

the overview is enough to allow the reader to see the big picture and the variety of ideas being explored without getting too bored with finer details. The fact that many different therapies and techniques are mentioned is also a plus, as it is likely that a combination of cellular therapies will be required to achieve an improvement in outcomes.

Overall, the book does an excellent job of providing an overview of stem cell research. It would be useful for basic scientists, undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students working in the field. In addition, clinicians who specialize in the field of stroke and who are interested in cellular therapies may wish to obtain a copy. However, because most of the research presented is bench research, it would not be high-yield to the majority of neuroscience clinicians or to residents preparing for their exams. Nonetheless, the book illustrates the explosion of significant advances made in this exciting field over the last two decades.

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**INTERACTIVE ATLAS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN (CD-ROM).** 2007. By Robert E. Kingsley, Robert D. Kingsley. Published by Humana Press. CD-ROM. Price C\$110.

This CD-ROM publication is an atlas of magnetic resonance imaging presented in three planes as well as a sliced cadaveric brain. Structures are labeled and a brief description provided for each. The disc loads easily, runs smoothly and has a fairly good quality pictures. The label lines are clear, but somewhat difficult to follow on some of the "busy" images; a highlight feature would be a useful addition in future editions. The atlas lacks detailed text and there is no search feature for individual structures. The "self-testing feature" consists of a simple option to turn the labels on and off.

This atlas may be valuable for those learning brain anatomy and, quite useful in identifying normal structures on MRI. Study of complex three-dimensional structural relationships of neuro-anatomy, however, is beyond the scope of this material. The Interactive Atlas of the Human Brain CD-ROM is a good resource for medical students as well as residents of neurology, neurosurgery and radiology during their early years of training.

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**ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE: AN EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH.** 2007. Edited by David M. Greer. Published by John Wiley and Sons. 235 pages. Price C\$138.

This 235 page textbook is thoughtfully and logically presented. It provides a review of recent acute ischemic stroke literature,

focused on diagnosis and management. As far as it is possible for any textbook on the topic, considering the rate at which new trial data and evidence is generated, the information is current. A brief summary of the chapters follows:

"Chapter 1 (Stroke: Historical Perspectives and Future Directions) is a brief introductory chapter of historical interest.

Chapter 2 (Neuroimaging of the Acute Stroke Patient) provides a concise and comprehensible evidence-based review of imaging modalities, with brief discussions of CT, MRI and DWI and a focused discussion on vascular imaging including catheter angiography, CTA and MRA and CT and MR perfusion. An increased use of figures, particularly in this chapter, would have been welcome.

Chapter 3 (Intravenous Thrombolysis) a summary of trials pertaining to intravenous thrombolysis serves as an introduction. A somewhat more detailed review of patient selection and management, including the management of complications, may have been helpful for physicians not well versed in emergent stroke care. As well, there is no mention of the Canadian experience with intravenous (IV) thrombolysis in stroke (CASES trial), or of the ASPECTS CT score utility in selection and prognosis.

Chapter 4 (Endovascular Approaches to Acute Stroke) is informative and provides a comprehensive review of intra-arterial (IA) thrombolysis trials and combined IA-IV thrombolytic trials. There is a useful review of the different thrombolytics, direct fibrinolytics and defibrinogenating agents. The final section of the chapter appraises evidence for mechanical thrombolysis, thrombectomy and augmented fibrinolysis and thromboaspiration. The chapter provides the reader with a glimpse of future trends in interventional therapy.

Chapter 5 (Non-thrombolytic Acute Stroke Therapies) is a somewhat overly abbreviated discussion of the evidence concerning neuroprotective interventions, including pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical stroke trials. The introductory paragraph provides a brief rationale for neuroprotective therapies. A somewhat more comprehensive review of the topic may have been useful, along with a table of ongoing trials with web-links to trial centres and coordinators.

Chapter 6 (Surgical Management of Acute Stroke Patients) reviews the evidence concerning carotid endarterectomy, emphasizing benefits of early surgery. There is no discussion concerning the role of surgery in patients with moderate grade stenosis. There is a brief discussion of EC-IC bypass surgery and a useful conclusion concerning decompressive craniectomy for malignant MCA compression.

Chapter 7 (Antithrombotic Therapy for Acute Stroke) is a concise evidence-based review of trials of heparin, LMWH and heparinoids in acute ischemic stroke. Antiplatelet agents are discussed using reference from older to more recent trials, including discussions on ASA, glycoprotein IIB/IIIa antagonists, dipyridamole and clopidogrel. The PROFESS results were not available at the time of final print. Antithrombotic stroke therapy is discussed according to stroke subtypes, including a review of trials pertaining to anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation-related stroke and the role of antiplatelet agents in small and large vessel disease-related stroke. American and European evidence-based guidelines are provided concerning recommendations for antithrombotic therapy and anticoagulation in stroke management."

