

Section Two is the largest section in the book, and it comprises 28 individual sections addressing various types of pediatric central nervous system tumors seen in clinical practice. The terseness, relevance, and applicability of the topics in this section lend to the volume's usefulness as an oncologic guide for students, physicians, staff members, and researchers looking to improve their care of the pediatric oncology population. Another positive quality of this particular section is that the information is sharp and to the point—there is none of the extraneous “filler” that is common in heavier academic texts. In addition, the liberal use of diagrams, radiographs, pathology graphics, and tables serves to condense a remarkable amount of knowledge into a useful, easily readable form.

Section Three focuses on outcomes and future directions in the field of pediatric central nervous system oncology, and is a fitting end to the book. It addresses a variety of postoperative considerations, and the morbidity and mortality associated with various treatment options. This section allows readers to move beyond the mere treatment of tumors by honing in on what happens after treatment. Thus, it serves to help clinicians become more well rounded in the overall, individualistic treatment of these patients.

From a global standpoint, I see this as a strong overview of all management aspects of pediatric central nervous system tumors. Because this is the second edition, I found that it includes a variety of updates and references to new management strategies that have evolved over the past decade. Each chapter is easily readable and concise, although the content does, in fact, challenge the reader to take steps to improve their knowledge and competence in this area.

I was particularly heartened to see that the editors included chapters that addressed specific, unique challenges encountered in pediatric neuro-oncology. Separate chapters were dedicated to brain tumors in neonates and infants, second tumors of the central nervous system, and posttherapy neurologic sequelae, for example. These issues present sets of clinical challenges and ethical considerations that promise to warrant additional attention as our field continues to evolve.

In the preface to this edition, the authors state, “In today's environment of immediate access to myriad types of information and knowledge, the complexity and multidisciplinary paradigms faced by those with pediatric brain and spinal cord tumors demands more than a cursory overview on a distant website.” In this regard, the authors met and exceeded their goals. Throughout the volume, it was evident that the authors took aim at expanding on a mere “cursory overview” by elaborating on multiple aspects of treatment, with insight and perception that can only come from decades of experience.

In summary, this volume is a comprehensive, yet readable synthesis of recent advances in the field of central nervous system oncology for pediatric patients, and the wealth of knowledge and experience of the experts supplied in each chapter reflects their passion for the science and medical management associated with these types of tumors. The authors do a fine job of compiling the most relevant information into a single, neat volume, while combining both historical and current contexts to form what I

consider a go-to manual for management of this type of patient. This book belongs on the shelf of practitioners and researchers from all disciplines that deal with childhood brain and spinal cord tumors.

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: *Essentials of Spinal Cord Injury: Basic Research to Clinical Practice*

By: Michael G. Fehlings, Alexander R. Vaccaro, Maxwell Boakye, Serge Rossignol, John Ditunno, Anthony S. Burns
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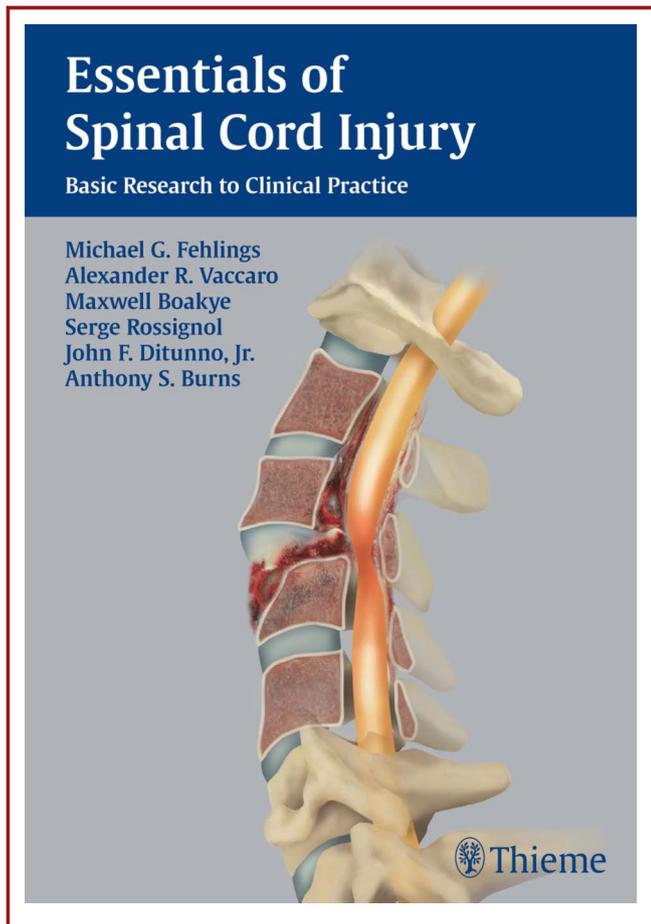
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It is extremely challenging to write a comprehensive text on any subject within the discipline of neurosurgery, as nearly every subspecialty within our profession is subject to constant evolution as new research findings emerge with every new publication of *Neurosurgery* and other esteemed publications.

In the opinion of this reviewer, this challenge is perhaps the most substantial in the arena of spinal cord injury (SCI). While a frustrating and devastating injury, SCI has also become the most exciting arena for advances in our understanding of this injury. These advances range from the basic science of injury pathophysiology to innovative therapies such as robotics that just a few years ago were only possible in the realm of science fiction.

Nonetheless, Professors Fehlings, Vaccaro, Boakye, Rossignol, Ditunno, and Burns have succeeded in compiling what is probably the most comprehensive modern text on spinal cord injury, entitled *Essentials of Spinal Cord Injury: Basic Research to Clinical Practice*. This textbook is organized well, with separate categories containing chapters on clinical practice, controversies, neuroprotective/neuroregenerative research, neurophysiology/imaging, plasticity, and plasticity/recovery.

Although this the book was published several months before the publication of the 2013 *Guidelines for the Management of Acute Cervical Spine and Spinal Cord Injuries in Neurosurgery*, this book dedicates a considerable amount of material to topics similar to



those covered in the guidelines. The editors even went to the effort of including a chapter dedicated to the use of high-dose methylprednisolone in spinal cord injury. The authors of this chapter conclude that there remains little clinical evidence for the use of high-dose steroids in SCI, a conclusion that the author group of the 2013 Guidelines also came to, and subsequently recommended against its use.

Although a once promising therapy has proven ineffective and potentially deleterious, the editors of this textbook remind the reader of the myriad of experimental therapies that have the potential to improve outcomes of SCI in the future. These range from stem cell and other techniques intended to regenerate and repair the injured spinal cord to robotic prostheses that can bypass the level of injury and restore mobility.

Overall, *Essentials of Spinal Cord Injury* is an unprecedentedly comprehensive textbook on a complicated, ever-changing, and sometimes controversial topic. The editors were able to secure leaders in the field of spinal cord injury research to author nearly all of the chapters in this comprehensive textbook, which should comfort the reader. The editors and authors are to be congratulated on this benchmark publication, which should be at arm's reach for any clinician, scientist, or student with a passion for spinal cord injury.

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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: Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery: From the Lab to the Operating Room: An Evidence-based Approach

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The past few years have ushered in the release of multiple texts, tomes and atlases on the subject of rhinology. This latest release of

