

Early diagnosis and interventional therapy in cerebral palsy

ALFRED L. SCHERZER. 353pp. **Price:** USD55.00. **Publisher:** Marcel Dekker, Inc. **Date of Publication:** 2001. **Place of Publication:** USA. ISBN: 0-8247-6006-9.

I enjoyed reading this small book about the diagnosis and treatment of children with cerebral palsy. It was easy to read and certainly enhanced my knowledge of this common pediatric disorder. The book is the 11th of a pediatric habilitation series that covers primarily developmental and neurobehavioral disorders. In fact this is the 3rd edition of the book that was initially published in 1982. The book is special as it contains input from a multidisciplinary team of contributors in the fields of physical therapy, special education, speech pathology, pediatrics and occupational therapy. The book is subdivided into 12 small chapters dealing with the history, epidemiology, diagnosis and management of cerebral palsy. I particularly enjoyed reading the history chapter, however, the real strength of this book comes from the last 2 chapters dealing with recent research developments and future perspectives on

cerebral palsy. Chapter 9 on the assessment and treatment planning was comprehensive with a detailed case study including illustrated photographs. A good list of relatively recent references (up to 1999) is supplied at the end of each chapter. This makes the book not only useful in clinical practice, but also for research purposes. One weakness is the index list, which is very brief and limited. As well, some sections lacked important details such as the medical and surgical therapies. This is probably intentional as the book is clearly directed towards developmental pediatricians, occupational and physical therapists. However I recommend this book to all pediatricians and pediatric neurologists looking after children with cerebral palsy. The provided information is difficult to find in pediatric or neurology textbooks. The book could also serve as a reference to residents, fellows, and therapists. Overall, I think the book is a "good buy".

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