

ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY VOLUME 97 - INTRACTABLE EPILEPSIES .
2006. By Warren T. Blume, Peter L. Carlen, Elout Starreveld,
Samuel Wiebe, G. Bryan Young. Published by Lippincott, Williams
and Wilkins. 595 pages. Price C\$240.

This text is the publication of the proceedings of a Canadian League Against Epilepsy Conference that was held in London, Ontario in October, 2004. There are 78 contributors. The text is divided into 15 sections. These include sections on the epidemiology and cause of refractory epilepsy, the basic science and clinical aspects of refractory, focal and generalized epilepsies and status epilepticus, the role of neuroimaging, consequences, co-morbidity, genetics, medical management issues and the role of surgery. Basic science and clinical aspects are presented and epilepsy in both pediatric population and adults is addressed. Accordingly, in one volume, the various aspects of refractory epilepsy are addressed in a manner that will be of interest to practicing neurologists, epileptologists who treat both adult and pediatric patients and basic scientists interested in the treatment of epilepsy. The editors have done a commendable job in synthesizing and presenting the various aspects of this important group of epilepsy patients who present treatment challenges in the practice of every treating neurologist who sees patients with various types of seizure disorders.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this textbook since it is an up-to-date summary of the current available information on intractable epilepsies. It is well referenced and references until 2003 are included. It would have been useful for the general neurologist if, at the beginning of the text, a brief discussion on pseudo refractory epilepsy could have been included. In view of the multiple authorship, some minor repetition occurs. The chapters are generally well organized. The medical management of intractable epilepsy is addressed in a brief chapter and the clinical trials of the new antiepileptic drugs are summarized. Information on mechanisms of antiepileptic drug failure including the target hypothesis and the multiple drug transporter hypothesis are included. Very few spelling errors were found.

In conclusion, this is an outstanding reference text that will be useful to general neurologists, basic scientists and pediatric and adult epileptologists. The textbook will serve as a valuable resource. It is well referenced.

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