

BOOKS RECEIVED

NEUROSONOLOGY AND NEUROIMAGING OF STROKE. 2008. By José M. Valdueza, Stephan J. Schreiber, Jens-Eric Roehl, Randolf Klingebiel. Published by Thieme. 399 pages. C\$180 approx.

ATLAS OF SKULL BASE SURGERY AND NEUROLOGY. SECOND EDITION. 2008. By Robert K. Jackler. Published by Thieme. 280 pages. C\$200 approx.

ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY OF THE PARANASAL SINUSES AND ANTERIOR SKULL BASE. SECOND EDITION. 2008. By Malte Erik Wigand. Published by Thieme. 237 pages. C\$140 approx.

AUDITORY PERCEPTION. AN ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS. THIRD EDITION. 2008. By Richard M. Warren. Published by Cambridge University Press. 264 pages. C\$60 approx.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE VISUAL SYSTEM. SECOND EDITION. 2008. By Martin J. Tovée. Published by Cambridge University Press. 212 pages. C\$50 approx.

FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN. 2008. Edited by Thomas Graven-Nielsen, Lars Arendt-Nielsen, Siegfried Mense. Published by IASP Press (International Association for the Study of Pain). 496 pages. C\$90 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

NEURO-ONCOLOGY. THE ESSENTIALS. SECOND EDITION. 2007. By Mark Bernstein, Mitchel S. Berger. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers. 496 pages. Price C\$170.

The textbook of Neuro-oncology covers the biology, evaluation and treatment of patients with primary and metastatic brain tumours.

The treatment sections cover surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and biological therapy, including immune therapy, gene therapy and small-molecule-based therapies. There is a chapter devoted to specific tumours. There is also a chapter concerning related issues including complications of medical therapy, quality of life and ethical concerns for Neuro-oncology patients. This text does not cover paraneoplastic syndromes or other neurological complications of malignancy.

One very useful feature of this book is the use of highlighted text boxes to emphasize important points. The boxes entitled "Pearl," "Pitfall," "Special Consideration" and "Controversy" are particularly valuable because they highlight topics that are of particular concern for clinicians and also because these important points can be found easily without the necessity to read the detailed text. In the same way, multiple headings and subheadings make it easy to navigate through the various chapters to find specific information. I question the use of the colour red for the text boxes and subheadings, particularly the white on red titles, and wonder if another colour might be easier to see, especially for those with colour blindness.

The chapters concerning anatomic imaging, metabolic imaging, physiological imaging and function imaging in the Evaluation section are particularly well written, with clear explanations of these topics suitable for those who are not imaging specialists but who wish to learn more about how various imaging modalities can aid

diagnosis and treatment. There are clear explanations of some of the newer variants of MRI with good illustrations. The pictures of the same patient imaged using several different techniques are particularly helpful for gaining understanding of the role of these modalities in patient management and research.

At the beginning of the Chemotherapy section, there is a brief, but excellent discussion of clinical trials for brain tumour patients. In spite of the fact that this section is included in the chemotherapy section, there is little discussion of chemotherapy trials. Rather, the section discusses end points for clinical trials of biologic agents and the difficulties of using MRI scans to assess response, including response to brachytherapy or radiosurgery. There are no similar sections in the surgery or radiation therapy chapters. In my opinion, it would be preferable to have a completely separate section in the book for a discussion of clinical trials in brain tumour patients. I would suggest that in future editions of the book this section could discuss the particular problems of designing phase I, II and III clinical trials of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and newer modalities of therapy for brain tumour patients. This section would contain a discussion of the difficulties of determination of end points in brain tumour trials and include cross references to the excellent chapter on imaging mentioned above as well as to the chapters concerning therapy. This new chapter could also refer to some excellent examples of brain tumour clinical trials for review by residents and those who are inexperienced in planning such trials. Quality of life issues and ethical considerations would be an important part of this chapter. Such a section would be particularly valuable for Neuro-oncology, Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology residents.

The section on specific tumours includes detailed discussion of the epidemiology, prognostic factors, characteristic clinical features,