NEUROSURGERY ROUNDS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. 2011. By Mark R. Shaya, Remi Nader, Jonathan S. Citow, Hamad I. Farhat, Abdulrahman J. Sabbagh. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 468 pages. C$50 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆

Structure: In this exam review book the authors have compiled a set of short answer type questions and organized them into basic and clinical neuroscience chapters. The questions range from basic to advanced concepts with broad coverage of the chosen topics. Some chapters provide clinical vignettes to summarize chapter content. Explanatory drawings of anatomy, neural circuits, neuroimaging, and histological micrographs are used throughout the text. The book is pocket- sized so it is easy to carry with you as you commute to the hospital, in clinic, or on the wards for quick study between cases. However, I found it difficult at times to distinguish features on some of the anatomical drawings. Some figure labels are too small to read comfortably.

Content: Answers to questions are provided adjacent to the question, which allows for quick study. The text was easy to read, informative, and succinct. Questions that arise frequently during rounds were identified adequately. Each question and answer stood out independently so it was easy to pick up at any point in the book and to study for short interrupted periods. As I read the book, I felt that I was continuously learning. Although the text covered many broad subject areas in neurosurgery, there was a lack of neuro-embryology in the content. Referencing for answers to questions was appropriate and current. There were some questions related to clinical management of common neurosurgical conditions which made treatment recommendations. I felt that these attempts at briefly summarizing clinical management went beyond the scope of the text and did not convey the breadth of pharmacologic or interventional options.

Summary: This is a nice resource for quick study when you have a moment while commuting to work or between cases. I often found myself interested by the content and motivated to look up references or read around the questions that were presented. Overall, I think the text does a good job of preparing you for most common neurosurgery rounds questions and so is useful to junior residents.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS ATLAS OF DIGITAL EEG – AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING GUIDE. SECOND EDITION. 2011. Edited by Gregory L. Krauss, Robert S. Fisher, Peter W. Kaplan. Published by Johns Hopkins University Press. 448 pages. C$125 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆☆☆

This is the second edition of an atlas of digital EEG delivered by the Johns Hopkins Medical Center. The atlas's main focus is to train neurologists, epilepsy fellows and technologists on basic aspects of EEG and in the recognition of waves. The atlas is a collaboration amongst epilepsy and EEG experts from the Johns Hopkins Medical Center and other centers in the US. The atlas is divided into nine chapters. The first two chapters describe basic approaches to use digital EEG. The next six chapters review the main aspects of EEG wave recognition, including chapters dedicated to describing artifacts, normal variants, focal and generalized abnormalities and ictal and interictal patterns. The last chapter is dedicated to electrode configuration, intracranial EEG and cortical anatomy.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

I really enjoyed the review of this atlas. I think that the strongest part of this atlas is the high quality of the traces and its format. It is very easy to see the trace and then on the opposite page to read the explanation. The description of the traces is the same for all the cases, describing a brief history of the patient, the EEG findings, clinical relevance, and the differential diagnosis. In general the book reviews the main EEG abnormalities that are seen by neurologists, fellows in training and technologists. The traces are typical and very well selected. The selection of traces in the chapter of artifacts is excellent for beginners in EEG. In general I feel that the book has a strong adult component. In my opinion the chapter describing pediatric EEG patterns is very basic being helpful for beginners in EEG, although for a more comprehensive learning of pediatric EEG other literature should be used. The chapter on electrode configuration is very useful and unique in this atlas. The authors performed a topographic correlation between electrode placement and MRI images. Again for physicians in training this provides a great tool to learn localization of waves.

I had the opportunity to review the DVD that is included in the book. The DVD is a very important element of the atlas. Nowadays many young physicians in training are more familiarized with new software and the DVD is a great addition to the atlas. The quality of the traces is better in the printed version, although some sections are not included in the book. The auto test that is included in the DVD is a useful tool. The DVD allows people in training to have a test with real cases which is very helpful for board exams. The DVD also includes a section with typical examples of different type of seizures and non-epileptic events. The videos are carefully selected and become a great educational tool for physicians interested in EEG and epilepsy.

I strongly recommend the EEG atlas of Johns Hopkins Medical Center. I would like to remark that most of the content of this book is basic knowledge on EEG and basic recognition of waves for beginners in the EEG with a strong component of adult EEG. The book is highly recommended for residents of neurology, epilepsy fellows and EEG technologists. For a more specialized review of pediatric EEG and more specialized concepts of EEG patterns other literature is advised.

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