
Book Reviews

DAS HWS–Schleudertrauma–Moderne Medizinische Erkenntnisse [Head and Neck Trauma/Whiplash Syndrome: State-of-the-Art Medical-Neurotologic Aspects] (In German)

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Auflage Bremen: Uni-MED, 1999. 174 pp. Hardcover, 100 illus. ISBN 3-89599-442-1

DAS HWS–Schleudertrauma–Moderne Medizinische Erkenntnisse is a significant contribution to both professionals and patients involved with complaints secondary to trauma of the head and neck and the whiplash syndrome. The table of contents reflects the concept of the authors: the necessity of a team approach for patient complaints secondary to trauma of the head and neck. The coverage of the topic is complete. The text is divided into 10 sections and presents a thorough analysis of the epidemiology and demographics, underlying basic scientific principals of anatomy and physiology, and the ensuing pathology after whiplash injury. Classification systems are reviewed, and new ones are presented, as are descriptions of both early and late sequelae of the whiplash syndrome.

Particularly worthy of mention is the reported clinical experience of the late whiplash injury syndrome. A description of a grading system and recommendations for prevention of the sequelae of head and neck trauma are specified.

The treatment section is the highlight of the text. Classic methods of treatment, including medication, are presented. The reader will find particularly interesting the description of the orthopedic technique called *competitive-kinesthetic interactive therapy*. The description is extensive, and the reader is impressed by the positive results that are reported for complaints of pain, hearing loss, tinnitus, vertigo, and ear blockage alone or in combination.

The authors discuss in a clinical manner the problems presented by patients and highlighted by pain and sensorimotor and sensory complaints of the cochleovestibular system (hearing loss, tinnitus, vertigo, and ear blockage). The complexity of the problems is reflected in the four main authors' team approach to patient complaints after trauma of the head and neck,

specifically the whiplash syndrome. Of particular mention is the landmark integration within the text of neurotology with the overall problem of trauma of the head and neck and, in particular, the whiplash syndrome.

The authors reflect four disciplines of medicine that are involved in this team approach: neurotology, radiology, neurosurgery, and orthopedics. In addition, special invited authors address the problem of diagnosis of vestibular disorders. Extensive explanations of the diagnostic approach are supplemented by figures, tables, and results of treatment. Electrodiagnostic techniques are described with case reports, including audiometry, auditory brainstem response, acoustic evoked potentials (both early and late), electronystagmography, the rotary chair, the vestibular test battery (e.g., caloric testing in the rotary chair), and head-neck-body movement relationships as identified by the technique of craniocorpography. Craniocorpography is a diagnostic technique that provides the ability to quantify movement disorders related to interference in head and neck and body movement. The system can be used not only for diagnosis but for monitoring of therapy.

The text presents total neurotological evaluation not only for complaints of hearing, tinnitus, vertigo, and ear blockage but for focusing on interference in smell and taste. Similarly, sections on neurosurgery, radiology, and neuroradiology for diagnosis both before and after treatment are presented clearly and are enhanced by excellent figures.

This work provides a manual for the diagnosis and treatment of complaints of the head and neck secondary to trauma, focusing on the whiplash syndrome. It integrates the medical aspects of the problem with underlying basic scientific issues of anatomy, physiology, and pathology. It provides to the medicolegal expert a basis for decision making for issues of impairment, handicap, and disability. The book clearly identifies the different types of syndromes that are described by patients and have a basis in accurate diagnosis, as explained. The four main authors and invited authors identify a host of complaints and provide expert information that improves the accuracy of the diagnosis and methods for treatment.

The reviewer has the impression of being witness to the emergence of a new interdisciplinary approach to

complaints of the head and neck secondary to trauma and, in particular, the whiplash syndrome. The text accomplishes its goal of providing recommendations for both diagnosis and treatment that can be used by administrators, attorneys, and insurance companies for decisions of impairment, handicap, and disability. It text provides a clarification or method of objectifying the quantification of complaints as described by the patient for such decisions. The medicolegal aspects involved in whiplash syndrome are presented as a historical review of the literature. Recommendations are based on the experience of the authors. A glossary and guidelines for medicolegal determinations conclude the text.

A serious deficiency is the book's lack of a bibliographical listing of references. Although references are mentioned throughout the text, the reader is unable to go to any particular reference section as follow-up to the excellent discussion of a particular problem as presented in the text.

Our recommendation is that the next edition of this text include an extensive bibliography. Also, a new edition should include an update of clinical experiences, international in scope, to benefit the patient and professionals involved in the diagnosis and treatment of such complaints.

This book is recommended to all professionals involved with patient complaints secondary to trauma of the head and neck, with particular emphasis on the whiplash syndrome. The book will be of value to professionals in the disciplines of otolaryngology, otology, neurotology, neurology, neurosurgery, radiology, and neuroradiology and to medicolegal experts.

The excellence of the text suggests preparation of an English translation: After all, the problem of trauma of the head and neck, and particularly that of the whiplash syndrome, is universal.

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Cochlear Implants

Edited by Susan B. Waltzman and Noel L. Cohen

New York: Thieme, 1999. Includes bibliographical references and index. 416 pp. Hardcover. ISBN 0-86577-882-5

Cochlear Implants reflects the state of the art of cochlear implants. It is an excellent review of current cochlear implants recommended for severely to profoundly hearing-impaired adults and children.

The chapters include contributions of papers presented at the Fifth International Cochlear Implant Conference held in New York, May 1-3, 1997, and sponsored by the New York University School of Medicine. The book serves its stated purpose: "to provide professionals involved in the field of cochlear implants with a comprehensive reference text which encompasses all aspects related to implantation, including the effects of electrical stimulation, processing capabilities, preoperative criteria, medical, surgical, and radiological issues, results and post-operative programming, rehabilitation and education."

This text is an invaluable resource for professionals involved in diagnosis and the patient selection process prior to implantation, for all professionals involved in rehabilitation, for operating room personnel, and—most important—for severely and profoundly deaf patients. The results of cochlear implantation, both positive and negative, are presented clearly.

I recommend this book as a reference for understanding the state of the art of cochlear implantation in 1999. I also recommend that future meetings about cochlear implantation provide ample opportunity for innovative processes, both external and internal, to be included in education programs that have as their goal improvement of communication capabilities for patients with severe or profound nerve-related loss of hearing.

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