

illicit the emotions one feels when caring for these patients day after day.

Dr Gean's background as a neuroradiologist with an extensive expertise in neurotrauma imaging is clear in this textbook. I congratulate her on volunteering her time and energy to serve at Landstuhl Army Medical Center caring for these patients and for completing this excellent summary of the literature and collective neurotrauma observations from these conflicts to date. This text does not highlight actual clinical management in any significant detail except for imaging protocols. The author frequently provides brief clinical management insights and references clinical management guidelines, such as the importance of preventing cerebrospinal fluid leak (CSF) in craniofacial injuries because of the increased incidence of infection. However, techniques to prevent the CSF leak are not mentioned. This is likely the result of having a single author from one subspecialty perspective, instead of a number of authors representing many subspecialties and experience throughout all levels of care. Overall, the author has done a fabulous job at capturing all major points of view and displays an impressive knowledge of the military health care system. An example is her recognition of the TBI protocol instituted at the medic level for the management of soldiers exposed to a blast. However, there are times when a more comprehensive description could likely have been given by a different subspecialist with more extensive operational experience. Examples of this type of information is the frequent breakdown of computed tomography scans because of the sandy environment, the inability to transfer casualties between levels of care because of tactical or weather concerns despite complete air superiority, and the resulting alternative management strategies for patients in these situations. Another example where a broader author group might have complemented this text is the description of the severity of behind armor blunt trauma. The author points out that concussions can occur, but does not reference the more serious large contusions and open depressed skull fractures that often require operative intervention. Likewise, theoretical concepts such as copper jacketed bullets do not fragment are reported; however, the reality is many of these rounds in real life have significant fragmentation in the head depending on the residual kinetic energy and bone that is impacted. These minor omissions do not significantly detract from the essential accuracy of this text. This book helps fill a void in our literature that will hopefully continue to be populated over the next 10 years.

Overall, this is an excellent book that highlights the unique brain injuries seen during recent combat, explores the pathophysiology of these injuries, provides a detailed description of the imaging for these patients, and contrasts the combat TBI from those routinely encountered in civilian practice. I congratulate Professor Gean on producing this work. With terrorism threats and the potential of blast injuries becoming more prevalent at home, this book should be on the shelf of any physician actively practicing at a trauma center.

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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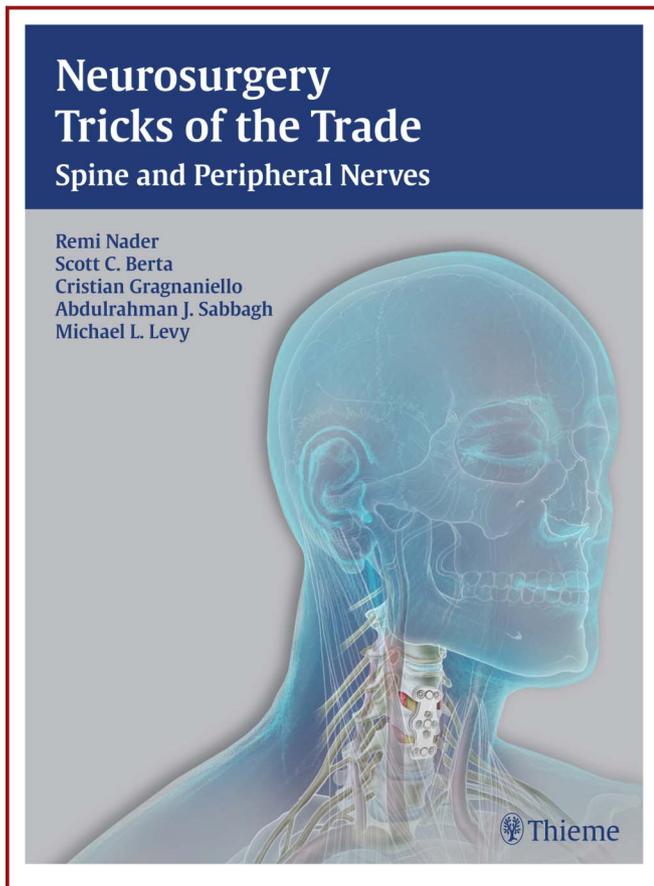
10.1227/NEU.0000000000000545

