

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.

Disclosure

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

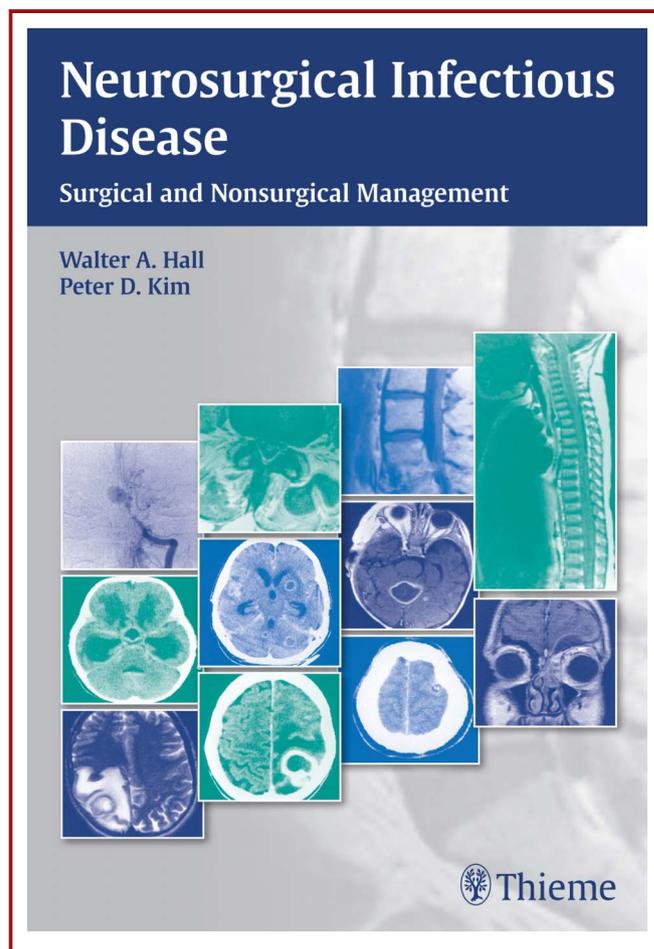
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Book Review: *Neurosurgical Infectious Disease: Surgical and Nonsurgical Management*

By: Walter A. Hall, Peter D. Kim
Published by: Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc,
New York, NY, 2013
Hardcover: 336 pp.
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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



style of presentation, language, and organization of the subject matter splendidly meet this objective.

The book is appropriately divided into 5 parts. Part 1 (Background) provides a brief and contemporary overview of the immunology, microbiology, and radiology relevant to the diagnosis and management of central nervous system (CNS) infections. This part of the book lays the necessary foundation for the clinical and therapeutic issues addressed further in the book. The discussion of the myriad and deceptive radiological appearances of common infectious conditions, liberally supplemented with illustrative images, is particularly informative because it carefully highlights the subtle differences on neuroimaging that distinguish between CNS infections and their close radiological mimics.

Part 2 (Etiological Agents) has chapters devoted to the various categories of infectious agents causing CNS disease. In these chapters, the common clinical presentations, prognosis, and management paradigms of the most prevalent CNS infections are summarized. The content in this section has been edited carefully to include only the information most relevant to the clinical practice. However, some common clinical scenarios and the attendant controversies such as a solitary cysticercal brain lesion and use of vermicides could have been addressed in greater detail.

Part 3 (CNS Locations for Infection) classifies CNS infections according to the affected anatomic region and addresses them individually. These chapters are highly recommended to the reader because they provide a comprehensive description and management guidelines for the clinicoradiological syndromes most commonly encountered by the treating clinician.

Part 4 (Neurosurgical Issues), as the name suggests, conspicuously distinguishes the book from other general texts published on the subject. This part attempts to collect the most frequent controversies that a neurosurgeon faces in his daily practice and discusses them in very informing detail. Choice of appropriate antimicrobials for surgical prophylaxis and management of infections in the presence of surgically implantable hardware are both metaphorically and literally the “million-dollar questions” for the neurosurgical community. The conflicting views that one encounters in the available literature on these issues are often confusing. The authors have made a painstaking effort to distill the current information from literature and to supply very relevant take-home messages to the reader. The content in this section also highlights some intuitive and prevalent practices for infection control in the neurosurgical community, the efficacy of which is ill supported by evidential data. Naturally, this makes a case for rationalization of infection-control practices in the light of available evidence.

The last section of the book is concerned with the spectrum of infections, which are seen in distinct populations such as children, immunocompromised subjects, or patients admitted to the neurological intensive care units. It befittingly acknowledges the special challenges that the recognition and management of infections pose in these patient groups. The commentary on

pediatric ventriculoperitoneal shunt infections is praiseworthy for the detailed and uncluttered expositions it offers on several aspects of this vexing problem.

Overall, this text very smoothly blends basic information on infectious diseases with its clinical application in a wide range of patient population. Hall and Kim must be complimented for their sterling efforts to produce a book of such durable quality and utility in the field of infectious diseases. It is expected that this book would be a preferred reference text for medical professionals and researchers committed to the field of clinical neurosciences.

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Book Review: *Otology and Neurotology: Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Series*

By: Milind V. Kirtane, Christopher De Souza, Mario Sanna, Anand K. Devaiah

Published by: Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc,
 New York, NY, 2013

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ISBN: 978-93-82076-00-1

Otology and Neurotology is the sixth title in Thieme Publishers' *Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Series*. Published in 2013, it is an international collaboration written by a total of 86 otologists and neurotologists and includes many of the leaders in the field writing in their major area of interest.

The book is directed at both the practical management of diseases of the ear and related skull base and discusses some of the latest technologies in this rapidly evolving field of medicine and surgery.

The book includes sections on basic science; disorders of the external, middle ear, inner ear, and facial nerve; neurotologic and lateral skull base surgery; and electronic listening devices, thus encompassing the wide breath of both otology and neurotology in 1