

surgery. The real strength is with the summary of evidence-based data presented in each chapter for different procedures. This book will be a nice reference material for any spine surgeons interested in minimally invasive spine surgery.

### Disclosure

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

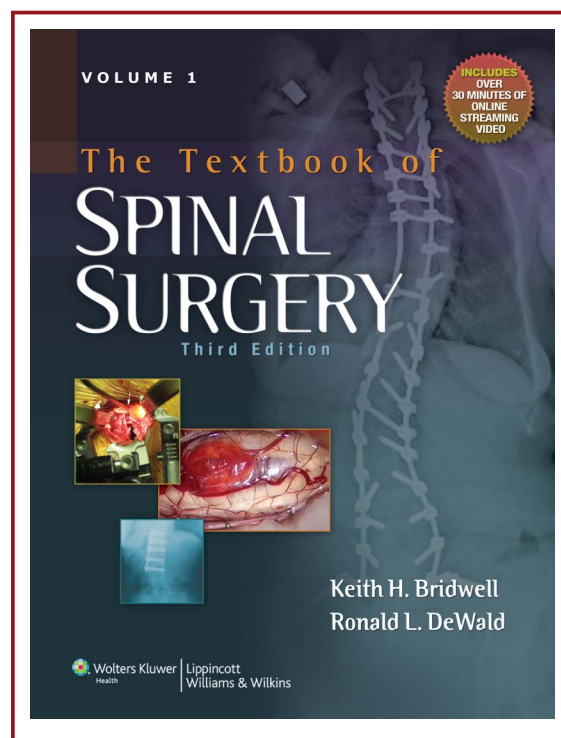
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### Book Review: *The Textbook of Spinal Surgery, Third Edition*

By: Keith H. Bridwell and Ronald L. DeWald  
 Published by: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA, 2011  
 Hardcover: 2112 pp.  
 Price: \$419.99  
 ISBN: 978-0-7817-8620-1

The third edition of *The Textbook of Spinal Surgery* with Drs Bridwell and DeWald as Editors is a constellation of reviews of pertinent and important topics in the management of patients with spine diseases. The book is comprehensive, starting with an excellent review of significant advances in spine surgery over the past decade by Dr DeWald. The first 2 chapters of Volume 1 of the textbooks are dedicated to the review of the fundamentals of spine biomechanics and spinal cord anatomy and physiology as they relate to the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative management of patients with spine pathologies. The second half of Volume 1 is dedicated to spondylotic diseases of cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine with emphasis on degenerative spondylolisthesis. Sections I to III of Volume 1 constitute essential knowledge for all neurosurgery and orthopedic residents as well as very good overviews for junior spine surgeons. Every spine surgeon should read the intraoperative monitoring chapter, which is very well written, and the case studies are an added bonus. Although the surgical approaches and biomechanics chapters are well written, they are probably not sufficient for the experienced spine surgeon. The chapters on the management of cervical and thoracolumbar degenerative pathologies are very illustrative and comprehensive. The authors' approach to patient management is often very logical and easy to understand by the reader, albeit without strong scientific evidence (which is a reflection of the paucity of evidence for what we do in spine surgery). The chapters on the surgical



management of cervical spondylotic diseases are very well written with emphasis on biomechanical principles and review of surgical complications. Controversial topics such as surgery for discogenic back pain, use of discography to justify spinal fusion, were very well reviewed based on available evidence. The chapters on new techniques and technology are very well organized with an introductory chapter followed by technical chapters. In light of recent publications, perhaps the authors could have placed more emphasis on the need for both long-term outcomes and a more reliable mechanism for reporting complications of disc arthroplasty surgeries, especially lumbar disc arthroplasty. Section VI of Volume 1 is dedicated to spondylolisthesis, which is quite comprehensive. This is a must-read for all spine surgeons who treat patients with spondylolisthesis. Both adolescent and adult degenerative spondylolisthesis are reviewed and presented in a fashion that makes it easy for the reader to follow. The list of references is also a good resource for the reader for further reading on the topics. Volume 2 of the textbook is dedicated to spine deformity, spinal oncology, spine infection, and spine trauma, but there is a disproportionate emphasis on spinal deformity. The sequencing of the spinal deformity chapters is very good. The initial chapters focus on natural history of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis and functional outcome after deformity surgery with the use of standardized outcome measures. The chapter on natural history is well written and introduces the reader to the rationale for treating patients with scoliosis. Evaluation and reporting of patient-reported outcomes are very essential for all that we do in spine surgery in order to continue to prove our value to society. Chapter

74 highlights methodology to capture outcomes after deformity surgery. Overall, the chapters on deformity surgeries are very well written, although not descriptive enough for the inexperienced reader. The section is also lacking modern minimally invasive approaches to the correction of spinal deformity.

