

validity, reliability, and responsiveness are introduced as factors that should be considered in the selection of an appropriate outcome to be measured in a study. Rather than explaining these concepts in detail, the chapter refers the reader to another text to obtain a deeper understanding. In a similar vein, although the text is helpful in constructing a study, there is not enough content to implement the planned investigation. For instance, study analysis is presented in Chapter 6, but there is not enough information provided to actually perform the appropriate statistical analysis. The authors acknowledge this lack of detail throughout the text. Given that the purpose of the text is the planning rather than implementation of a study, this lack of content is not necessarily surprising.

This book will be of most value to readers who are new to clinical research, and it is a worthwhile book for those who have experience in clinical studies.

Disclosure

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Book Review: *Minimally Invasive Skull Base Surgery: Principles and Practice*

By: Moncef Berhouma

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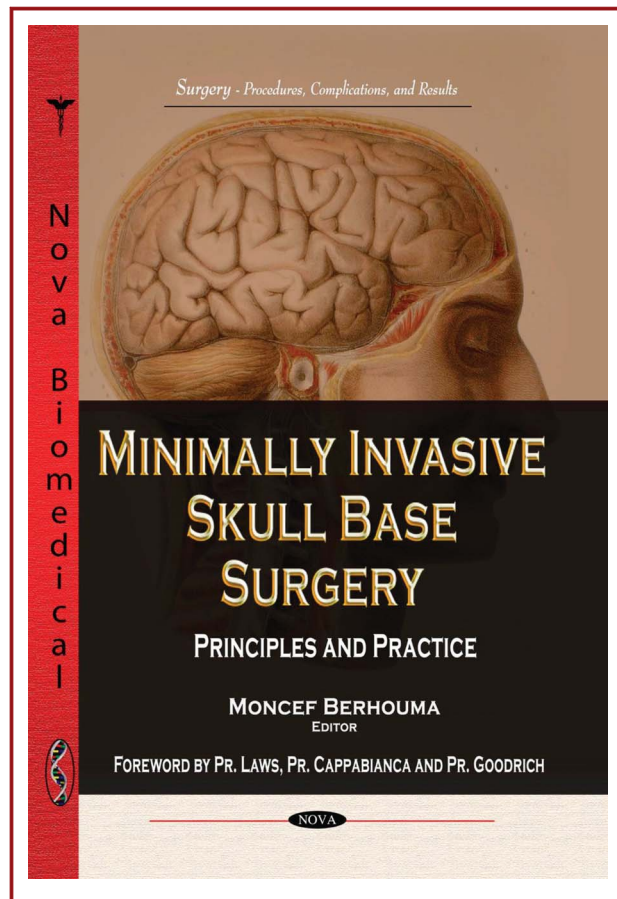
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In the past 10 to 15 years, the use of minimally invasive surgery has evolved from a revolutionary new technique to a common practice. In the newly published *Minimally Invasive Skull Base Surgery: Principles and Practice*, edited by Moncef Berhouma, MD, we have an excellent resource for those interested in enhancing their expertise or being introduced to the field of skull base surgery.

This volume is comprehensive and effectively organized with a systematic methodology covering, in considerable detail, “high-yield” pathologies involving the anterior, middle and posterior fossa; endoscopic approaches to the ventricles and brainstem; and the craniocervical junction, to name just a few of the topics



surveyed. Radiosurgery and percutaneous procedures are likewise fully addressed.

Many chapters begin by framing a historical context and surveying where we have been, where we are now, and where the future might lead us. The need for such a timely work cannot be overestimated. Physician and even patient interest in the integration of endoscopic techniques to skull base pathologies has grown exponentially in the last decade. This book summarizes such high-yield topics.

When confronted with a case of complex skull base pathology, neurosurgeons and otorhinolaryngologists have multiple options. These options include observation with serial imaging, open skull base vs minimal access endoscopic approaches, and radiation treatment. In making these decisions, the treating physician must educate the patient and the family regarding the natural history of the specific disease process, as well as the potential risks and benefits associated with each approach to treatment. This book is an invaluable aid during such consultations. The utility of the book is reflected in a detailed discussion of treatment paradigms. This work likewise covers the important history, epidemiology, surgical anatomy, and specific details regarding stepwise endoscopic techniques. In addition, outcome data are presented with an extensive bibliography for reference.

This anthology constitutes a treasure of “best practices” from distinguished colleagues in America and around the world. Within the book is the wisdom of our colleagues' experiences with a variety of conditions and outcomes.

The reader will find each chapter either augmenting something he or she is already familiar with or providing a whole new insight. The book avoids discussing experimentation and conveys empirical methodologies. In a rapidly changing technological environment accompanied by increasing government requirements, measuring our own practices on a comparative basis offers untold rewards.

In addition, this book is a generous reference source. It familiarizes us with “who is doing what, how, and where.” The book is heavily referenced, enabling the reader to pursue in depth topics of primary interest to his or her profession. Operations confront surgeons with the need to decide which among the various “entry doors” is best suited for specific conditions. How to optimally access the affected regions of the brain or spine confronts us with the problem of multiple entry points.

Minimal invasive surgery has increased our entry options. Therefore, it is necessary to plan operations before proceeding and to fully use the acquired collective experiences of the profession. This virtual handbook of experience facilitates wise decision making.

Our need to collaborate and exchange information is more critical now than ever as a result of accelerating technological changes and the resulting increase in approach possibilities. This is certainly the case because minimally invasive surgery is so dependent on entry. The value of this anthology rests largely on this truth.

Mindful, considered planning of each surgery is a given. Although the objective of the operation may be generalized, the condition of the patient is always specific to the particular individual. We need to assess which approach is best suited to the unique situation of each patient. It is an obvious point to make, but the obvious is often the most elusive.

We cannot have enough experiences available to us as we make decisions and plan our surgeries. Such experiences are contained within this informative book. Each chapter serves us food for thought and insight into practical application. Without hesitation, I highly recommend this book to physicians and libraries as both an excellent reference and an insightful purveyor of the discoveries and findings of our colleagues worldwide.

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The author has no personal, financial, or institutional interest in any of the drugs, materials, or devices described in this article.

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Book Review: *Neurosurgical Infectious Disease: Surgical and Nonsurgical Management*

By: Walter A. Hall, Peter D. Kim
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New York, NY, 2013
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An abundance of information on infectious diseases is available today in the form of dedicated books and journals. Sometimes the sheer volume of this information can overwhelm the average clinician whose practice is not solely devoted to infectious conditions. In this context, *Neurosurgical Infectious Disease: Surgical and Nonsurgical Management* is a compact, concise, and crisp reference for infectious diseases for the neurosurgeon. The editors have stated in the preface that they intended the book to meet the diverse requirements of a spectrum of medical professionals, including medical students, residents, and clinicians. Indeed, the

