

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

**DIETARY TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF KETOGENIC THERAPY.** 2012. Edited By Elizabeth Neal. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 241 pages. C\$77.00 approx.

**RAPID NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.** 2012. By Kumar Abhinav, Richard Edwards, Alan Whone. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 188 pages. C\$36.00 approx.

**DEPRESSION IN NEUROLOGIC DISORDERS: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT.** 2012. Edited By Andres M. Kanner. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 212 pages. C\$99.00 approx.

**VIDEO ATLAS OF INTRACRANIAL ANEURYSM SURGERY.** 2013. By Eric S. Nussbaum. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 135 pages. C\$90.00 approx.

**FAMOUS FIRST PAPERS FOR THE NEUROINTENSIVIST.** 2013. By Eelco F.M. Wijdicks. Published by Springer. 289 pages. C\$220.00 approx.

**THE EVIDENCE FOR NEUROSURGERY.** 2012. Edited By Zoher Ghogawala, Ajit A. Krishnaney, Michael P. Steinmetz, H. Hunt Batjer, Edward C. Benzel. Published by tfm Publishing Limited. 484 pages. C\$150.00 approx.

**BOOKS REVIEWED**

**NEUROSURGERY ORAL BOARD REVIEW. SECOND EDITION.** 2011. By Jonathan Stuart Citow and David Cory Adamson. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 270 pages. C\$50 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

This book has been designed for residents and early-career neurosurgeons to be a quick review for the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) oral examination. However, the content and structure of this review book still make it relevant for Canadian residents and neurosurgeons preparing for the Canadian counterpart of the ABNS oral examination: the Royal College neurosurgery oral examination.

The book begins with a helpful introduction providing advice on how to succeed in the oral examination. This is followed by 15 chapters divided into three sections that mimic both the American and Canadian neurosurgery oral exams: 1) spinal disorders, 2) cranial disorders, and 3) miscellaneous topics (including pediatric neurosurgery, functional and pain neurosurgery, peripheral nerve, critical care and neuroanaesthesia, and neurology). Each short chapter highlights the most essential information in a reader-friendly format with plenty of images to keep the reader interested. At the end of each chapter, there is a short section of "helpful hints" as well as several clinical case vignettes.

At only 270 pages in a small compact book, one can easily obtain an overview of all of neurosurgery in a couple of days. As the authors point out in their preface, this book is not meant to replace the more traditional and larger neurosurgical textbooks. The book is meant to be a supplement and an easy-to-use study aid. It is small enough to fit in most clinical lab coats. A resident may be able to read a few pages while waiting for the elevator or waiting in line at the coffee kiosk. Overall, this reasonably-priced



book will prove to be useful to not only neurosurgical residents and early-career neurosurgeons, but also to medical students, off-service residents, and allied-health professionals working with neurosurgical patients.

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**AL-MEFTY'S MENINGIOMAS. SECOND EDITION.** 2011. Edited by Franco DeMonte, Michael W. McDermott, Ossama Al-Mefty. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 432 pages. C\$210 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

Dr. Ossama Al-Mefty edited a comprehensive volume titled 'Meningiomas' which was initially published in 1991. The stated goal of the second edition edited by Dr. Franco DeMonte, Dr. Michael W. McDermott and Dr. Ossama Al-Mefty is to update students, residents, neurologists and neurosurgeons on the multitude of advancements that have been made over the last 20 years associated with the understanding of the biology, diagnosis and treatment of meningiomas. This volume, edited by three physicians, well known in the field of meningioma surgery, along with contributions from numerous authors in a series of specialized fields provides an excellent foundation for understanding and management of these tumours.

The book can be divided into five areas. The first sections deal with some of the historical aspects of meningioma treatment with the inclusion of newer



information related to the genetics of meningiomas associated with data on the role of oncogenes and multiple growth factors. The second group of sections discuss the evaluation of both adult and pediatric meningioma patients related to concepts of anaesthesia, diagnosis, and pre-operative care. The third segment provides a significant overview of all the advancements that have occurred in the operative techniques used to manage the multiple different locations and types of meningiomas. These chapters not only focus on the many resection techniques involved but outline newer approaches such as, endoscopic resection, image guided surgery along with intraoperative MRI. Typical patients with meningiomas are discussed including those involving the olfactory groove to the cervicomedullary junction along with spinal meningiomas. The following three sections provide information as well as an assessment of non-operative treatments including radiotherapy, radiosurgery and chemotherapy that are utilized to control these lesions. The final two sections discuss special considerations such as patient outcome and quality of life in the management of these lesions.

