

BOOK REVIEW

Whiplash, Gerard A. Malanga & Scott F. Nadler, eds. 460 pages. Price \$45. ISBN 1 56053 438 9. Hanley & Belfus Inc., Philadelphia, 2001.

There are intense debates both in the media and in scientific literature concerning whiplash-associated disorders (WAD). This book contains several chapters that will be of interest to clinicians working with patients with acute and chronic WAD. The book comprises 26 chapters, concerning, for example, anatomy, biomechanics, pathophysiology, clinical picture, different treatments and rehabilitation. Some of the chapters are more successful in applying an evidence-based approach.

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Pearls, Ted A. Lennard, eds., 225 pages. Price \$45. ISBN 1 56053 455 9. Hanley & Belfus Inc., Philadelphia, 2001.

This book is a compilation of 85 clinical cases in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Each case comprises a history, physical examination and complementary investigations, and poses a question relating to the diagnosis. This is followed by a discussion of the diagnosis based on the literature. The therapeutic consequences are also defined. Each case is concluded with some sentences or important summaries, the so-called "Clinical Pearls". These are "take home" points and should be considered as ready knowledge.

The level of complexity of cases varies widely. Simple cases set out less common pathologies, with which rehabilitation specialists should, however, be familiar. Various conditions belonging to rehabilitation disciplines are covered.

Functional Rehabilitation in Neurosurgery and Neurotraumatology, K. R. H. von Wild, ed., M. Lipovsek, A. D. Mendelow, J.-L. Truelle, pp. 147, 2002. Price EUR 76. ISBN 3 211 83739 6. Springer-Verlag, New York.

According to the preface of this book, this is intended to be the first volume in a new series on rehabilitation in neurosurgery. A collection of articles, brief reports and abstracts on overlapping themes, which were presented at conferences and one workshop during the period 1997–2001, is collected in three parts. A wide range of topics is covered, from current concepts in the subject area to descriptions of new neurosurgical treatment options. Personal statements and opinions are included along with clinical reports – most as single case histories or case series – and summaries of comprehensive studies, for example a 9-year follow-up of patients with severe brain injury in Aquitaine by J. M. Mazaux et al.

The chapters related to physical treatment, in particular, have a more believer-based angle. This book is a necessary component in the library of the clinician working with WAD, but it would have gained by more thorough editorial revision, as several chapters repeat the messages and conclusions of other chapters.

Professor Björn Gerdle
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
University Hospital
SE-581 85 Linköping
Sweden

The book is written by specialists with a wide experience embracing the clinical and academic spectrum, and the discussion is based on the most recent scientific findings. It is highly readable and is intended for specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Some abbreviations used in the physical examination and laboratory findings could pose a problem for European readers. An explanatory list of abbreviations would have been useful.

The book is part of the Clinical Pearls Series (or The Pearls Series), in which other disciplines are also covered.

Prof. dr. Guy Vanderstraeten
Department of Physical Medicine
Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation
University Hospital
B-9000 Gent
Belgium

Although most of the presentations are related to neurosurgical procedures, such as deep brain stimulation or use of baclofen pumps, many are less specific, which might be expected when one considers how this volume was compiled. This book may be of value for those interested in an overview of events in the neurosurgical field related to neurorehabilitation. However, I believe that its greatest value and probably the main objective of this publication, is the manifestation of a serious interest in and ambition for integrating and evaluating neurosurgical achievements in a rehabilitation context.

Professor Jörgen Borg
Department of Neuroscience, Rehabilitation Medicine
Uppsala University Hospital
SE-751 85 Uppsala, Sweden