

NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY
ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY. VOLUME 64. 1993. Edited by
Orrin Devinsky, Edward Feldman and Brian Hainline. Published by
Raven Press. 286 pages. \$C117.00

Managing neurological disorders during pregnancy may represent a clinical challenge. One has to find whether the actual clinical syndrome is related to pregnancy or is totally coincidental. In both situations, the necessary investigatory procedures and the usual therapeutical gestures may actually harm the foetus.

The editors have succeeded in collecting a considerable number of valuable points and guidelines about related and incidental neurological disorders that may be encountered during pregnancy. It is clearly and concisely written, making it easy to read but nonetheless, very complete. Every chapter gives you an insight and a summary into the management of these diseases.

Well known complications such as eclampsia are reviewed in detail. Vascular disorders are discussed in depth in two dedicated chapters. Epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and migraine are also reviewed. Infections, muscle and peripheral nerve disorders are appropriately summarized. One chapter which is particularly helpful deals with imaging of the pregnant patient. Several chapters are dedicated to practical aspects like back pain, maternal head trauma, CNS neoplasm and neurological complications of rheumatologic diseases.

Advances in neurology (volume 64) is a good reference book for neurologists, obstetricians and perinatologists. This book is certainly one of the most valuable reviews available on this particular topic. We hope that updated editions will be issued in the future.

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MICROSURGICAL CAROTID ENDARTERECTOMY. 1995.
Edited by Julian E. Bailes and Robert F. Spetzler. Published by
Lippincott-Raven Publishers. 220 pages. \$C195.00

With the growing interest in carotid endarterectomy following publication of the results of NASCET, this book represents a useful contribution to the literature, concentrating on the technique of microendarterectomy. The editors have an extensive and successful experience with the use of the operating microscope in endarterectomy (microendarterectomy) and suggest that this technique may diminish operative morbidity and mortality, an important goal for any surgeon performing this procedure. The text and illustrations are clear, and the photographs are well chosen to enhance the discussion. References are thorough, and the subject index is simple and complete. Controversial topics are typically presented in a fair and informative fashion.

The book is divided into 10 chapters, covering preoperative assessment, intraoperative management, and postoperative care of the endarterectomy patient. An introductory chapter details the epidemiology of stroke and includes an informative discussion of the natural history of carotid atherosclerotic disease. Basic chapters thoroughly review risk assessment and patient selection, intraoperative anaesthetic management, and postoper-

ative care including management of complications. An excellent, concise chapter on the angiographic evaluation of carotid stenosis includes a large number of high quality angiographic examples. Chapters on the use of magnetic resonance angiography for preoperative imaging and transcranial Doppler ultrasound for intraoperative monitoring highlight the authors' experience with these techniques.

The centerpiece of the text is the chapter on microendarterectomy. The text is straightforward and readable. The chapter includes color illustrations and a detailed description of the steps and rationale of the procedure as practised by the authors. In addition, a controversial chapter reviews the author's experience with thromboendarterectomy for carotid occlusion. A final chapter entitled "Advances in intervention for carotid disease" covers a collection of assorted topics including asymptomatic stenosis, carotid ultrasound, and carotid angioplasty.

A number of minor criticisms include the devotion of complete chapters to topics such as MR angiography and transcranial Doppler ultrasound when other, more widely utilized measures such as EEG and SSEP monitoring are covered as small subsections of other chapters. Some repetition between chapters is present, but this is a feature of most multi-authored texts.

Overall, this book represents an interesting addition to the literature on endarterectomy, formally detailing the technique of microendarterectomy and highlighting a number of surgical adjuncts found useful by the authors. The book is most appropriate for neurosurgical residents or practising neurosurgeons who perform endarterectomy and wish to gain exposure to the technique of microendarterectomy.

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NEUROLOGY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE, VOLUME 1 & 2.
1995. Edited by Walter G. Bradley, Robert B. Daroff, Gerald M.
Fenichel, C. David Marsden. Published by Butterworth-Heinemann.
3264 pages. \$C439.00

This is the second edition of this highly successful textbook of clinical neurology. As outlined in the preface to the second edition, the editors indicate that the first edition had been chosen as the Most Outstanding Book published in 1991 by the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers. Further, the first edition of this book received many favourable reviews from its readers.

The current edition is divided into two volumes. The first volume deals with the principles of diagnosis and management of neurological disease, and the second volume deals with the neurological disorders. Part one of volume one deals with the approach to common neurological problems, predominantly from a symptomatic point of view, and Part two deals with neurological investigations and related clinical neurosciences. Volume two contains Part three of the textbook dealing with the neurological diseases, and this part extensively covers all aspects of neurological disorders.

