

articles analyse the morbidity and mortality of treatment comparing the results with microsurgery versus radiosurgery.

Several questions are answered regarding the feasibility of radiosurgery after subtotal microsurgical removal and the need for surgery after gamma knife treatment. Hearing and facial nerve preservation following different modalities of treatment are also analyzed. Discussion of wait and see strategy and the linear accelerator surgery are also discussed together with a special chapter on type II neurofibromatosis and its treatment.

The message of this book is clear. It emphasizes the changing trend in the treatment of VS as it relates to the great impact that radiosurgery has made on it.

At first glance, the contents of the book appear overwhelming and somewhat repetitive, with two chapters on facial nerve schwannoma. Regardless of these minor controversial points, the book is an excellent reference and will be of great help for neurosurgeons, radiosurgeons and ENT specialists in dealing with the difficult problem arising from the management of VS.

Falah B. Maroun
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

conditions, chronic low back pain and chronic neck pain among others.

Overall, this book is well-written and well-presented. The writing styles are generally readable. The first section on basic mechanisms in particular provides sufficient but not excess detail for understanding. The first section is the strongest aspect of this volume. The second section is somewhat limited in that the authors focus on fibromyalgia, chronic TMJ syndrome and chronic widespread pain (CWP). There is very little content relating to inflammatory musculoskeletal disorders or osseous pathology. Inclusion of such material would have strengthened the work. Despite this limitation, this book will be of interest to those who work in the field of chronic pain.

Regina M. Taylor-Gjevre
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN. 2008. Edited by Thomas Graven-Nielsen, Lars Arendt-Nielsen, Siegfried Mense. Published by IASP Press. 496 pages. Price C\$90.

Musculoskeletal pain is one of the most common problems seen by general practitioners. A proportion of these presentations go on to become chronic in nature. Chronic pain is increasingly recognized for the substantial and negative impact it has both on the individual and socio-economically.

This book is a publication of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). The editors of this volume have extensively published in this field and have produced a book which is the work of 37 international contributors.

The text is quite well organized and has been structured into three sections, Part I: Basic mechanisms of muscle pain, Part II: Key factors determining muscle pain sensitivity, and Part III: Effects of muscle pain on motor function. Each section has multiple chapters covering different aspects of the general theme.

Part I is divided into 12 chapters contributed by 18 authors and provides a detailed overview of the morphology, functional differences, physiologic properties of muscle nociceptors. Separate chapters address the role of peripheral glutamate receptors and serotonergic receptor involvement in muscle pain. The emerging role of cytokine mediation in musculoskeletal pain is introduced in a chapter by Sigvard Kopp and Per Alstergren. Part II places emphasis on 'sex-related differences' with three of ten chapters addressing gender differences in muscle afferent discharge, clinical and experimental muscle pain, and delayed-onset muscle pain. There is also quite a good review of referred muscle pain from viscera in Chapter 13. Part III incorporates in seven chapters a macroscopic approach to motor sequelae of work-related pain