

## BOOK REVIEWS

*HIV-related Disability: Assessment and Management*, Michael W. O'Dell, ed, pp. 232, 1993. Price \$34.00. ISBN 1-56053-134-7. Hanley & Belfus, Inc., Philadelphia, USA.

This volume consists of thirteen chapters covering all aspects of HIV-related physical medicine and rehabilitation describing the current practices in the United States, in the several areas involved, and updating the current research front line.

In the initial chapters the basic biology and the various clinical presentations of HIV-infection and AIDS are pertinently described, including the risk of transmission between patient and health care worker. This is followed by an analysis of the epidemiology of HIV-related physical disability, and it is concluded that further research is urgent in order to be able to make more accurate assessments necessary for planning purposes etc.

In a following chapter, two experienced scientists from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City describe how to assess the functional status in HIV-infected persons, and they include an extensive review of the literature. The electrodiagnosis of neuromuscular disease in HIV-infection, and its management, as well as the diagnosis and management of HIV-related central nervous system disorders and their disabilities are detailed in separate chapters. The pulmonary, cardiac and rheumatologic disabilities in HIV-infection and AIDS are also covered. Rehabilitation issues in children struck by HIV and AIDS are described in a separate chapter. The neuropsychological and psychosocial aspects, including such handicaps, and their management, as well as the American experience regarding vocational rehabilitation and employment problems for the HIV-infected take up the latter part of this volume.

HIV-infection, initially discovered as an epidemic among homosexual men and later even among intravenous drug abusers and hemophiliacs, gradually has become endemic and merged into the heterosexual population. HIV-infection and AIDS are no longer problems mainly restricted to a few large cities but may be encountered and must be handled by local physicians and health care workers in virtually all countries. From all aspects, including that of rehabilitation, HIV/AIDS constitutes a formidable challenge to the medical profession. The rehabilitation needs of the HIV-infected are multiple and varied and may change immensely, or stay rather constant, throughout the disease progression. Repeated assessments are thus mandatory.

Rehabilitation of the HIV-infected person requires an holistic approach with multidisciplinary participation. The present monograph is a condensed and readily accessible summary of the current knowledge and experience within this complex field. References to the literature are ample at the end of each chapter. The volume can be strongly recommended as a comprehensive introduction and refer-

ence in the daily work to all those who get in professional contact with this group of patients.

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*Aging with Spinal Cord Injury*, G. G. Whiteneck, S. W. Charitfue, K. A. Gerhart, D. P. Lammertse, S. Manley, R. R. Menter & K. R. Seedroff, eds, pp. 374, 1993. Price \$89.95. ISBN 0-939957-48-5. Demos Publications, New York.

Craig Hospital in Engelwood, Colorado, has for many years been one of the leading centres for care of the spinal cord injured. The seven editors of this book have, together with other authors, covered most of the questions of aging with spinal cord injury. These patients have on average a shorter life span than the normal population. This is often caused by secondary complications as urinary tract infections, bowel problems, decubiti, obesity and coronary heart diseases.

The authors recommend a comprehensive life time system of care with continued surveillance of this group's special risk factors.

The book is well written and covers many problems of importance in the aftercare. It is recommended and should be on the bookshelves in every department dealing with patients with spinal cord injuries.

Ed.

*Voice Output Communication Aids: A Study Sponsored by the International Project on Communication Aids for the Speech Impaired, IPCAS*. Karoly Galyas, Gunnar Fant, Sheri Hunnicutt, Department of Speech Communication and Music Acoustics, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. Published by the Swedish Handicap Institute, Box 510, S-162 15 Vällingby, Sweden, 1992.

This publication addresses the many aspects of communication aids with voice output. This subject is introduced by a description of the underlying speech synthesis technology, couched in a historical perspective. Further sections describe both clinical and personal use of voice output communication aids (VOCAs) and give a comparative overview of commercially available systems. In an appendix there is a detailed inventory of most of the available VOCAs and speech synthesis devices compiled from questionnaires sent out to distributors. A primary goal of the undertaking is to provide a background in the speech technology of VOCAs to practising speech and language professionals to aid them in making informed decisions regarding choice of communication aids for clients.

Ed.