EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT OF STROKE. 2011. By Jose Biller, José M. Ferro. Published by tfm Publishing Ltd. 334 pages. C$100 approx.

Rated ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

Format includes contents, forward, list of contributing authors and an explanatory page in the forward section which tabulates the levels of evidence and grades of evidence used throughout the text.

The book is hard-covered and comprises 334 pages including an alphabetically-formatted index, not including foreword.

photo unavailable

The book comprises 14 chapters authored by internationally renowned experts in their fields. Each chapter provides a succinct and well-crafted overview of a topic of interest to clinicians managing stroke and examines the current evidence relevant to each of these topics, with reference to key publications and summations of relevant trial data. Chapter topics include thrombolysis in ischemic stroke; management of stroke risk factors; anti-thrombolic therapies in stroke prevention; anticoagulant therapy; interventions for acute ischemic stroke; carotid artery disease and surgery for acute ischemic stroke; management of ruptured cerebral aneurysms and aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage; management of intracerebral hemorrhage; cerebral venous sinus thrombosis; ischemic stroke in children; stroke in pregnancy; oral contraceptives and hormonal therapy and stroke; management of cerebrovascular complication in cardiac procedures and CNS vascular malformations. Each chapter concludes with a separate and highlighted tabulation of key-points.

This is wonderful book which I highly recommend. It is very readable; highly informative, comprehensive and covers a large array of stroke-related topics and sub-topics of clinical relevance. I took the opportunity, in reviewing this book, to use it as a reading project for our Neurology residents which we discussed at our weekly academic half-day seminars. The enthusiasm which our residents expressed in discussing each of the chapters further supported my impression that this is indeed an excellent and worthwhile read.

I would like to have seen an index or appendix of citied publications/trials with an online-version of the book with hyperlink access to referenced material. By the very nature of the book, this publication will become rapidly outdated and I will require revisions on a regular basis.

In summary I highly recommend this book and would like to see similar publications in other Neurology sub-specialties.
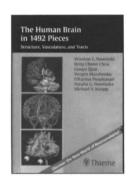
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THE HUMAN BRAIN IN 1492 PIECES - STRUCTURE, VASCULATURE, AND TRACTS. 2010. By Wieslaw L. Nowinski, Beng Choon Chua, Guoyu Qian, Yevgen Marchenko, Fiftarina Puspitasari, Natalia G. Nowinska, Michael V. Knopp. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. Software Package. C$350 approx.

Rated ⭐⭐⭐⭐

This is not a book but rather a Compact Disk that requires a computer for its use. The principal author—Wieslaw L. Nowinski is the principal scientist and director of the Biomedical Imaging Lab, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) in Singapore. To use this effectively you require a computer with a 2 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo or higher; 1 GB RAM or greater; graphics card that supports Open GL 2.1 and with at least 512 MB of video memory; 150 MB hard disc space; monitor resolution: 1280 X 1024 pixels; Windows XP Service Pack 2 or later, or Windows 7 (English version is recommended).

My laptop computer meets or exceeds all of the above recommendations; however, despite that, I found that the programme ran slowly on my computer, taking a moderate amount of time to open. The programme can be a bit over-whelming, at first, in terms of what it allows one to do. The initial opening display is of the brain seen "head on" with the blood vessels displayed. One can manipulate the images in a variety of ways-highlighting certain structures, labeling them, showing tracts, and one can then remove structures such as the arteries and the veins so that one shows only the tracts and commissures or areas of particular interest. What is harder to do is to find something as there is no conventional index or search function. If you know where the structure is, that is if you know whether a structure is cortical, subcortical or white matter you

can search the individual areas for the structure of interest but they are not listed in alphabetical order. Similarly there is an individual index for arteries, veins, and tracts. A very nice feature is the ability to overlay MRI images on the anatomical diagrams and bring that correlation together. The other useful feature is that the images are 3-dimensional and can be rotated easily in a variety of directions to show all aspects of the structure. Some of the features take a bit of getting used to. For instance, when I initially tried to demonstrate the lenticulostriate complex of arteries, it was very difficult to see and get an appreciation for its size and location. Only when I removed some of the other arterial and venous structures did the lenticulostriates stand out. I was then able to overlay the MRI image and show the part of the brain that might be affected by stroke in this vascular territory.

This would be an excellent teaching tool for clinical neuroanatomy—both for neurologists and neurosurgeons; however, it takes a bit of getting used to, and will at first, be slower than flipping through the pages of a classical neuroanatomy text. The eventual functionality of this CD is exceptional and worth the time and effort put into learning how you use it properly.

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