

Unfortunately, when it comes to neurological disease, Cochrane reviews remain rather few in number.

Despite these short-comings, I believe that the volume does have its place. Many of the chapters are very useful summaries of the present literature and they do provide the practising clinician with the “clinical biases” of individuals with a wealth of clinical experience in their area of particular expertise. Therefore, I can recommend this volume for inclusion in a neurological library where it can be referred to from time to time but I cannot recommend it for purchase by the individual clinical neurologist or neurosurgeon.

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COLOR ATLAS OF MICRONEUROSURGERY, VOLUME 3. Second Edition. 2000. By Robert F. Spetzler, Wolfgang T. Koos. Published by Thieme, New York. 488 pages. C\$ 433.55 approx.

This is the third volume in the revised and expanded second edition of Color Atlas of Microneurosurgery. Together, the three volume series covers all aspects of intracranial and intraspinal microsurgery. The focus of the third volume is intra- and extracranial revascularization and intraspinal pathology.

The first chapter of the book reviews relevant cerebrovascular and spinal anatomy. The anatomical figures are of high quality and accompanied by line drawings for reference. Chapter 2, dealing with surgical approaches, includes information on operating room setup and patient positioning. Specific approaches for cranial revascularization and managing intraspinal pathology are described and illustrated.

The remaining chapters cover a broad spectrum of clinical material. Chapters 3 and 4 focus on techniques for cranial revascularization rather than on particular types of pathology. Chapter 3 illustrates the use of bypasses and reconstructions to achieve revascularization for a variety of indications. Chapter 4 covers extracranial and intracranial endarterectomies of the anterior and posterior circulations. Each procedure is presented as a series of color intra-operative photographs as well as line drawings. In addition, examples of cases in which endovascular methods were used are presented. The book does not deal with the technical aspects of endovascular therapy, nor is there any discussion about why certain cases were treated surgically or with endovascular approaches.

Chapters 5 and 6 are organized around spinal pathology. Chapter 5 deals with spinal tumors, beginning with extra-spinal lesions and then with intraspinal extradural, intradural extramedullary, and intramedullary lesions. Within each category, cases are sequentially presented covering the entire spine from cervical to thoracolumbar levels. Chapter 6 is devoted to spinal vascular malformations. It begins with cavernous malformations, followed by arteriovenous fistulae and malformations.

The text is beautifully illustrated and of high quality. For each case presented, schematic illustrations of the orientation of the lesion and patient positioning provide helpful pointers. The strength of the book is undoubtedly in the visual presentation of anatomical and surgical detail. There are 1859 illustrations, most in color. As in other volumes of this series, discussion of issues related to diagnosis, indications, efficacy, and outcome have been omitted.

This is a specialized, highly clinical book that will be of value to

residents and practicing neurosurgeons with subspecialty interest in the topics covered. It does not provide enough detail to stand alone as a reference, but provides a state-of-the-art overview of microsurgical techniques.

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NEUROSTEROIDS. A NEW REGULATOR FUNCTION IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 1999. Edited by Etienne-Emile Baulieu, Paul Robel, Michael Schumacher. Published by Humana Press. 378 pages. \$C 189.00 approx.

This volume is No. 16 in the Contemporary Endocrinology series edited by P. Michael Conn. Each of its 20 chapters is written by a different author or group of authors. Unlike many monographs of this type, the editors have recruited experts in the field not only from their country – France, but also from across Europe, Canada and the United States. The chapters cover a variety of selected topics. There is an excellent introductory chapter by the editors that provides an overview of the biochemistry and physiopathologic function of steroids in the nervous system. This chapter, by itself, would be an excellent introduction to the field for residents and fellows who are reviewing basic science topics. Other chapters cover specific areas such as the effect of steroids on GABAergic neurotransmission, their effect on a variety of receptors, and the modulatory effect of steroids on voltage-gated calcium channels. There is a chapter that deals with behavioural effects and the final chapter reviews the neuropsychopharmacological potential of neurosteroids.

The volume is laid out nicely. Illustrations and tables are clear and complement the text. The supporting references are current and comprehensive but unfortunately the editors have chosen to list them in the order in which they are used in each chapter, making it difficult to go back and find a particular reference based on knowledge of the first author.

This monograph deals with the subject of neurosteroids with an emphasis on the basic science. Of necessity, the majority of the research cited comes from the animal literature and much of the application to humans must be extrapolated. This means there is very little in this book for the practising clinician. It is suited much more to the basic or clinical scientist working in this field who is seeking an excellent overview of the area. Those looking to generate research hypotheses likely would find the volume invaluable as a background source and a window into the current literature. The limited nature of the book’s audience is reflected in the rather high price for a volume. This, and the fact that it is likely to become dated rather quickly and that practising clinicians are unlikely to consult it even on an occasional basis, make me unable to recommend it for purchase by a hospital library.

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NEUROLOGY OF EYE MOVEMENTS, 3RD EDITION. 1999. Contemporary Neurology Series. Oxford University Press, New York. 643 pages. C\$268.80 approx

The third edition of this text expands the previous one, adding functional imaging of cortical eye fields in humans, three