

Book Reviews

ADVANCES IN HEAD AND NECK ONCOLOGY

K. Thomas Robbins + 20 Contributors
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1998.
ISBN 1 56593 840 2. Price: £67.50. (HB) pp 173.

This volume, 'Advances in Head & Neck Oncology', edited by K. Thomas Robbins, is to be purchased by all who are interested in Head and Neck Oncologic Disease, irrespective of their clinical discipline. This volume is timely, up to date and 'got on the streets' in record time by Singular Publishing Ltd. California.

This volume contains thirteen chapters which are *current, topical and written by experts in the field*. These experts include authors from outside the USA—Hong Kong.

The volume is structured chapter style, starting with an overview followed by a chapter on biology of upper airway digestive tract carcinomas. It then follows with topics on hyperfractionation or accelerated radiation therapy, selective neck dissection and then the targeted Cisplatin chemo/radiation for advanced head and neck cancer. There are five surgical chapters on the approaches to the nasopharynx, endoscopic resection of laryngeal cancer, supra-cricoid partial laryngectomy, mandibular reconstruction—state of the art, and rhabdomyosarcoma of the head and neck in children. There then follows a number of chapters on the functional assessment of patients treated for head and neck cancer, oral communication after laryngectomy, finishing with an excellent chapter on quality of life, comorbidity, and cost effectiveness.

This book is, in all, one hundred and eighty pages long, indexed and up-to-date referenced. Many of the chapters have in excess of sixty references which speaks for itself.

I would recommend this book to all practising Head and Neck Oncologists. Dr. Robbins is to be congratulated and we look forward to his next volume. Singular Publishing is to be thanked for producing such a book with speed and robustness, with a hard cover.

P J BRADLEY

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN CHILDREN (2ND EDITION)

Dennis G. Pappas Sr
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1998.
ISBN 1 56593 865 8. Price £36.95.

This small book is described as a guide for a wide range of professionals who work with hearing impaired children and their families. However it is impossible in 265 pages to do more than touch on such a huge subject.

The book mainly covers the medical aspects of diagnosis and would certainly be suitable for specialists unfamiliar with the field, and be informative for non-medical professionals and families. It is however a little basic for medical specialists working in this area. I was pleased to see the emphasis on vestibular investigations, which are usually neglected. These are part of a comprehensive protocol for diagnostic evaluation at different ages. The tests listed do not include, for example, genetic analysis, which is already yielding useful findings within research and clinical settings, but probably include more tests than those carried out in most departments. This emphasis on diagnosis is very welcome.

I was disappointed on reading the sections on testing and treatment, including cochlear implants. These give a very limited overview of the subject, and need to be supplemented by additional reading. The information may be adequate for students and non-specialists, but not for anyone more closely involved with hearing impaired children and their families.

As a successor to the 1985 edition the book has had to incorporate a lot of new material. However inevitably there are many areas in which this book is already out of date. The book is clearly aimed at the US market and the references make little mention of work in other countries. This lack of broader knowledge contributes to the out of date feel of some sections. For example the possibility of universal neonatal screening and the use of various types of oto-acoustic emissions are barely mentioned, whereas these have been the subject of intensive study and discussion in the UK and warrant a larger section, especially with the stated emphasis on early diagnosis. Some of the genetic information is again out of date. For example the association between Pendred syndrome and wide vestibular aqueduct is not mentioned. The most useful genetic information could be considered to be the web sites where up-to-date information can be shared.

Overall this is a useful little book for non-specialists and would earn its place on a departmental shelf. However its limitations need to be recognised and it would not be worth buying by anyone with some pre-existing knowledge of the field.

SUE BELLMAN

CLINICAL AUDIOLOGY—AN INTRODUCTION

Brad A. Stach
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1998.
ISBN 1 56593 346 X. Price £34.00.

This is yet another textbook on audiology from the Singular Publishing Group. The book aims to provide a

broad outline of the subject. Its thirteen chapters (585 pages) cover many aspects of audiological practice.

In the first chapter the reader is given a detailed account of the training and practice of audiology in the USA. This is followed by an excellent account of acoustics together with the anatomy and physiology of hearing. The different types of hearing loss, basic audiometric techniques and electrophysiological hearing tests are described in some detail. I was particularly impressed with the section on otoacoustic emissions. The chapters are well illustrated with original line diagrams, audiograms and photographs. The reader is given practical examples of different audiological problems, with useful hints about management in each case. The chapter on hearing aids includes interesting information about analogue and digital systems. Assistive listening devices and cochlear implants are dealt with briefly.

Although several areas of audiology have been well described, the book has some shortcomings. In the section on children's hearing tests, emphasis is given to

electrophysiological methods. Behavioural tests are only mentioned briefly. Vestibular testing and balance rehabilitation have been omitted altogether. With regard to hearing aids, there is no description of bone conduction aids, bone anchored aids or radio aid systems. I also felt that the coverage of earmoulds was somewhat inadequate. A more detailed account on assistive listening devices would have been welcome.

'Clinical Audiology' achieves its goal in providing an overview of audiology. It is evident from the opening chapters that the book is primarily aimed at readers in the USA. The clear text and numerous diagrams enable the reader to understand difficult techniques and concepts with relative ease. Helpful lists of references are given at the end of every chapter. This is a very useful textbook, despite the shortcomings mentioned. Priced at only £34.00, it is excellent value. It should become popular with trainee audiologists, and will make a worthwhile addition to any E.N.T. library.

V JAYARAJAN