

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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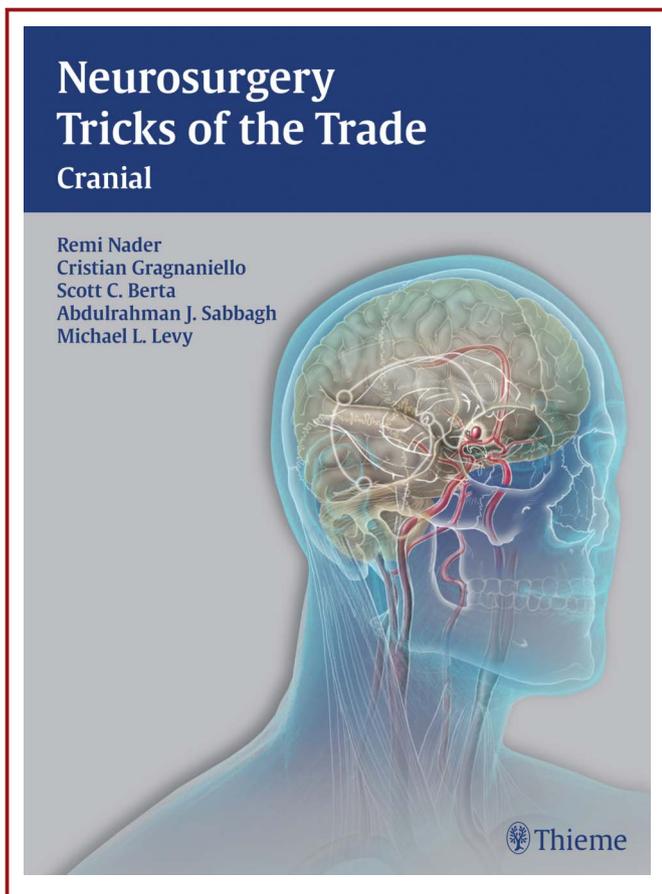
10.1227/NEU.0000000000000550

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



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10.1227/NEU.0000000000000555

Book Review: *MRI Essentials for the Spine Specialist*

By: A. Jay Khanna
 Published by: Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, 2014
 Hardcover: 304 pp.
 Price: \$139.99
 ISBN: 978-1-60406-877-1

The practice of neurological surgery is a unique challenge that requires a critical evaluation of anatomic pathology in the context of a patient and his or her neurological examination. Faced with new technology and increasing availability of advanced imaging techniques, such as magnetic resonance imaging, the neurosurgical practitioner is increasingly forced to examine pertinent anatomic imaging findings before the examination of the patient. The decision to manage the patient with surgery or with nonoperative management is paramount. Without the skills to properly interpret an imaging study, one can easily make a poor decision.

MRI Essentials for the Spine Specialist by A. Jay Khanna, MD, is an excellent addition to the neurosurgical spine specialist's library. Written primarily for spine surgeons, but also benefitting interventional and noninterventional pain specialists, interventional radiologists, physiatrists, rheumatologists, neurologists, sports medicine specialists, and diagnostic radiologists, the concise and straightforward presentation of the theory behind and use of spinal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an excellent resource for the practitioner at any level of training.

Thoughtfully organized, the book is presented in three sections—core concepts, anatomic regions of the spine, and advanced concepts with special considerations. Furthermore, each section contains chapters that are designed to be either region specific or concept specific. Each region-specific chapter is built from the bottom up, first detailing specialized pulse sequences and protocols. Then, traumatic pathology is discussed, followed by degenerative, infectious, and postoperative pathology. This framework allows the reader to apply the basic concepts of MRI in an organized fashion to the most common pathologies to be evaluated by the spine specialist. This logical and systematic approach for learning perfectly mirrors the systematic approach to the analysis of an imaging study espoused by the editor.

described and thus the redundancy between approach and management of pathologies is appropriate.

The book is subdivided into 9 basic categories: General and Advanced Cranial Approaches, Intracranial Tumor Neurosurgery, Endoscopic Surgery, Cerebrovascular Surgery, Cranial Trauma Neurosurgery, Cranial Infections, Stereotactic Neurosurgery, Functional Neurosurgery, and Pediatric Cranial Surgery. In each of these sections, the authors have done an excellent job of describing the latest advances and current thoughts in both the surgical and medical management of various pathologies. Each of the chapters within these various sections describes not only key elements in performing the procedures but also important details of risks, complications, and management and key elements to optimizing outcomes.

All in all, this is an excellent comprehensive cranial textbook that will serve as a unique reference for neurosurgery practitioners at all levels. The formatting, consistent throughout each of the 151 chapters, provides readers the opportunity to focus on key elements integral to the management of common cranial pathologies.

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