


AMYOTROPIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS. 1997. By Hiroshi Mitsumoto, L. David A. Chad, Erik P. Pioro. Published by F.A. Davis Company. 481 pages $C182.00 approx.


AUTONOMIC NERVES. 1997. By Linda Wilson-Pauwels, Patricia A. Stewart and Elizabeth J. Akesson. Published by B.C. Decker Inc. Publisher. 248 pages. $C43.00

The text “Autonomic Nerves” is unique in several respects. It is a detailed and beautifully illustrated “tour de force” on the autonomic nervous system that appeals to a somewhat different audience than current textbooks. This book is really a must for Neurology residents and medical students interested in the autonomic nervous system. I was surprised at the relatively low price given the high quality of the drawings and the inclusion of the CD ROM. The CD ROM is another unique component of this book. The CD ROM in essence is simply the text viewed electronically. While I was able to get the CD ROM to run, the instructions were not as clear as they might be. To fully utilize the CD ROM and see the text and figures, one requires an up-to-date high resolution monitor, and an Adobe Reader software package (latter provided).

The text, while not an inclusive report on autonomic disorders, simply highlights some interesting conditions that involve the autonomic nervous system. Presented cases are very useful for medical students and Neurology residents. The textbook is readable and accurate, but the highlight is the beautiful illustrations provided by these three authors. Each one of these detailed photographs reinforces points about the anatomy and physiology of the autonomic nervous system.

I think the authors are to be commended for this fine teaching effort. It provides an important introduction for both clinical and physiology trainees who want to understand the autonomic nervous system. Overall I thought this was the first clear and readable dissertation on the anatomy, physiology and development of the autonomic nervous system that is accessible to trainees, in comparison with the rather staid and dry dissertations currently available. This text and accompanying CD ROM are well worth the modest price.

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