

## Book Reviews

IMAGING OF THE SPINE & SPINAL CORD. 1992. Edited by Claude Manelfe. Published by Raven Press, New York. 910 pages. \$204.00 Cdn.

This is an excellent and thorough text. Most of the authors are prominent French and American neuroradiologists. The text includes background chapters on the spine (anatomy, development, functional anatomy, normal variants); imaging techniques (CT, MR, contrast media, intra-operative ultrasound); and spinal disorders of all major categories, with appropriate emphasis on congenital disorders, degenerative disc disease, tumors and the postoperative spine.

The first chapter, covering normal anatomy, contains excellent images with exhaustive labelling. Designed as it is with 86 figures, labelled with 286 numbers (decoded at the end of the chapter) it is not suited for reading beginning-to-end but serves as a good reference atlas. I found the format slightly inconvenient.

The chapters on development of the neuraxis and congenital anomalies are outstanding in their thoroughness and clarity. Images and diagrams are excellent. The chapters on vascular pathology and disc herniations are also outstanding contributions by excellent authors.

The images are almost uniformly of good quality. However, a few of the MR images are less than state-of-the-art, particularly in Chapter 6 (Contrast Media), as well as in some figures in the section on spinal cord tumors. Also in Chapter 6, the legends for the gradient echo MR images do not include the flip angle.

The use of all relevant modalities, especially CT and MR, is described in each section. In this respect the text has an advantage over those which try to cover only the applications of one modality. There is appropriate emphasis on MR, but there is an understanding of its relative lack of availability in some settings which is often lacking in publications of entirely American origin. Because of the organization of the text there is some inevitable repetition, which is not excessive. This is minimal in the chapters on normal development and congenital anomalies, but the sequence of neurulation is described twice with some differences in emphasis. The chapters on the disc and facet joints, and disc herniations, describe some of the same processes. Post-discectomy changes are briefly described in the chapter on disc herniations, while this is of course exhaustively covered in the chapter on the postoperative spine. The chapter on syringomyelia also describes findings covered to some degree in other sections.

The entire text has been updated and translated from the original French version, published in 1989. The translation, though good, is not perfect for some chapters; words not in common English usage such as "ovalar" and "semiology" occasionally appear and there are one or two unintelligible sentences, such as "the number of impaired sites if small neurinomas or multiple drop metastases have hived off is, most of the time, inaccurate". Usually, however, the text has only a barely perceptible and charming French accent.

Overall this text covers all major spinal pathology thoroughly, and would be a good addition to the library of

neuroradiologists, neurologists and neurosurgeons and their residents.

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ATLAS OF OPTIC NERVE DISORDERS. 1992. By Thomas C. Spoor. Published by Raven Press. 190 pages. \$135.00.

Dr. Spoor's atlas serves as an effective overall review of disorders of the optic nerve for the clinician. Beginning with consideration of the anatomy and physiology, as well as clinical evaluation of the optic nerve, this 190 page volume then proceeds to consider the classic problems in optic nerve disorders, namely papilledema and pseudopapilledema, the special case of pseudotumour cerebri and its management, types of optic atrophy, the optic neuropathies of glaucoma and trauma, optic neuritis, non-arteritic and arteritic ischemic optic neuropathy, and finally optic nerve tumours. It ends with an appendix of examples of abnormal appearing optic discs which require some specific decision-making on the part of the examiner. The references are up to date for 1992, and the subject index at the end of the book is appropriate and adequate, easy to use. In fact, any section of the book can be read very quickly and is easily accessible through the Table of Contents.

The discussion of the disorders and their management is weighted in the direction of the personal experience of the author, especially in the area of use of optic nerve sheath fenestration, procedures for treatment of papilledema with visual loss and pseudo tumour cerebri, and non-arteritic ischemic optic neuropathy. The operative procedures of optic nerve sheath fenestration, as well as temporal artery biopsy, are described in detail with good illustration. The discussion of indirect trauma to the optic nerve and its management is well done.

There are a few points which were expected but absent. No mention is made of contrast sensitivity testing in terms of swollen optic nerves as in pseudo tumour cerebri. Also, little is made of any chromosomal studies more recently done in investigation and typing of Leber's optic neuropathy problems. The term "exudate" is used synonymously with what is actually micro infarct in the description of papilledema. The section on optic glioma does not mention the now recognized existence of normal visual function with optic gliomas found coincidentally with neuro imaging. The natural history of astrocytic hamartomas is also not defined.

In an atlas one should expect a copious number of photographs and these are certainly present; the colour photographs of the optic nerve head are of fairly good resolution with a few exceptions. There are clear drawings to illustrate anatomic points. Specific case descriptions are used to illustrate various optic nerve disorders, and these include fundus photographs, ultrasound and neuro-imaging in many cases. These case studies enrich and better define the clinical perspective with regard to the optic nerve. Occasionally captions to photographs are somewhat too brief and one would like to see arrows pointing to the