Chapter 8 (Intensive Care Management of Acute Ischemic Stroke) provides an overview of management of severe acute

ischemic stroke patients requiring intensive care. An evidence-based review of blood pressure and cerebral edema management, therapeutic hypothermia and potential cardiac complications is clinically practical. In addition the authors provide tabulated guidelines which are useful.

Chapter 9 (Evaluation of acute stroke etiologies) reviews evidence for the effect of stroke subtype on stroke outcome and the sensitivity and specificity of imaging modalities including CT/CTA, MRI, DWI/MRA in predicting stroke etiology when performed early in the evaluation of the stroke patient. Although brief, the chapter is comprehensive.

Chapter 10 (Telestroke: application of telemedicine in acute ischemic stroke), the final chapter, reviews published data from several telestroke networks which are currently established in Europe, Canada and the United States. Potential problems, including variable referral rates, financial and legal considerations are considered. This chapter leaves many questions open.

Overall impression: *Acute Ischemic Stroke, An Evidence-Based Approach*, provides a concise and helpful review of acute ischemic stroke diagnosis and management and will prove useful both to the stroke expert as well as the less experienced physicians caring for stroke patients. Several chapters provide useful tabulated guidelines for management. The book is an enjoyable read and will be a valued addition to your medical library.

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**THE WAY WE DIE.** 2007. By Leslie Ivan. Published by Pari Publishing. 232 pages. Price C\$17.

The Way We Die includes chapters on brain death, vegetative states, organ transplantation in relation to brain death, euthanasia, a chapter related to other issues pertaining to death including 'do not resuscitate orders', dying with dignity, livings wills, and finally perspectives on life after death.

The chapters are concise and well written with a mix of scholarly content, frequent use of clinical cases, and personal perspectives and reflections on behalf of the principal author who is a neurosurgeon.

A unique feature of the book is use of the bold print throughout the chapters highlighting key words that are later defined in one of the appendices. This feature would be of benefit to the lay reader who may be unacquainted with some of the terms. Selected bibliographies are also included.

As a practitioner of palliative medicine, this book was of interest to me as topics such as brain death, and vegetative states are not often included in other palliative medicine related references. Although many of the cases refer to acute and/or traumatic neurological conditions leading to brain death, and vegetative states, one could consider extrapolating the pathophysiological changes in these states to patients with other illnesses, such as advanced cancer, where patients often die in varying lengths of comatose states. Perhaps, my only criticism of the book is the occasional replication

of content between chapters. Overall, an informative and valuable read.

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**THIEME ATLAS OF ANATOMY: HEAD AND NEUROANATOMY.** 2007. By Michael Schuenke, Erik Schulte, Udo Schumacher, Lawrence Ross, Edward Lamperti, Ethan Taub. Published by Thieme. 420 pages. Price C\$70.

This atlas is a colorful and attractive large-format paperback. The present edition is an English translation of the book which was originally published in German. It's the third atlas in the Thieme anatomy series. In the preface, the authors say that they wanted to produce the "ideal" atlas of anatomy, one that combines illustrations with explanatory text and tables and that introduces clinical concepts throughout. That's an ambitious goal and one could argue whether this volume is ideal but it is excellent.

The book is organized into two sections, one on the head and the second covering the nervous system. The head section is divided into chapters dealing with bones, muscles, vasculature, nerves, topographical anatomy, the mouth, the nose, the eye, and the ear. There follows a chapter on sectional anatomy of the head with a series of illustrations of coronal, sagittal, and transverse sections. This last chapter could have been enhanced by the inclusion of more CT or MRI images.

The second half of the book deals with neuroanatomy beginning with an introductory chapter that deals mainly with histology and embryology and then chapters on the meninges, ventricles, cerebrum, diencephalon, brainstem, cerebellum, vessels, and spinal cord. There's a chapter on sectional anatomy of the brain and then one on the autonomic nervous system. A final chapter illustrates and discusses functional systems in the nervous system. Although there are good illustrations and text concerning the brachial and lumbosacral plexi, that's as far out into the peripheral nervous system as this text ventures. Presumably, peripheral neuroanatomy is covered in another volume of the series. The illustrations are of very high-quality but I found the realistically painted brainstem sections a little pale.

The text surrounding the illustrations is much more thorough than one usually sees in an anatomy atlas. Throughout, there are clear discussions of clinical syndromes and how they relate to anatomy. For example, if one looks up 'stroke' in the index, one is directed to the section on blood vessels of the brain where there are excellent illustrations of vascular anatomy along with diagrams outlining the clinical deficits resulting from infarcts in various venous and arterial territories. Plates demonstrate the appearance and location of hypertensive and traumatic intracranial hemorrhages as well as the common locations of berry aneurysms. A student or junior resident learning spinal anatomy can find some very helpful illustrations of the patterns of deficits seen with various lesions of the cord, roots, and plexi.

I looked up some of my own clinical interests. Under 'aphasia', there's very little other than an illustration of the locations of Broca's