

techniques. In general, I think this volume would be useful to trainees in Radiology and the Neurosciences. The plain radiographic differentials may be useful to the practicing radiologist.

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CLINICAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANGIOGRAPHY. 1993. First Edition. By Charles M. Anderson, Robert R. Edelman and Patrick A. Turski. Published by Raven Press. 498 pages. \$CDN 176.00 approx.

Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) has been the object of intensive research by MR scientists and radiologists in recent years. This book, edited by three leading authorities in MRA development and applications, provides a background in the fundamentals of the technique and brings together early clinical experience, advancing MRA toward routine clinical use.

The first section of the book is devoted to principles of MRA (physics, flow phenomena, artifacts, etc.). An excellent chapter on diffusion/perfusion imaging is included in this section. A seemingly misplaced chapter on development of MRA is present at the end of this section. The second major section of the book is devoted to clinical applications of MRA, principally neurovascular. A few chapters at the end of the book deal with body MRA, including an "atlas" of vascular anatomy of the body. Each chapter includes an extensive and current reference list.

The detail presented on physical principles is probably excessive for the majority of neurologists and neurosurgeons. Very basic concepts are, however, easily extracted. Of greater interest to the neuroscience physician is the clinical applications section. Illustrative examples are numerous and there is abundant conventional angiographic correlation. The images are current and of excellent quality. Clinical applications and their current role are discussed, with a weighting in favour of MRA over other imaging techniques. Some of the imaging protocols discussed might prove impractical within the time constraints of a busy magnet.

Overall, this volume is an excellent resource for physicians who are involved with MRA on a day-to-day basis. It will appeal mainly to MR radiologists, however, neuroscience physicians with an interest in cerebrovascular disease would certainly profit from review of selected chapters.

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DIAGNOSTIC NEURORADIOLOGY. 1994. First Edition. By Anne G. Osborn. Published by Mosby-Year Book, Inc. 936 pages. Price not available.

This remarkable book presents a comprehensive overview of anatomy, pathology and neuroimaging findings in diseases of the central nervous system. It is beautifully illustrated and well written, making easy and enjoyable reading. The text is divided into five parts: Brain development and congenital malformations; vascular; brain tumors; infection, white matter abnormalities and degenerative diseases; and spine. There is a well-balanced emphasis on CT, MR and angiography throughout. Extracranial head and neck disease is not included.

The individual chapters are richly illustrated. Pathologic correlation is heavily emphasized and there are numerous pathologic photos (many in colour) as well as line drawings illustrating pathology and anatomy. The images presented are of highest quality. The text

is quite comprehensive, though not overly so. Discussion of rare disease processes is limited but an extensive and up-to-date reference list is presented at the end of each chapter. The text is enhanced by numerous text boxes summarizing a given disease entity or presenting concise differential diagnoses.

This text is a "must buy" for radiologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons and their trainees. It combines a very current text with high quality imaging, superb pathologic correlation and illustrations.

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EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN. Second Edition. (The International Review of Child Neurology.) 1993. By Jean Aicardi. Published by Raven Press. 555 pages. \$CDN 124.00.

There are two types of textbook: the single author one and the multi-authored tome. I prefer the former as it is usually more of one piece and readable than a multi-authored text and tends to reflect an author's views and opinions more consistently. This type of book is less common obviously because it is a much more onerous task. We are fortunate that Jean Aicardi, a pre-eminent child neurologist in the English speaking world, has given us the second edition of *Epilepsy in Children* as well as his textbook on child neurology in this his second language.

Like its predecessor, the format is much the same. There is an introductory overview of epilepsy followed by a classification of seizures and the epilepsies. The second part of the book takes in the major types of seizures and epileptic syndromes. There is then a section on epilepsies related to age groups or particular causes such as photosensitivity and also on status epilepticus. The last part of the book then covers diagnosis, management and the medical and surgical treatment of the epilepsies.

The text covers 430 pages: there are 2500 references – up by 1000 from the previous edition – and the overall length of the book is increased by 100 pages.

The depth of knowledge, clarity and thoughtfulness are all of the very high standard that we have come to expect from Aicardi. There is a new section on the myoclonic epilepsies of infancy and early childhood that is most helpful. The descriptions of Landau-Kleffner syndrome of acquired aphasia and the odd syndrome of "continuous spike wave discharges in slow wave sleep" are well done and well discussed. The section on medical management as well as the new section on surgical management are thoughtfully written from a clinical viewpoint and the current new crop of anticonvulsants is included, although there is little reference made to clobazam which seems to be more widely used in Canada than elsewhere. I admit to finding the early section on the classification of epileptic seizures and the proposed classification of "epilepsies and epileptic syndromes", somewhat unsatisfactory, mixing as it does anatomic localisation, causation and "special syndromes", but there seems to be no ideal classification. In my more cynical moments I sometimes suspect that those who reclassify epilepsy at each international meeting do this more in the fashion of butterfly collectors than scientists.

One test of the value of a book is how it helps with specific clinical points that one encounters in one's practice. I looked up neonatal seizures characterised by apnea and was glad to be reassured at how rare it was, and also used some of the references cited. Later I referred to the discussion on benign occipital epilepsy and found this helpful, and also the section on the changing morbidity and mortality of status to be well referenced and up to date.

In summary, this book should have a place in the office of all who practice pediatric neurology and epileptology.

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VASCULAR DEMENTIA. 1994. Edited by L.A. Carlson, D.G. Gottfries and B. Winblad. Published by S. Karger AG. 214 pages. \$CDN 152.00.

Few diseases have undergone so many changes in fashion as vascular dementia. When Alzheimer made his classical observations at the turn of the century, degenerative brain disease was felt to be rare, even by Alzheimer himself. The idea that the brain was slowly and chronically deprived of blood by progressive atherosclerosis was only slowly surrendered in the 1950's, mainly by pathological observations of the brains of cohorts of demented patients that revealed the relationship between progressive brain degeneration with age. Now it is clear that the concept of "vascular dementia" is also degenerating, though the entity represents about 20% of demented populations.

This book is the product of a symposium which took place in Stockholm in August 1993, and as such suffers the drawbacks of all such non-peer reviewed publications. It is a brief book of scarcely

200 pages. The 13 chapters are also brief, rarely more than a few pages and over half are by Swedish authors. I found the most readable were the early chapters giving personal overviews. Most of the others were highly specialized and of variable interest, spanning small print neurochemistry to disturbances of gait. One wonders about the value of bureaucratic classification and subgrouping of a subject as diffuse as dementia and the value to either the clinician or researcher of concepts such as "strategic-infarct-syndromes". The European habit of acronyms often inhibits the fluency of reading, especially when different authors use different abbreviations for the same entity. Also, the tendency of some authors to confirm their observations by referring to their own previous publications is disconcerting.

I am not sure whom to recommend published symposia such as this. It is certainly not for the tyro wishing to learn the rudiments of vascular dementia; yet there is no constant theme in the book, so that the super specialist would only find one or two chapters of direct interest. The overviews on clinical concepts or neuro-imaging can be found in the authors original publications, most likely this publication will only have a passing interest for a limited and very specialised audience, who also are prepared to pay over \$100 for a very slim volume.

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