

BOOKS RECEIVED

STROKE PREVENTION NATURALLY: PROVEN NON-PHARMACEUTICAL STROKE AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES. 2010. By Felix Veloso with Roxanne Veloso-Tang. Published by Your Nickel's Worth Publishing. 237 pages. C\$19.00 approx.

THE CONCUSSION CRISIS: ANATOMY OF A SILENT EPIDEMIC. 2011. By Linda Carroll, David Rosner. Published by Simon & Schuster. 320 pages. C\$30.00 approx.

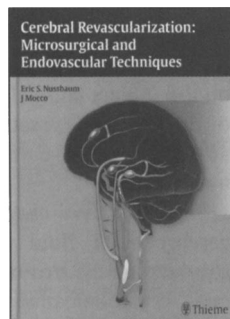
NEUROSURGERY ORAL BOARD REVIEW. SECOND EDITION. 2011. By Jonathan Stuart Citow, David Cory Adamson. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 270 pages. C\$50.00 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

CEREBRAL REVASCULARIZATION: MICROSURGICAL AND ENDOVASCULAR TECHNIQUES. 2011. Edited by: Eric S. Nussbaum, J. Mocco. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 257 pages. C\$150 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

Cerebral revascularization is a field unto itself within both cerebrovascular neurosurgery and neurointerventional radiology. It encompasses a broad range of techniques aimed at restoring or enhancing cerebral blood flow, and imposes an equally broad range of controversies and indications. This particular text book is dedicated to the broadest description of cerebral revascularization. In five sections, the text ranges from well-established and well-studied techniques such as carotid endarterectomy to the most esoteric revascularization surgeries, including laser-assisted bypasses and venous sinus recanalization.



The first section deals with historical background, as well as chapters related to indications for surgical and endovascular revascularization of the brain. The next describes surgical revascularization, including carotid endarterectomy, techniques for extracranial-intracranial bypass using the superficial temporal artery, high-flow bypasses, bypasses for the posterior circulation and indirect revascularization techniques. The third section describes endovascular methods for carotid artery stenting, intracranial angioplasty and stenting, acute stroke revascularization, and venous sinus recanalization. The fourth section is dedicated to neurocritical care and perioperative management, and avoidance of complications. The final section deals with special considerations and evolving technologies.

A strength of this text is that it contains a range of chapters written by technical experts, both surgical and endovascular. The entire range of cerebral revascularization procedures is covered,

usually with several illustrative cases. This approach makes this text into an authoritative compilation of procedures which, owing to their rarity, may be unfamiliar to many practitioners. The illustrations are generally of high quality, and include angiograms and other imaging modalities, intra-operative photographs, and artists' renditions.

However, a major weakness is that the discussion of indications for the various procedures, either in the initial chapters or in chapters dealing with specific procedures, is of variable quality. Cerebral revascularization, be it related to extracranial or intracranial occlusive disease, is one of the best studied fields in stroke neurology, interventional radiology and in neurosurgery. It is unfortunate that the authors underuse the availability of high-quality scientific evidence in their chapters, and focus more on technical descriptions of procedures and on personal experience.

Overall, this is a useful text due to its detailed descriptions of both common and uncommon revascularization procedures. It establishes that virtually any portion of the brain vasculature can be reconstructed, bypassed, or re-canalized. However, the individual practitioner may have to seek information elsewhere in order to determine whether a given procedure is in the best interest of their patients.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OPERATIVE TECHNIQUES IN NEUROSURGERY. SECOND EDITION. 2010. By E. Sander Connolly, Jr, Guy M. McKhann, II, Judy Huang, Tanvir F. Choudhri, Ricardo J. Komotar, J. Mocco. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 883 pages. C\$115 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

The second edition of this handbook on neurosurgical techniques is, like its predecessor, largely the work of members of

the Columbia University Department of Neurological Surgery. Its stated purpose is to update, improve and more comprehensively follow-up the first edition of 2002. In my view, these objectives have been realized.

With some 40 new procedures and about 200 new illustrations, it is nevertheless over 100 pages shorter than the earlier edition due to a somewhat more compact layout of the text and figures and smaller type neither of which cause any readability problems. While shorter overall the volume benefits from expansion of some sections particularly the chapters on endovascular/interventional techniques and radiosurgery.

