BOOK REVIEWS


The practice of clinical electromyography is an exercise in the anatomy of muscles and peripheral nerves. This anatomic information can be derived from anatomical atlases, neurological handbooks and anatomic guides for electromyographers. Steve R. Geiringer, associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Wayne State University in Detroit, has written a dedicated muscle atlas for needle EMG.

The book contains an illustration of each muscle, description of its innervation (nerve and root), patient position during the examination, needle localization, activation of muscle and notes on the muscles. The illustrations are clear and simple to understand. Most relevant limb muscles have been included in the book. The diaphragm, the anal sphincter and a few other non limb muscles are also included. The suggested examination techniques for the muscles are valid and useful.

The section on muscles on non limb muscles is brief, it includes only the anal sphincter, the diaphragm, to facial muscles, paraspinous muscles and the sternocleidomastoid muscle. The last section should be more detailed; among others muscles innervated by the trigeminal nerve (masseter and temporalis muscles) are missing. The abdominal muscles are not mentioned, although the different parts of the rectus abdominis muscle are helpful in low thoracic radiculopathies. The laryngeal and extracutaneous muscles have also been omitted. Hopefully they will be included in the second edition of the book.

This book is very similar to the "Anatomic guide for the electromyographer" by E. Delagi and A. Perotto, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield Illinois, 1981. Both books are excellent. However, I find Geiringer's book to be more concise and the techniques for some muscles, especially the serratus anterior muscle, more useful than the ones suggested by Delagi and Perotto.

In spite of the omission of some rarely examined muscles this is an excellent anatomic guide. Of the currently available anatomic EMG guides it is the one that I find most recommendable. It should be available in every EMG laboratory not far from the EMG equipment. Personally, I would like to have an electronic edition of this book integrated with the EMG software. It would be much less embarrassing to look for help on the computer screen than in a book in front of the patient.

Björk Falck, M.D., Ph.D.

Anatomic Localization for Needle Electromyography, I. Goldt, M.D., Professor


This booklet is written jointly by a physician, a urologist and a G.P. and it is published in association with the British Medical Association. We are sure that this booklet will be very useful for our patients. It is simply written and with good illustrations. Copies are available from Family Doctor Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 118, London WC2N 5BG, Great Britain.

Ed.