Overall, this is an extremely well written textbook, and, although multi-authored, it has a very consistent style through-

out the encyclopedic presentation of pertinent information of a neurologic nature. The chapters are written by highly experienced neurologists, and contain many accounts of their clinical wisdom in dealing with common and uncommon neurological disorders.

I was particularly attracted to the tables in these volumes, which are very well constructed and user friendly. Many of the diagrams and graphics in these volumes are from original neurological literature, and their overall quality is quite acceptable. Neuroradiological and neuropathological images are of reasonably high quality. There are color plates throughout both volumes. The color plates are excellent, however, in the volumes that I reviewed, the multiple color plates of the optic fundi were misplaced from chapter 15 to chapter 13.

The editors restricted the contributors in the number of references that they could include in each chapter. References are limited to publications since 1988, with no more than two references per page. Further, at the end of most chapters there are a few valuable references for further suggested reading.

This book should appeal to any one with an interest in clinical neurology. Not only will these volumes act as a significant reference for neurologists, they contain much useful clinical information, particularly with relation to the approach to neurological disorders. Even the most seasoned clinician will gain some new insights into clinical neurology every time they open these volumes. As I frequently do with books that I am asked to review, I kept them near at hand, and consulted them on a regular basis for a few weeks to gauge their utility in every day practice, and to use them as a resource for teaching in our neurology training program. On each and every occasion that I consulted these volumes, I was not disappointed with the information found in regard to each clinical problem or neurological disorder that I was reviewing.

Thus, the neurologist in private clinical practice, the subspecialist in neurology looking for a comprehensive overview of neurology, as well as the trainee in neurology will find it well worth their time to read and consult these volumes on a regular basis. In fact, when I went to look for the original edition of these volumes, I found them in our residents' room, where they have been used extensively over the past five years by our house staff. The volumes in their room were well worn, and falling apart from overuse.

I highly recommend these volumes. They are an excellent source of knowledge and wisdom regarding neurological disorders in 1996. If you plan to purchase these volumes, then I would strongly recommend that you consult them frequently.

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PARKINSON'S DISEASE, A GUIDE FOR PATIENT AND FAMILY. FOURTH EDITION. 1996. By Roger C. Duvoisin and Jacob Sage. Published by Lippincott - Raven Publishers. 182 pages. \$C26.00

In treating a large number of Parkinson's disease patients, I have come to appreciate that the optimum relationship to help deal with this chronic progressive neurodegenerative disorder is

a partnership between physician, the patient and their family. Each individual is different in how Parkinson's disease affects his/her and their family's lives and few generalizations can be applied to all patients through the course of the disease. In trying to help achieve a patient's individual goals it is very important that the physician, patient and family attempt to be on the same wave length. In my experience, the better informed patients and their families are about their condition, the easier the task is to define strategies to improve quality of life. Patient education is therefore a very important process in identifying what to look for, considering therapeutic options and providing expectations and hope for the future. How can this information be offered in lay terms? There are a number of strategies including time spent with the patient and their family by physicians and other health professionals, encouraging participation in a regional Parkinson support group, and access to newsletters and reference books specifically oriented to their needs. *Parkinson's Disease, A Guide for Patient and Family* by Roger Duvoisin has been a standard reference to accomplish these goals and is now available in its fourth edition.

Dr. Duvoisin was joined by his colleague Dr. Jacob Sage for this edition. Both are internationally known neurologists with extensive experience both in the clinical and research aspects of this condition. The authors have been successful in compiling an extensive volume oriented to lay people who are interested in Parkinson's disease. They cover a large variety of topics including a discussion of the etiology, typical and atypical symptoms, various aspects of drug treatment and surgical therapies. I appreciated their coverage of some of the non-medical approaches including dietary considerations and exercise in helping Parkinsonian symptoms. Their historical perspective chapter is very interesting and provides a synopsis of the tremendous advances in the understanding of Parkinson's disease. This is enhanced by the personal perspective that only someone like Roger Duvoisin can offer since he has been a major figure in Parkinson's disease research for over three decades. They have also included a chapter on current research topics. This edition has been updated as there have been extensive changes in our approach to the Parkinson patient.

There are a number of features of this edition that are problematic. There are repeated references to Parkinson's disease most likely being a genetic disorder. Drs. Duvoisin and Sage have a specific research interest in this topic and firmly believe that Parkinson's disease will be shown to be an autosomal dominant disorder. This has, however, not been proven and is hypothetical. It is my concern that when patients and families read this they will come to the conclusion that this is an accepted theory rather than a very controversial aspect of current research. This may have a significant negative impact on some families.

There are some other aspects of the book that take away from its strengths. Although the authors provide a glossary, the text is often too technical and I have concerns about the ability for lay people to understand all of the topics discussed. The discussion about drugs is thorough but not oriented to the Canadian market. Drugs that are available in Canada are not listed in the book by their trade names and in some instances