A very extensive segment on operating room supplies, instruments and equipment which appeared in the first edition is now eliminated. In my view this is a useful deletion. In this second edition, the equipment needs are briefly listed at the beginning of each chapter.

The layout of chapters starts with the general approach to a given procedure and continues to more detailed regional modifications or pathology specific instructions and illustrations.

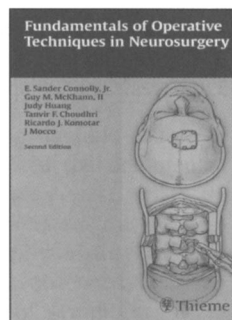
The authors have wisely chosen to retain the practice of listing complications and "management pearls" in highlight boxes at the end of each chapter where the information can be readily located.

The matter of illustrations, how many to include, how much detail and so forth is always difficult in a compendium type volume such as this. By and large however the authors, though adding hundreds more illustrations, have struck a very reasonable balance of anatomic detail with instructive clarity. Graphics are obviously no substitute for the detailed depictions to be found in many fine surgical atlases currently available but are useful nonetheless and may be helpful to show to patients as well.

In summary, this handbook in its earlier edition has for neurosurgery residents already become a well thumbed companion to Greenberg's Handbook of Neurosurgery from the same publisher.

The second edition will I'm sure continue to be popular with trainees at all levels and probably with consultants as well.

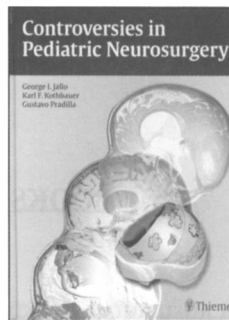
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CONTROVERSIES IN PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY. 2010. By George I. Jallo, Karl F. Kothbauer, Gustavo Pradilla. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 263 pages. C\$145 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

The field of pediatric neurosurgery is not dissimilar from many other surgical disciplines, where surgical decision-making is influenced by many factors. These decisions (surgical philosophy, surgical techniques, surgical approaches) are often tempered by the local experience.



I can distinctly remember reading a similar book, published years ago, that tackled controversies within general adult neurosurgical practice. As a trainee at the time, I was disheartened that by the end of each chapter, the "right" answer did not seem to exist. Those reading this book will face the same conclusion at the end of each section. This is not a criticism of the book but simply a fact that exists when

discussing difficult pediatric neuro-surgical issues. Each chapter however does attempt to present a balanced approach to each side of the controversy being addressed. This format allows the reader to gain a broader understanding of both sides of many issues. The target audience for this book appears to be the neurosurgical resident, neurosurgical fellow and junior neurosurgical consultant.

The following textbook tackles every day problems that a pediatric neurosurgeon may encounter. Since this book has multiple authors for each chapter, the style and content of each chapter differs considerably. What is consistent is the attempt of the authors to bolster their opinions with peer-reviewed references on the subject being discussed. In addition a nice touch at the end of the chapter is a section entitled "Lessons Learned". This is an attempt to "tie everything together for the reader" and is a nice touch.

The first five chapters focuses on problems associated with cerebrospinal fluid dynamics. These chapters tackle issues surrounding the treatment of arachnoid cysts, communicating and non-communicating hydrocephalus, shunt constructs, multi-compartmental hydrocephalus and slit ventricle syndrome. The following chapters do a nice job in laying out the issues.

The book then touches on three chapters within the field of pediatric neuro-oncology. The chapter on craniopharyngiomas, hypothalamic-optic pathway gliomas and ependymomas are well done. The topic of craniopharyngiomas is particularly well done and highlights the critical issues in the treatment of these difficult lesions.

The topic of craniosynostosis is touched on in terms of sagittal synostosis and deformational plagiocephaly. I suspect topics such as metopic synostosis, coronal synostosis, and syndromic craniosynostosis are not touched on because of space issues.

The next three chapters touch on intracranial suppuration, Chiari malformations and intractable epilepsy. The chapter on intracranial infections touches on when is neurosurgical drainage versus conservative management required. Often neurosurgery is involved when contiguous spread of infection from the mastoid or paranasal sinuses develops. Often these collections are not large