The chapters on trauma present a good synopsis of the modern classification system and biomechanical principles of management of spine trauma. Again, it is not comprehensive enough for the inexperienced readers. The chapters on tumor and spinal infections are also good synopses of approaches and management of patients with these pathologies. The last chapters on complications and medicolegal issues are an added bonus to all spine surgeons especially early in their career.

Overall, *The Textbook of Spinal Surgery* is very well written and up-to-date. It is written for diverse readers ranging from residents to junior faculty to experienced spine surgeons. It is not written as a surgical technique book, but nonetheless it is an excellent resource for all spine surgeons.

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### Book Review: *Tumors of the Pediatric Central Nervous System, Second Edition*

By: Robert F. Keating, James Tait Goodrich and Roger J. Packer

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

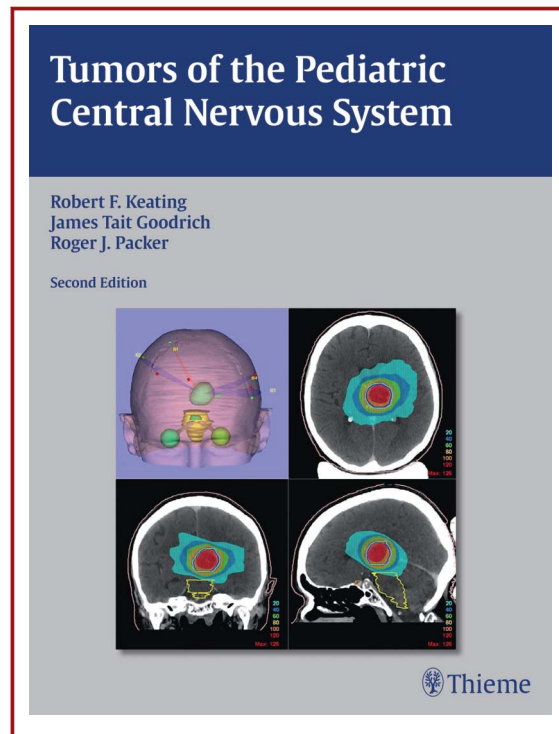
Hardcover: 568 pp.

Price: \$289.99

ISBN: 9781604065466

In an era of increasing attention being paid to practice-based outcomes, cost efficiency, and a greater variety of medical and surgical treatment options, *Tumors of the Pediatric Central Nervous System* is a timely and worthwhile scholarly addition. Intended for clinicians, support staff, and researchers, this edition is a well-organized and succinct discussion of central nervous system tumor identification and management in pediatric patients. One of its main strengths is the high degree of useful, clinical detail and practical insight into the management of childhood brain and spinal cord tumors.

I believe that, in the field of pediatric oncology, it is often best to have a clear understanding of where we have been before taking



steps forward. In this regard, the authors commence this volume by providing an excellent summary of the history of pediatric neuro-oncology. This particular historical perspective sets a practical tone for the book in the sense that readers can assess early methods of identification and treatment that I believe will lead to a more comprehensive understanding of current standards.

Often in books with several authors, there is variability in quality and tone depending on each writer's ability, occupation, and background, but this phenomenon is not evident in this book. Instead, from the first chapter, it is evident that all authors put forth clear understanding, insight, and experience in a remarkably concise and consistent way.

This volume is conveniently broken down into 3 sections. The first section addresses a variety of current therapeutic strategies, and, by doing this, the authors set the stage for a comprehensive overview of epidemiology, radiology, and pathology, as well as significant issues that we face today such as genetic variation, anesthetic strategies, and critical care management. For those of us who manage pediatric brain tumors, we know full well that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Thus, addressing all phases and aspects of these patients' care is critical to a successful outcome. Clearly, the authors realize this necessity, because they consistently place a strong emphasis on each aspect of the management of children with pediatric brain tumors, and comprehensively address aspects of care that will enhance patient outcomes and overall quality of life. The authors end Section One with an overview of radiation treatments, chemotherapy, and gene therapy, which together serve as the foundation for effective treatment in clinical practice.