Book Review: *Neurosurgery Tricks of the Trade: Spine and Peripheral Nerves*

By: Remi Nader, Scott C. Berta, Cristian Gragnaniello, Abdulrahman J. Sabbagh, Michael L. Levy
 Published by: Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, 2014
 Hardcover: 498 pp.
 Price: \$199.99
 ISBN: 978-1-60406-914-3

The editors of this book have taken on a monumental task. Drs Nader, Berta, Gragnaniello, Sabbagh, and Levy have assembled an international group of >160 contributors from 20 countries to compile this ambitious text on the essentials of spine and peripheral nerve surgery. This work, which comprises >100 chapters, covers the breadth of these fields with a thoughtful, practical approach directed to practicing neurosurgeons and residents. The editors have chosen an interesting organizational format in which the topics are divided into either “approach-based” or “pathology-based” chapters. This distinction, although somewhat artificial, helps to provide uniformity to the presentations. In fact, the outlines of the 2 types of chapters are really quite similar: There is an appropriate emphasis on patient selection, preparation for surgery, key steps, potential pitfalls, complications, and alternative procedures. The distinction becomes somewhat confusing when there are “pathology-based” chapters with “approach” in the title and “approach-based” chapters within the Spine by Pathology section of the book. In any case, this is a minor distraction; the chapters are generally very well written, concise, and well organized.

As in any multiauthor text, there are inevitable redundancy and variability in style and quality. The illustrations are generally excellent, although the editing is lacking in some cases (for example, the legends for Figures 87.1 and 87.3 are transposed). Two suggestions for future editions would be to label arteries and nerves in different colors (they are both red in several figures) and to present the anatomic figures before the



surgical illustrations. The authors and editors need to pay more attention to the legends of figures; for example, the FPL labeled in the ankle is not the flexor plantaris longus (Figure 99.6), and there is no vein in the pelvis named external iliac arterial vein (Figure 100.2).

There is a clear emphasis on spine surgery topics in this text, and, in fact, some topics receive several chapters of attention. For example, minimally invasive lumbar discectomy is discussed in multiple chapters. There is an entire minimally invasive section in which thoracoscopy is prominently featured, whereas the Thoracic Approaches section does not include thoracoscopy chapters. The technology discussions are generally quite up-to-date and accurate. The authors are obviously very experienced authorities on their respective topics, and their Key Steps and Avoidances/Hazards/Risks are the outstanding features of each chapter. The emphasis is a “how-to-do-it” approach that surgeons can reference quickly just before a procedure.

The peripheral nerve section is relatively brief and covers the basics well. However, there are several important topics missing: management of traumatic neuromas, ulnar nerve transposition (only simple decompression is included), management of peripheral nerve pain, nerve transfers, peripheral nerve tumors (only paraspinal tumors are discussed), and repair of nerves with

conduits. Less common entrapments like suprascapular nerve and median nerve in the forearm also are not included.

Overall, this is a comprehensive text that provides a very readable framework and a logical approach to neurosurgical management of spine and peripheral nerve disorders. It will be very useful for practicing neurosurgeons and residents, as well as for other practitioners who wish to gain a concise understanding of the practical neurosurgical management of patients with these disorders.

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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10.1227/NEU.0000000000000550

Book Review: *Neurosurgery Tricks of the Trade: Cranial*

By: Remi Nader, Cristian Gragnaniello, Scott C. Berta, Abdulrahman J. Sabbagh, Michael L. Levy
 Published by: Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, 2013
 Hardcover: 748 pp.
 Price: \$249.99
 ISBN: 978-1-60406-334-9

Neurosurgery Tricks of the Trade: Cranial by Dr Remi Nader and colleagues is a welcome addition to the neurosurgical textbook armamentarium in that it provides readers with a step-by-step approach to performing standard neurosurgical approaches and managing common intracranial pathologies. This book is well suited for the neurosurgical trainee and junior and senior neurosurgeon. The >260 contributors from 6 continents and 20 countries follow a similar format throughout each chapter yet provide thoughtful reviews of the literature intermixed with their own unique experiences and approaches to various brain pathologies.

This publication effectively compartmentalizes cranial neurosurgical procedures into set criteria, including patient selection, preparation, key steps, and potential pitfalls and complications. Several chapters are approach-based in nature that include 3 main categories: Introduction and Background, Operative Detail and Preparation, and Outcomes and Post-operative Course. There are also pathology-based chapters subdivided in a similar fashion. Although there are significant overlap and some redundancy among chapters because of the nature of this formatting, the clear purpose of this book is to serve as a reference for each of the procedures and pathologies