

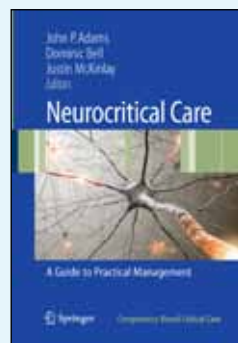
### Neurocritical Care

Edited by John P Adams, Dominic Bell, Justin McKinlay

Springer-Verlag 2010  
Price £58.99. Pp 177  
ISBN 978 1 84882 069 2

This book is aimed at clinicians in non-specialist units responsible for the acute care of patients with neurological disease. It is intended to form the basis of guidelines and protocols that can be modified for the needs of individual units.

My initial scepticism that a book of this size could provide comprehensive information on a broad range of neuroscience topics was unfounded. Each chapter is subdivided and key points are readily accessible to the reader. The text is supported by excellent line drawings, graphs and figures. The inclusion of coloured management flow charts provides easy to



follow clinical guidance on important issues but the duplication of some of these in the appendix seems unnecessary. The references are generally up to date although I would have preferred more reliance on comprehensive reviews. The inclusion of relevant websites is a further useful resource.

Most important conditions, including head injury, subarachnoid haemorrhage and acute ischaemic stroke, are well covered in a clear and concise manner. I would have liked to see a chapter on the management of intracerebral haemorrhage, the most devastating form of stroke. There are several chapters on broader neurological issues that are commonly encountered in non-specialist centres, including seizures, acute weakness and confusion/agitation. One of the major challenges facing neurocritical care is the

resuscitation and management of severe brain injury that would previously have been considered unsalvageable. I would have liked to see this important issue covered in more detail, with clear advice that, although early therapeutic nihilism is inappropriate, aggressive early treatment must be linked to compassionate end-of-life care if a satisfactory degree of clinical improvement does not occur within an appropriate timescale.

Notwithstanding some omissions, this concise and well-produced book exceeded my expectations and I recommend it to a broader audience than that identified by the editors. Although it is not intended to compete with texts aimed directly at neuroscience staff, I suspect that this book will be used as a rapid reference resource by many working in neurocritical care.  
*Martin Smith, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, University College London Hospitals, London*

### Hazzard's Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology (6th edn)

Jeffrey B Halter, Joseph G Ouslander, Mary E Tinetti, Stephanie Studenski, Kevin P High, Sanjay Asthana  
McGraw Hill 2009

Price £155.00. Pp 1634  
ISBN 978 0 07148 872 3

*Hazzard's Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology* by Jeffrey Halter and colleagues has evolved over the last 15 years into a state of the art, evidence-based, patient-centred textbook. An internationally renowned, diverse group of authors, from multiple disciplines have contributed to this book. The availability of an on-line electronic version will provide additional complementary material, illustrations and regular up dates, keeping the book 'live'.

The book gives in-depth information on social, psychological and biological aspects of aging and the diseases of old age and also on various ethical and legal issues and common geriatric syndromes. The chapters on organ system and disease are extremely well written and they provide a wealth of information on how aging affects physiology and pathology, making interpretation of signs, symptoms and investigations difficult. For example the section on respiratory diseases explain the normal changes in lung function and blood gases

with age before going into details of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and interstitial lung diseases; two of the common respiratory diseases encountered in the elderly.

The book gives a comprehensive overview of medical practice in care of older people in the USA, but is updated with a new international perspective and is very relevant to the principles of gerontology and clinical geriatrics as applied in the NHS. It is highly recommended as a reference for clinicians and researchers interested in old age medicine.

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### Pelvic Floor Disorders for the Colorectal Surgeon

Edited by Ian Lindsey, Karen Nugent, Tony Dixon  
Oxford University Press 2011  
Price £49.95. Pp 278  
ISBN 978 0 19 957962 4

The term 'pelvic floor disorders' has traditionally been used to describe a variety of very different clinical entities. In recent years, there have been considerable advances in the understand-

ing of pelvic floor pathophysiology, which has lead to a rationalization of investigation and management of these conditions. This book pulls together an update of these rapidly changing fields of knowledge and thus fills a significant gap in the literature.

This is a multi-author text with contributions from colorectal surgeons, radiologists and pain. It is divided into three sections; the first describes organization and diagnosis, the second the pathophysiology and anatomy of the different clinical syndromes and the final describes new therapeutic approaches and procedures together with reported results. The chapters are clearly written with comprehensive, up to date references and conclude with helpful key points and editors summaries.

The illustrations consist of clear black and white line diagrams and photographs.

My only criticism is the title 'for the colorectal surgeon' because this book will be invaluable not only to colorectal surgeons and their trainees but also to all who have an interest in pelvic floor disorders including gastroenterologists, gynaecologists, radiologists, specialist nurses and indeed to medical students.

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