

Book Reviews

Parkinson's disease

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Price: US\$ 175.00. **Publisher:** Demos Medical Publishing, **Date of Publication:** 2002 **Place of Publication:** USA. **ISBN:** 1-1888799-50-1

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the first neurodegenerative disease effectively ameliorated by neurotransmitter replacement therapy and subsequently neurotransmitter agonist therapy. Stereotaxic surgery also pioneered with Parkinson's and has resulted in major therapeutic advances. Doctors Factor and Weiner have assembled an international team of contributors to provide the reader with an up-to-date review on the multiple aspects of the disease through 9 sections covering clinical presentation, behavioral and psychiatric manifestations, pathology and neurochemistry, diagnosis, etiology and pathogenesis, drugs, treatment issues, surgery and subtypes of parkinsonism as the core of the book. These topics are bracketed in the beginning by a section on history starting with James Parkinson's famous essay. At the end there is a section on social issues that concern PD patients. In the history section, Goetz in chapter 3 points out, it was Charcot who was able to separate PD from other diseases with tremor and gait disorders.

The next 2 sections comprising of 15 chapters provide a clinical description of PD including nonmotor complaints such as sensory symptoms, speech dysfunction and sleep disorders. Also the relationship of PD to Alzheimers' disease and dementia with Lewy bodies is addressed. The association of PD with a variety of psychiatric

disorders are discussed in chapters 17-19. The pathology and neurochemistry of PD are covered in section 4, chapters 20-23. In section 5, chapter 24, the problems with diagnosis from a clinical and pathological standpoint are discussed, while the following 2 chapters discuss imaging technology. Many aspects of therapy are extensively treated in this text, discussed in detail in Chapters 32-50. (Sections 2, 8 and 9) including Levodopa, Amantadine and Anticholinergics, Dopamine agonists, atypical antipsychotic, protective therapy, stereotaxic pallidotomy and thalamotomy deep brain stimulation and neural transplants. The differential diagnosis of PD is very large. Section 10 reviews in 4 chapters these disorders that are most important including Parkinson's plus syndrome and symptomatic parkinsonism.

This monography not only provides practical treatment approaches, but also serves as a testament to the state of knowledge about Parkinson's disease at the beginning of the 21st century. This book is an excellent buy not only to movement disorder specialists but also to Neurologists, Neuroscience researchers and Neurology residents. This book is also useful for Gerontologists, Neurosurgeons and Neuropsychologists.

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