

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.

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

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

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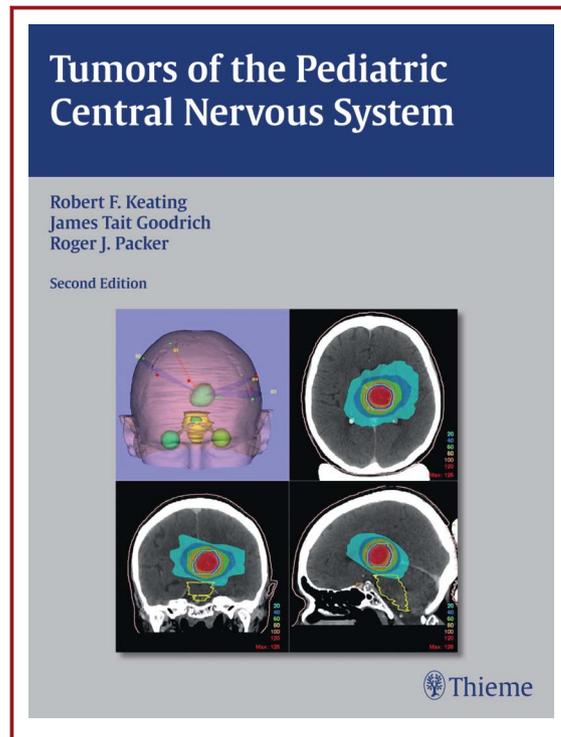
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In an era of increasing attention being paid to practice-based outcomes, cost efficiency, and a greater variety of medical and surgical treatment options, *Tumors of the Pediatric Central Nervous System* is a timely and worthwhile scholarly addition. 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.

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.

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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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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