

Acute Stroke Management in the First 24 Hours

Edited by Maxim Mokin, Edward C Jauch, Italo Linfante, Adnan Siddiqui, Elad Levy
Oxford University Press 2018
Price £41.99. Pp 280
ISBN 9780190856519

Time is brain. Acute stroke management in the first 24 hours is crucial in determining survival and functional recovery. This book discusses in detail two of the most important time-dependent aspects of hyperacute stroke management: intravenous thrombolysis and intra-arterial thrombectomy. Rapid recognition is important; the book begins with basic syndromes and definitions of transient ischaemic attack, ischaemic and haemorrhagic stroke.

Once an acute stroke is recognized as an emergency, the acute stroke management care pathway should be activated immediately: transferring the patient to an appropriate setting that facilitates further assessment, imaging and treatment.

To this end, the book provides detailed information on established and developing stroke system levels of care: covering acute stroke ready hospitals, primary stroke centres, comprehensive stroke centres, and thrombectomy-capable stroke centres. Although biased towards the North American health-care system, the prehospital stroke triage and screening tools described are useful references for the current British reconfiguration or centralisation of the hyperacute stroke services agenda.

Pertinent clinical questions and real case scenarios are included throughout the book to enhance learning. As a rapidly developing field, future editions will require thorough updating. This book will prove an invaluable practical guide for clinicians and provide insight into development of hyperacute stroke services. *Joseph Ngeb, Colchester General Hospital, Colchester, Essex*



Clinical Examination Skills in the Adult Critically Ill Patient

Edited by Martin W Dünser, Daniel Dankl, Sirak Petros, Mervyn Mer
Springer 2018
Price £109.99. Pp 261
ISBN 978 3 319 77364 3

The importance of this book is best summed up by the proverb: 'For most diagnoses, all that is needed is an ounce of knowledge, an ounce of intelligence, and a pound of thoroughness'. To be thorough, one needs to perform a well-informed, comprehensive examination, and this book provides the method to do just that.

The book leads the reader from the 'general approach to the critically ill patient', to 'examining single organ systems' and 'systematic examination schemes'. The text is up-to-date, clearly written, and usefully goes back to the basic principles of examination skills and builds up the knowledge base. A myriad of clear photos demonstrating a vast amount of pathology, and systematic figures fill the book to aid learning. A section on 'dermatological pearls – conditions that may cause or be associated with critical illness' gives a welcome refresher for those

whose knowledge of dermatology leaves a little to be desired. Each chapter contains a section on 'useful clinical practices' and references to guide further reading.

While the practice of carrying out a thorough physical examination has perhaps declined with the increase in easy-to-access investigations and imaging modalities, it should remain a fundamental component of patient care. This book replenishes one's knowledge of just how to do that for a complex critically ill patient.

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Surgical Treatment of Colorectal Cancer: Asian Perspectives on Optimization and Standardization

Edited by Nam Kyu Kim, Kenichi Sugihara, Jin-Tung Liang
Springer 2018
Price £114.00. Pp 414
ISBN 978 981 10 5142 5

This book describes the alarming increase in the incidence of colorectal cancer in the Asia-Pacific region. It gives well-illustrated documentation of surgical, chemo- and radiotherapy techniques with

particular relation to anatomy within a multidisciplinary context. The descriptions of the current role of minimal access surgery and robotics are first class.

However, there is an undue focus on advanced local disease compared to early rectal cancer. There is minimal mention of local excisional techniques such as transanal endoscopic surgery or the policy of 'wait and see' after therapeutic chemoradiotherapy, which may result in cure without the need for surgery. Similarly, there is no mention at all of contact radiotherapy (Papillon). This is a shame because it would be hoped that increased diagnosis would lead to more rectal cancer being diagnosed at an earlier stage.

Conversely, there is significant discussion of D3 resection in which extended lymphadenectomy is performed. This technique is contentious in Europe and the UK because of concerns that it may not improve survival and may increase the incidence of complications.

The book has no index and this is a significant omission. I do not think this book will be of major interest to British generalists or specialists. *MJ Hershman, Consultant Colorectal and Minimal Access Surgeon*