

## The Clinical Neuropsychiatry of Stroke: Cognitive, Behavioral and Emotional Disorders

Robert G Robinson  
Cambridge University Press 1998  
Price £60.00. Pp 491  
ISBN 0 521 44234 6

It is well known that cerebrovascular accidents (CVAs) are often followed by severe emotional disorders, most commonly depressive syndromes. Although it had long been suspected that 'post-stroke depression' was not simply a psychological reaction to a sudden and devastating illness, but was in some way aetiologically linked to the cerebral damage caused by the CVA, it was not until the pioneering work of Folstein et al (1977) that this suspicion could be backed up by compelling evidence. Their observations marked the start of modern investigation of emotional disorders in stroke, which forms the core of Robinson's book.

About half the book covers depressive syndromes, their relationship to focal brain damage, and their association with other behavioural problems. Less attention is devoted to post-stroke mania, anxiety and 'other neuropsychiatric disorders', a reflection of the poor understanding of these problems. Mechanisms of post-stroke emotional disorders are covered in a review of the author's own work on the effects of experimental brain lesions on the behaviour of rats; the results are interesting, but one might question the validity of the behavioural indices used (principally locomotor hyperactivity) as models of human emotional disorder. Treatment (mainly pharmacotherapy) is also reviewed.

The book summarizes nearly two decades of research by the author and his colleagues. As such, the coverage is intentionally selective. It is not an exhaustive review of the literature on the neurology, neuropsychology and neuropsychiatry of stroke; rather a detailed examination of the results of the author's own work, including tables of data

and details of statistical analyses. This can be wearisome, but is only a minor detraction from an otherwise readable and informative monograph.  
*CM Bradshaw, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham*

Folstein MF, Mailberger R, McHugh PR (1977) Mood disorder as a specific complication of stroke. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 40: 1018-20

## Management of Infectious Complications in Cancer Patients

Edited by Gary A Noskin  
Kluwer Academic Publishers 1998  
Price £200.00. Pp 312  
ISBN 0 7923 8150 5

Infection in patients with cancer or in those being treated with immunosuppressive regimens and by bone marrow transplantation are frequent and can be difficult to diagnose and treat. They require specialist management by oncologists working with infectious disease physicians, two specialities which are in need of urgent expansion in the UK. The perspective of this book is mainly an American one since this is where the majority of the expertise and interest is currently found.

Consequently some of the information about antibiotic use and approach to diagnosis of tuberculosis is based on US practice and not necessarily applicable elsewhere. The chapter subjects range from the theory underlying host immune deficits to the practical management of patients.

In general, chapters are well referenced and fairly easy to read. Tables are used extensively to present detail, usually to good effect. However, although there is a wealth of interesting data in this volume, the structure of the book could have been improved: although there is a specific chapter on solid organ cancer, there are no dedicated chapters on haematological malignancy or bone marrow transplantation, although there is a good chapter on fever in the neutropenic host. In addition, as commonly occurs in multi-author volumes, similar information was presented in several chapters.

One area which I felt did need highlighting is the many grey areas in the treatment of infection in cancer patients which require further clinical as well as basic science research. In summary, this is a useful book for the specialist at whom it is clearly aimed and will find a place in the reference library of teaching hospitals.  
*JS Friedland, Hammersmith Hospital, London*

## Cardiac Emergencies: a pocket guide

Jim Nolan, John Greenwood, Alan Mackintosh  
Butterworth Heinemann 1999  
Price £14.99. Pp 188  
ISBN 0 7506 3883 8

*Cardiac Emergencies: a pocket guide* is a well written book covering most commonly presenting cardiac conditions. In twenty-four short chapters it details the management of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, common arrhythmias and a number of related topics. The final two chapters are devoted to practical procedures and a handy intravenous drug administration guide.

The authors bring together a wealth of practical experience to form a series of workable guidelines. Throughout the recommendations are supported by major trials and meta-analysis with references included to allow more in-depth reading. Sadly a lot of the references are for editorials and not the original studies, although this is partly a practicality in a short book of this type.

The management strategies described form the basis of good accepted practice and will help clinicians less familiar with these areas. The key points at the end of each chapter are particularly clear and helpful. The greatest disappointment in a 'pocket guide' is the failure to include flow diagrams of the major treatment pathways for easy reference.

There are a number of books covering similar areas to this one although not all as well written or practical. The target audience of medical SHOs, accident and emergency staff and cardiac nurses would certainly benefit from reading this book.

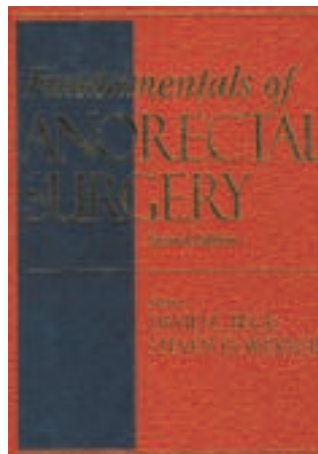
*Brian Clapp, Whittington Hospital, London*

## Fundamentals of Anorectal Surgery (2nd edn)

Edited by David E Beck, Steven D Wexner  
WB Saunders 1998  
Price £85.00. Pp 557  
ISBN 0 7020 2366 3

The previous edition of this text was useful but had largely been superseded by others as a result of the advances made in both the surgical and non-surgical treatment of anorectal diseases. This new 1998 edition has thus been long awaited. Many of the authors remain well recognized specialists in coloproctology. All aspects of the anorectum are comprehensively covered, but in a way which does not leave the reader completely overwhelmed.

The use of imaging techniques such as endoscopic ultrasound, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging in different conditions is covered in up-to-date detail in the relevant chapters, especially for the staging of



rectal cancer. The section on minimally invasive techniques is written with authority and reflects the editor's status as one of the pioneers in this field. Adjuvant therapy for rectal cancer, which is often ill-understood, is explained in a concise manner and pitched at just the right level. The inclusion of nursing considerations is a laudable attempt to address the vital role that nurses play in patient management; unfortunately this chapter does seem aimless, and the more important topics such as perioperative counselling and stoma care are inadequate. The illustrations are clear throughout but the monochrome plates of the endoscopic views and histology slides are disappointing for a book of this calibre, and colour should surely have been employed.

The reader will of course also have to cope with American spellings which may irritate. Overall this is a highly readable textbook and deserves a place in the colorectal trainee's library.

*Joseph Huang, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn*