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PLASTIC SURGERY: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Edited by M. J. Jurkiewicz, Thomas J. Krizek, Stephen J. Mathes, and
Stephan Ariyan
The C. V. Mosby Company

This two-volume set is broad in scope. Although it is not as comprehensive as McCarthy's eight-volume set, many of the contributing authors are distinguished in their field.

The first part of volume 1 covers basic concepts and foundations: wound closure, congenital malformations, and an excellent review of neoplasia. The remainder of volume 1 and the entire second volume are devoted to clinical application of basic principles. Most of the clinical chapters are well developed, well written, and provide enough information to allow the reader to reach conclusions. The book is well structured, reads easily, and is liberally supplemented with line drawings and photographs of high quality. As a reference source it is well indexed. There are some minor printing errors, but these do not detract from the text. I especially enjoyed the chapters on scalp and calvarial reconstructive problems; however, I was disappointed that the authors did not discuss surgical treatment of male pattern baldness.

The book is directed primarily at plastic surgery residents in training; however, it is also a useful reference for medical practitioners. The sections on cleft lip, cleft palate, and other craniofacial anomalies are of interest to pediatricians.

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COMPREHENSIVE EPILEPTOLOGY

Edited by Mogens Dam, MD, DMSc, and Lennart Gram, MD, DMSc
Raven Press

Here is a fairly comprehensive and current discussion of epilepsy for neurologists and others involved in the care of patients with epilepsy. Certain omissions, however, are worth noting.

Concise reviews of the neurochemistry, neurophysiology, neuropathology, and genetics of epilepsy start the book. However, the discussion of genetics omits the benign partial epilepsies. The chapter on management of neonatal seizures is excellent, but the chapter on infantile spasms fails to outline a complete plan of management beyond the use of adrenocorticotropic hormone. Continuous spikes in slow sleep and the Landau-Kleffner syndrome are conditions which receive scant attention. An important chapter on temporal lobe epilepsy talks about controversies without providing essential basic information. One chapter outlines a practical approach to managing various forms of status epilepticus. Nonepileptic disorders are covered well, and sections on pregnancy and teratogenesis, the role of electroencephalographic monitoring, magnetic resonance imaging, positron-emission tomography, single-photon emission computed tomography, and magnetoencephalography are also useful. Unfortunately, many of the discussions of electroencephalographic findings lack accompanying illustrations.

Medical treatment of epilepsy is covered in a section consisting of a general overview followed by discussion of individual drugs. The chapter on surgical treatment outlines in detail the approach with depth and subdural electrodes but fails to mention the role of foramen ovale electrodes or how to identify which patients can undergo focal resection without the need for invasive electroencephalography. The social context of epilepsy is acknowledged in a chapter on counselling epileptic patients about activities such as school, work, and marriage.

Cost (\$150) and the aforementioned omissions aside, this text is comprehensive and a useful reference for anyone taking care of epileptic patients.

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MIGRAINE AND OTHER HEADACHES: THE VASCULAR MECHANISMS

Edited by Jes Olesen
Raven Press

This book, the first in a series (*Frontiers in Headache Research*), deals with vascular studies in patients with migraine and cluster headaches. The book is divided into several sections, including studies of migraine with and without aura, studies of migraine during and between attacks, cluster headaches, and vascular effects of some migrainous drugs. The first section includes several papers on the evaluation of intracranial blood flow and vascular changes.

Each section is followed by a discussion by a leading researcher. This helps to tie together the various papers, many of which show conflicting results. As the book points out, the study of vascular reactivity in migraine is still evolving and no standard reproducible method exists. It is difficult to get patients to research centers during acute migraine attacks and then subject them to the somewhat complicated studies; moreover, the validity of studies of induced migraine continues to be debated.

This book will not be very helpful to the family physician; however, anyone interested in headache and headache mechanisms will find it a valuable resource. As we understand more clearly the pathophysiology of headache, better therapy will follow. Books such as this will help to stimulate research and add to our knowledge.

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ENDOCRINE HYPERTENSION

Edited by E.G. Biglieri and J.C. Melby
Raven Press

From the third chapter on, this book is a well-constructed collection of articles on major types of secondary hypertension. The text presents a readable and practical progression through adrenal causes of hypertension (eg, primary aldosteronism, Cushing's syndrome, various congenital enzyme deficiencies). An excellent overview of pheochromocytoma and an introduction to the possible role of atrial natriuretic peptide in hypertension are presented. Practical diagnostic paradigms and their scientific basis are discussed with clarity.

As a generalist, I would have shortened the first two chapters. The first is a long voyage through the history of aldosterone discovery—an account of possible interest to a basic researcher, but tedious to a clinician. The second chapter reviews experimental models of endocrine hypertension. While this is more clinically pertinent than the first chapter, it is still aimed at a relatively specialized audience. Overall, however, this book would be a good addition to the library of a general internist, family practitioner, pediatrician, endocrinologist, or hypertension specialist.

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