The figures in the book are of very high quality, many involving illustrations of the various types of meningiomas and their operative resection. They significantly help to define the anatomy that is crucial for the safe removal of these tumours. Many of these figures and illustrations are associated with photographs of actual operative procedures which aid the reader in his/her understanding and visualization of the approach(s) that are discussed. In many of the chapters the author(s) begin with patient positioning, then proceed with outlining the most appropriate skin incision, bone flap removal, operation and finishes with the closing of the dura and replacement of the bone flap. This provides the reader with a comprehensive assessment of the each operative approach and the complications and problems associated with each technique.

This volume provides the reader with an array of treatment modalities that are currently standard in the care and the treatment of patients with these very interesting, but at times, complex tumours. This book does accomplish its goal of updating students, residents, practicing neurosurgeons and others in the plethora of advances that have occurred in the treatment of meningiomas over the last 20 years. It deserves consideration for a prominent place on the shelf of any neurosurgeon involved in the treatment of these lesions.

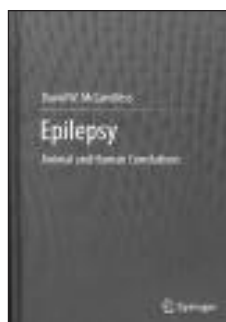
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**EPILEPSY. ANIMAL AND HUMAN CORRELATIONS.** 2012. By David W. McCandless. Published by Springer. 532 pages. C\$240 approx.

Rated ★★

Animal models of seizures have contributed greatly over the past 50 years to the understanding of the natural history of Epilepsy. To narrow the bridge between bench research and clinical epilepsy, there is a need to have clear understanding of the diverse animal models associated with the multiple seizures types

and diverse epileptic syndromes. The hope has been that understanding this could help researchers and clinicians to collaborate in the research and development process that could lead to new antiepileptic discoveries. Unfortunately, there is a paucity of books that attempt to explain in a concise fashion how that bridge can be established. For the clinical neurologists and epileptologists dedicated to the care of children and adults affected with epilepsy, a concise book like *Epilepsy; Animal and Human Correlations* by David W. McCandless, is a good attempt to become a source for those seeking rapid immersion in the essentials of translational epilepsy research that have tried to explain those critical aspects of epileptogenesis that involve acquired and developmental seizures. The book starts very well from Chapter 3 to 10, explaining alternatively the animal-human correlate of each seizure type. Thereafter, the book would have benefited from a better chapter organization, by separating the animal-human seizure types of focal and generalized epilepsies



from those including both focal and generalized epileptic syndromes. Subsequently, the purpose of the book almost disappears after Part IV with the title of *Miscellaneous Epilepsies*. A most appropriate title should have been for this section *Common Pediatric or Childhood Onset Epilepsies*, rather than separating this group of more common and severe epilepsies, almost dismissively as two different parts and chapters named *Miscellaneous* and *Pediatric Concerns*. This section also

lacks the initial organization dividing animal and human models of each pediatric epilepsy, which is well structured in the first five introductory chapters. Finally, if the purpose of the book is mainly to address the animal and human correlate, then chapters such as neuroanesthesia in epilepsy, pseudoseizures and diagnostic technology do not have a place in this book, since there is no mention of any translational aspects in these chapters.

The book attempts to integrate data between animal and human epilepsy research by reviewing most relevant developments of the clearly established classical models of epilepsy, however it falls short of its complete goal, by omitting more recently described animal models of symptomatic epileptic spasms, atonic seizures and autism among others. Nonetheless it is a good foundation for those looking for a quick initial reference, which may not be available in rapidly accessible vast internet sources.

The epilogue and the future directions of the author address the current on-going challenges that as clinicians we confront during the management of the epilepsies, emphasizing that there is still lots more to learn through expediting on-going translational research. This book opens the door for further reviews and editions, to keep pace with the new increasingly identified etiologies of human epilepsies and the increased need of animal models for those ones still where the etiologies still remain elusive.

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