

Spinal Cord Medicine: Principles and Practice

VERNON W. LIN. 1085pp. **Price:** 225.00US\$. **Publisher:** Demos Medical Publishing Inc. **Place of Publication:** USA. **Date of Publication:** 2002. **ISBN:** 1-888799-61-7.

Spinal cord medicine (SCM) is a term, which intelligently describes the art and science of diagnosing as well as treating spinal cord injury (SCI) and spinal cord disorders. The choice of the author for this title is in itself advancement in the field of studying spinal problems. In this book an accumulation of 130 outstanding and distinguished authors gathered to give the juice of their experience in this field. The book is divided into 10 sections containing 74 chapters. Each section represents a complete reference for the topics addressed. The sequence of events starts with the history of SCM from the era of ancient Egypt until now. The historical review is followed by a well-documented account on anatomy, physiology, imaging and epidemiology of SCM. The organization of the sections and chapters were carried out in a highly scientific fashion. Acute injuries and their management were addressed first. The complication of SCI were explained, the plan for their management were set forward. The care of SCI patients had a good share of the book. Rehabilitation was discussed in the 7th section of the book and it was divided into 9 chapters. The extensive elaboration on this topic is a credit to the book, which eliminates the need to look for these topics in separate specialized books on Rehabilitation. The book keeps amazing you as you go on reading and when you reach section 10, where it addresses the psychosocial issues of SCI and SCD, this was fully explained.

A well organized and scientifically presented book like this is not complete without a deep look into the recent advances in the field of SCM and the ongoing research. This was addressed in section 8.

This book is a valuable addition to any library of Neurologists, Spinal Surgeons, Neurosurgeons, and Rehabilitation Physicians. It is of value for residents in these entire fields. In my view, this book as Dr. Woosly rightly concluded in his forward, "This is truly a magnum opus. It is unlikely that anything like it will appear again for many years, if ever".

*Awad El-Awad
Spinal Unit
Armed Forces Hospital
PO Box 7897, Riyadh 11159
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

Pain Management in Rehabilitation

TRILOK N. MONGA, MARTIN GRABOIS. 370pp. **Price:** 89.95US\$. **Publisher:** Demos Medical Publishing Inc. **Place of Publication:** USA. **Date of Publication:** 2002. **ISBN:** 1-888799-63-3.

This is the first edition of pain management in the rehabilitation book (hard cover) which contains 14 chapters. It is written by 24 contributors including the 2 editors who are well experienced with great knowledge in their field. This is the first time that I have read a book discussing the management of pain in the most frequent disabling diseases in such detail.

The book begins with a chapter on the models of pain and its management which works nicely as an introduction to the text. The second and the third chapters talk about "the evaluation of pain complicating primary disabling diseases" and "psychosocial and vocational issues in rehabilitation" and have added the required information to make these 3 chapters general basics in how to deal with the patients that have developed these conditions. In the 11 chapters that follow, the authors discuss the pathophysiology and the management of certain diseases which include spinal cord injury, stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, peripheral neuropathy, poliomyelitis, amputation, arthritis, cancer, burns and human immuno-deficiency virus pain management.

This book is definitely very valuable and helpful for the concerned doctors in the care of the patients who suffer from the above diseases as pain is still highly under-diagnosed and undertreated in this population.

In spite of some confusion in reading pages related to specific diseases due to the controversies of its pathophysiology, I should congratulate the authors for this excellent, simply presented book. There is a good number of related references at the end of each chapter which include recent as well as old articles. The index is rather lengthy, 33 pages, which is nearly 10% of the total book.

I would recommend this book for rehabilitation specialists, and doctors in chronic pain clinics, but because it is expensive, it should be restricted to the hospital or departmental library for those centers that receive a considerable number of patients.

*Nader M. Honjol
Department of Anesthesia
Armed Forces Hospital
PO Box 7897, Riyadh 11159
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*