectomy) and suggest that this technique may diminish operative morbidity and mortality, an important goal for any surgeon performing this procedure. The text and illustrations are clear, and the photographs are well chosen to enhance the discussion. References are thorough, and the subject index is simple and complete. Controversial topics are typically presented in a fair and informative fashion.

The book is divided into 10 chapters, covering preoperative assessment, intraoperative management, and postoperative care of the endarterectomy patient. An introductory chapter details the epidemiology of stroke and includes an informative discussion of the natural history of carotid atherosclerotic disease. Basic chapters thoroughly review risk assessment and patient selection, intraoperative anaesthetic management, and postoper-

ative care including management of complications. An excellent, concise chapter on the angiographic evaluation of carotid stenosis includes a large number of high quality angiographic examples. Chapters on the use of magnetic resonance angiography for preoperative imaging and transcranial Doppler ultrasound for intraoperative monitoring highlight the authors' experience with these techniques.

The centerpiece of the text is the chapter on microendarterectomy. The text is straightforward and readable. The chapter includes color illustrations and a detailed description of the steps and rationale of the procedure as practised by the authors. In addition, a controversial chapter reviews the author's experience with thromboendarterectomy for carotid occlusion. A final chapter entitled "Advances in intervention for carotid disease" covers a collection of assorted topics including asymptomatic stenosis, carotid ultrasound, and carotid angioplasty.

A number of minor criticisms include the devotion of complete chapters to topics such as MR angiography and transcranial Doppler ultrasound when other, more widely utilized measures such as EEG and SSEP monitoring are covered as small subsections of other chapters. Some repetition between chapters is present, but this is a feature of most multi-authored texts.

Overall, this book represents an interesting addition to the literature on endarterectomy, formally detailing the technique of microendarterectomy and highlighting a number of surgical adjuncts found useful by the authors. The book is most appropriate for neurosurgical residents or practising neurosurgeons who perform endarterectomy and wish to gain exposure to the technique of microendarterectomy.

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NEUROLOGY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE, VOLUME 1 & 2.  
1995. Edited by Walter G. Bradley, Robert B. Daroff, Gerald M.  
Fenichel, C. David Marsden. Published by Butterworth-Heinemann.  
3264 pages. \$C439.00

This is the second edition of this highly successful textbook of clinical neurology. As outlined in the preface to the second edition, the editors indicate that the first edition had been chosen as the Most Outstanding Book published in 1991 by the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers. Further, the first edition of this book received many favourable reviews from its readers.

The current edition is divided into two volumes. The first volume deals with the principles of diagnosis and management of neurological disease, and the second volume deals with the neurological disorders. Part one of volume one deals with the approach to common neurological problems, predominantly from a symptomatic point of view, and Part two deals with neurological investigations and related clinical neurosciences. Volume two contains Part three of the textbook dealing with the neurological diseases, and this part extensively covers all aspects of neurological disorders.

Overall, this is an extremely well written textbook, and, although multi-authored, it has a very consistent style through-