BOOKS RECEIVED

STROKE PREVENTION NATURALLY: PROVEN NON-PHARMACEUTICAL STROKE AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES. 2010. By Felix Veloso with Roxanne Veloso-Tang. Published by Your Nickel's Worth Publishing. 237 pages. C$19.00 approx.

NEUROSURGERY ORAL BOARD REVIEW. SECOND EDITION. 2011. By Jonathan Stuart Citow, David Cory Adamson. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 270 pages. C$50.00 approx.

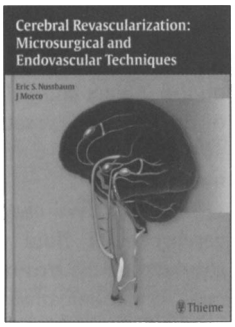
THE CONCUSSION CRISIS: ANATOMY OF A SILENT EPIDEMIC. 2011. By Linda Carroll, David Rosner. Published by Simon & Schuster. 320 pages. C$30.00 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

CEREBRAL REVASCULARIZATION: MICROSURGICAL AND ENDOVASCULAR TECHNIQUES. 2011. Edited by: Eric S. Nussbaum, J. Mocco. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 257 pages. C$150 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆½

Cerebral revascularizaton is a field unto itself within both cerebrovascular neurosurgery and neurointerventional radiology. It encompasses a broad range of techniques aimed at restoring or enhancing cerebral blood flow, and imposes an equally broad range of controversies and indications. This particular text book is dedicated to the broadest description of cerebral revascularization. In five sections, the text ranges from well-established and well-studied techniques such as carotid endarterectomy to the most esoteric revascularization surgeries, including laser-assisted bypasses and venous sinus recanalization.



The first section deals with historical background, as well as chapters related to indications for surgical and endovascular revascularization of the brain. The next describes surgical revascularization, including carotid endarterectomy, techniques for extracranial-intracranial bypass using the superficial temporal artery, high-flow bypasses, bypasses for the posterior circulation and indirect revascularization techniques. The third section describes endovascular methods for carotid artery stenting, intracranial angioplasty and stenting, acute stroke revascularization, and venous sinus recanalization. The fourth section is dedicated to neurocritical care and perioperative management, and avoidance of complications. The final section deals with special considerations and evolving technologies.

A strength of this text is that it contains a range of chapters written by technical experts, both surgical and endovascular. The entire range of cerebral revascularization procedures is covered, usually with several illustrative cases. This approach makes this text into an authoritative compilation of procedures which, owing to their rarity, may be unfamiliar to many practitioners. The illustrations are generally of high quality, and include angiograms and other imaging modalities, intra-operative photographs, and artists' renditions.

However, a major weakness is that the discussion of indications for the various procedures, either in the initial chapters or in chapters dealing with specific procedures, is of variable quality. Cerebral revascularization, be it related to extracranial or intracranial occlusive disease, is one of the best studied fields in stroke neurology, interventional radiology and in neurosurgery. It is unfortunate that the authors underuse the availability of high-quality scientific evidence in their chapters, and focus more on technical descriptions of procedures and on personal experience.

Overall, this is a useful text due to its detailed descriptions of both common and uncommon revascularization procedures. It establishes that virtually any portion of the brain vasculature can be reconstructed, bypassed, or re-canalized. However, the individual practitioner may have to seek information elsewhere in order to determine whether a given procedure is in the best interest of their patients.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OPERATIVE TECHNIQUES IN NEUROSURGERY. SECOND EDITION. 2010. By E. Sander Connolly, Jr, Guy M. McKhann, II, Judy Huang, Tanvir F. Choudhri, Ricardo J. Komotar, J. Mocco. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 883 pages. C$115 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆☆

The second edition of this handbook on neurosurgical techniques is, like its predecessor, largely the work of members of