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Books Received


Book Reviews


I read “A First Step” by Brian S. Langton with pleasure. This is a book about a patient who suffered severe Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) with widespread axonal damage. He was a resident of an Intensive Care Unit for some months prior to discharge to a rehabilitative facility, then home. All physicians, nurses and others looking after GBS patients should consider the perspectives raised in this book. Mr. Langton correctly points out that it is a very unique and terrifying perspective for patients. He also makes the point that patients with GBS should never be considered to be in the same category as those with “quadriplegia” from spinal cord disease or other problems. There may be retained sensations or painful dysesthesiae. The first portion of the book outlines the patient’s thoughts through the course of his illness and daily records that his wife kept of his progress. The second half of the book is more light-hearted and is really a series of short anecdotes of dreams the patient had while “locked in” with GBS. It is definitely an interesting point of view for health care providers to consider. While we may think of these issues, we don’t always remember and such a vivid reminder can be a wake-up call. Thanks to Mr. Langton for retaining the energy, after suffering through such a devastating disorder to put together some comments that may help future patients.

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This is a superb book. It is the most comprehensive of a group of recent books on childhood headache. The book is divided into 12 sections, beginning with a thoughtful introduction by Drs. Guidetti and Galli. The second section, which deals with the pathophysiology of headache, reviews in three chapters the neurophysiology, neurochemistry and pharmacology of childhood headache. The second section addresses the assessment and diagnosis of

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