

Book Reviews

Mayo Clinic Cardiology Review, 2nd Edition, 1999

Edited by Joseph G. Murphy. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 227 East Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA. Price: US\$99.95. ISBN: 0-7817-2326-4.

The second half of the last century saw a tremendous expansion in the scope and depth of our understanding of heart diseases. This progress was the natural outcome of technological advancements that enabled us to define heart diseases in terms of physical principles—to provide detailed and accurate diagnosis of existing anatomical or functional abnormalities of the cardiovascular system, and to design and better apply pharmacological, interventional and surgical methods to treat heart disease. The rate of this book acquisition of new knowledge, and the refinement of existing information, have been so rapid that the useful life of even the best and most up-to-date cardiology textbook is limited to only a few years before it recedes into obsolescence. In a similar fashion, and for the same reasons, cardiologists need to constantly expand and update their knowledge and skills to maintain their professional readiness.

This second edition of the *Mayo Clinic Cardiology Review* is published three years after its highly successful first edition in 1997. In its 1348 pages, with over a hundred color photographs and numerous black-and-white illustrations, diagrams, and actual angiographic or echocardiographic frames, the editor managed to encompass a very thorough and illuminating review of the subject of cardiology. The inclusion of representative multiple-choice questions, together with explanatory answers and authoritative references at the end of each chapter, provides readers with a tool to check on their strengths and weaknesses in a given topic, and familiarize prospective Board examination participants with the format of the examination.

Subjects in which large amounts of breakthrough knowledge have accumulated over the past decade (e.g., molecular biology, atherosclerosis and endothelial function, cellular electrophysiology, etc.), are dealt with in sufficient detail. For more traditional topics (e.g., management of acute myocardial infarction), the emphasis is placed on conciseness and brevity. The editor, assisted by a large group of recognized authorities in various fields, has managed to strike an admirable balance between two conflicting needs, i.e., to be comprehensive and informative while remaining succinct and “to the point.”

Although specifically written for cardiology fellows and candidates for Board examination or recertification in

cardiology or internal medicine, we consider this textbook equally helpful to seasoned cardiologists who wish to be informed about the latest advances in sectors of cardiology other than their own. We predict that this edition will attain wide acceptance and success.

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Pediatric Radiation Oncology, Third Edition, 1999

Edited by Edward C. Halperin, Lois S. Constine, Nancy J. Tarbell, Larry E. Kun. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 227 East Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA. Price: US\$155.00. ISBN: 0-7817-1500-8.

This book is specifically devoted to the use of radiation therapy for the treatment of childhood cancers. The authors are well-recognized authorities in the field of pediatric oncology. *Pediatric Radiation Oncology*, published in 1999, is the third edition of the book, but a major revision has clearly been made to each chapter, with the inclusion of up-to-date references. Also, most of the chapters have CT scans and MRI pictures appropriately placed to further explain the text.

The book consists of 22 chapters, with the first chapter reviewing the problem of cancer in children. Subsequent chapters deal with the different types of tumors in children, again with emphasis on the role of radiation therapy and the overall management of each tumor category. Chapter 19 deals with the late effects of cancer treatment in general, and chapter 20 deals specifically with secondary malignant neoplasms in children treated for cancer. The following chapter is a new one that reviews issues related to the sedation of children, with emphasis on monitoring the anesthetized child in the radiation therapy suite, and dealing with the ideal anesthetic for pediatric therapy. The chapter also explores anesthetic options for radiotherapy and discusses the complications of the child's underlying disease that dictates the anesthetic choice. Chapter 22 deals with immobilization, which is a very important link in the chain of treatment, planning and implementation.

In my opinion, each chapter reflects controversies in the management of pediatric tumors, with all the major sides of an issue presented so that readers can form their own opinion. At the same time, the authors offer their opinion on many controversial topics, but are fair to alternate views. The book will be very useful to all

radiation oncologists who do not practice radiation oncology on a regular basis, and also to fellows and residents in radiation oncology and pediatric oncology training programs.

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Pathology of Tumors of the Central Nervous System: A Guide to Histological Diagnosis

Edited by Roger E. McLendon, Darell D. Bigner, Sandra H. Bigner, and James M. Provenzale. Publication: October 1999. Arnold Medical Department, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH, U.K. Price: £125.00. ISBN: 0-340-70071-8.

This richly illustrated book is a companion to the sixth edition of Russell and Rubinstein's *Pathology of the Nervous System*. The book, *Pathology of Tumors of the Central Nervous System: A Guide to Histological Diagnosis*, is divided into three parts: Mass Lesions in Adult Brains, Mass Lesions in Brains of Children and Young Adults, and Tumors of Maldevelopmental Origin. This is a unique approach to the illustration of brain tumor pathology, along the lines of different epidemiology of CNS tumors in children and adults. As the authors admit at the onset, this organization of the content leads to unavoidable repetitions in the text. Every tumor entity is graded according to the latest WHO classification and accompanied by a short introductory overview, radiological appearance, light microscopic description, immunohisto-

chemistry, and electron microscopy. Regrettably, the criterion used for WHO or other grading systems are not discussed in the book. Many of the chapters are accompanied by well-organized short tables summarizing the clinical and pathological features of each lesion. All the chapters are clearly written, concise, exceptionally well illustrated, and are followed by essential references. The book contains more than 400 good quality photographs, and only a few with minimal imperfections. The indexing is sufficient for finding every topic discussed in the book. The atlas illustrates almost all CNS tumor entities, with the noticeable exception of chordomas. As is the case in another neuropathology book, this book also contains incorrect descriptions of neurological cysts, which, by the strict definition of a cyst (a cavity lined by epithelium), do not exist.

In summary, this is an excellent book that I would highly recommend for residents as well as practicing anatomic pathologists and neurosurgeons. Unfortunately, the book is highly priced at £125.00, which, to a large extent, may limit the number of potential buyers among the group that would be most interested.

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