

description is quite concise and may not fully satisfy the learning needs of a new learner or the depth of knowledge required for the board examinations.

A suggestion to improve future editions is to add magnetic resonance imaging sections of the central nervous system with identification of the landmarks, considering that the readers in clinical neurological sciences are expected to be familiar with the anatomical structures on the scans.

In summary, this pocket sized neuroanatomy book has a user-friendly format with color-coded illustrations at a reasonable price and is useful as a companion to clinical neuroanatomy textbooks for medical and anatomy students, residents or graduates of neurology and neurosurgery and for board review purposes.

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CONTROVERSIES IN SPINE SURGERY. BEST EVIDENCE RECOMMENDATIONS. 2010. Edited by Alexander R. Vaccaro, Jason C. Eck. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 279 pages. C\$145 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

The editors of this book have collected the most important controversies affecting spine surgeons and their patients. The authors contributing to this work span the world and represent some of the leaders in their respective fields of spine surgery. Despite this collection of multi-disciplinary physicians, ranging from orthopedics, neurosurgery and rehabilitation medicine, each chapter approaches a given topic with a systematic review of the current literature. Each article is graded according to a system, which is well laid out in the first section of the book. The authors select pertinent questions facing the clinicians and provide their recommendations. Each reader, from the novice to the seasoned expert can review at a glance the evidence and strength of each recommendation.

The sections of the book cover topics from trauma, degenerative, technology and infection. The selection of controversies within each section is tailored and seems to be comprehensive and clinically relevant.

The trauma section includes the management of various fractures like the odontoid fractures seen with a high incidence in trauma patients. Other difficult topics in management of trauma patients include facet fracture and dislocations. The editors have selected not only surgical management topics but also issues of clearing the cervical spine. This latter is useful to review by any physicians dealing with trauma patients. Other very relevant topics span use of steroids and timing of intervention. Overall the topic of trauma is well covered and has a very high degree of clinical relevance to spinal trauma patients.

The section on degeneration covers selected topics of cervical spondylotic myelopathy, adjacent level degeneration, low grade

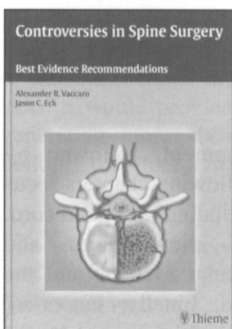
and high grade spondylolisthesis, lumbar degeneration and back pain. The challenge with this section is limiting the topics that can be covered. The editors have chosen wisely in my opinion, but have enough material left over for future editions. Spine surgeons will definitely appreciate the topics chosen in this section and have a major impact on their practice by reviewing the current state of the literature.

The section on technology is probably the only disappointment in this book. I would have preferred to see a section covering oncology. This would have continued the thematic organization of sections into pathologies. The topics chosen for this section are very good but can be re-organized into the other sections, thus avoiding the void created by not having cancer topics.

The last section on infection offers high impact information, that spinal surgeons can take to their respective practice.

Overall this book is well structured and organized, the topics are extremely relevant and can provide information to a wide range of readers. A wide audience can benefit from reading this book, not only the types of clinicians, but the level of expertise for each specialist. The novice will learn basic principles in management of the spinal patient and the expert can identify areas of weakness in the literature where they would like to contribute. I look forward to reading the future editions of this book.

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PARKINSON'S DISEASE. CLINICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE. 2009. By Donald G. Grosset, Katherine A. Grosset, Michael S. Okun, Hubert H. Fernandez. Published by Manson Publishing. 176 pages. C\$65 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

This handsome book tackles all aspects of Parkinson's disease (PD) from epidemiology (Chapter 1) to complementary and alternative medicine (Chapter 12). The lead authors include well-known, expert clinicians from the United States and the United Kingdom. The book is enhanced by additional input from other physicians and clinicians with specific areas of expertise. The latter includes occupational and physiotherapists (Chapter 9) as well as speech and language pathologists and therapists (Chapter 10). A plus is the inclusive nature of the authorship. Moreover, including both a North American and European perspective is welcome. Additional representation from other, perhaps not as wealthy, regions might be a worthwhile addition to future editions.

The text covers typical topics, including diagnosis and treatment (non-surgical, Chapter 4, and surgical, Chapter 6) but additionally there are chapters on the role of the nurse practitioner/physician assistant (Chapter 8) and another chapter on malnutrition and related disorders (Chapter 11). Chapter 8 has some redundancy in that it covers aspects of therapeutics that are already considered in other chapters to some extent. Use of vitamin D and

