

NEUROSURGERY CASE REVIEW: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. 2010. By Remi Nader, Abdulrahman J. Sabbagh. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 435 pages. C\$135 approx.

Rated **UNAVAILABLE**

“Neurosurgery Case Review: Questions and Answers” is a well-rounded review book that will prove invaluable to neurosurgery residents preparing for their certification exams. The authors have done well to cover the most common neurosurgical conditions encountered by residents in training, and readers of this book will readily associate the cases reviewed in this book with patients that they have personally looked after over the course of their training. Both the contributors of cases, as well as the section reviewers, come from a variety of geographical backgrounds, helping to show the readers the variability that exists in day to day management of neurosurgical cases.

The book has been organized, quite practically, into cranial and spinal sections, with peripheral nerve problems included in the latter section; to emphasize its importance, the authors could have easily separated peripheral nerve cases into its own standalone section. The various subspecialties within each larger section, including oncology, vascular, infection, and developmental conditions, are covered in a systematic manner with the most common conditions in each area chosen as illustrative cases. A separate section on neurology has been appended as a third section, however could have been included in the intracranial part of the book given the section’s focus.

Readers will find the cases extremely beneficial as they have been well organized and reinforce the most important features of the entity under discussion. The authors make a concerted effort to outline important facets of the clinical history, physical examination, diagnostic investigations, and management principles. Questions posed in each case are detailed and require the reader to critically think, much as one would in a routine clinical encounter. Where appropriate, readers are asked to consider specific surgical approaches, a common facet of neurosurgical certification exams. For future editions, the authors could consider revising the aesthetic layout of the case solutions as the questions appear to run together and some physical separation of each question may serve as a useful memory aid for prospective exam takers. Finally, readers of this volume will be happy to know that many of the authors have written both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certification exam in neurosurgery and the written exam of the American Board of Neurological Surgery. As such, this book will prove useful to trainees on both sides of the border, and those overseas looking to certify in North America.

The authors of “Neurosurgery Case Review: Questions and Answers” should be commended for compiling a large, and often confusing body of information, into a practical case-based review that will prove extremely useful to those appearing for certification exams in neurosurgery. Readers of this volume will be pleased

with its emphasis on the most common conditions encountered in daily practice by neurosurgical trainees. Those looking for a quick, practical ready reference on fundamental neurosurgery cases would be wise to keep this book handy.

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HOW TO READ A PAPER, THE BASICS OF EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE. FOURTH EDITION. 2010. By Trisha Greenhalgh. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 238 pages. C\$54 approx.

Rated **UNAVAILABLE**

This book is the fourth edition of a previous published book with the same name, edited by Trisha Greenhalgh and published by Wiley-Blackwell. This is one of the most successful books ever published regarding evidence based medicine. The book is dedicated to discussing basic aspects of evidence based medicine, specifically the concepts that should be used every time a medical article is read by a physician. The book is divided in 15 chapters. This book has much Canadian representations, as David Sackett and his colleagues have popularized the concept of evidence based medicine around the world. Previous editions of the book have been translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Polish, Japanese, Czech and Russian. As an important recognition for the author of this book, it has been considered in some countries such as the UK as basic literature during training for medical students and pharmacists.

I had the opportunity to read a previous edition of this book some years ago and I have to say that it has not changed a lot in its content. The book has the same chapters and only a few of them have been added to or modified in the later editions. One of the new chapters is the entitled “Searching in the Literature”. This is a very useful chapter that was missing in previous editions and reviews very well the available resources to search medical information. This chapter makes the book stronger. The other chapter that was revised in this edition is the chapter on systematic reviews and meta-analyses. This is an excellent chapter and makes a very good review of the use of this type of methodology of research and how physicians can review meta-analyses with a systematic approach. Interestingly the book ranks meta-analyses as the highest level of evidence along with randomized clinical trials. Another new chapter in the book is the titled “Getting evidence into practice”. This is a very interesting chapter that discusses the difficulties in helping organizations construct appropriate structures and systems to develop evidence based medicine. The rest of the chapters are similar to previous editions and only minimal changes have been done over time.

I strongly recommend this book. This is one of the basic books that every medical student and resident of any specialty has to read during training. Although, the ideal time to read this book is during training, this is one of the books that should be present in every

