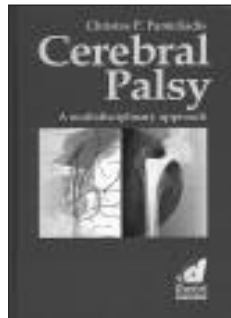


CEREBRAL PALSY: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH. SECOND EDITION. 2011. Edited by Christos P. Panteliadis. Published by Dustri-Verlag. 312 pages. C\$85 approx.

Rated ★★☆☆

This multi-author text is an expanded, modified version of a book originally published in 2004; the first version was edited by Dr. C.P. Panteliadis and Dr. H-M. Strassburg. The text deals with a common, static neurological disorder affecting children and adults, a disorder with protean manifestations requiring the assistance of a wide variety of health professionals and with major socioeconomic implications.

The book represents a concerted effort by the editor to provide a comprehensive review of a complex disorder. To this end he has assembled a large team of contributors with expertise and a published record in the diagnosis, investigation and management of individuals with cerebral palsy. Most of the contributors are in European centers, predominantly in Germany and Greece; there are also a number of chapter authors from centers in North America and Australia.



The 28 chapters are organized in a logical sequence that includes a historical perspective on cerebral palsy, definitions of the disorder, epidemiological considerations, neuropathology, etiology, prevention, clinical characteristics, brain imaging, physiotherapy and occupational therapeutic approaches, orthopedic management, bone health, pharmacological interventions including botulinum toxin injections, neurosurgical interventions, hyperbaric oxygen, co-morbidities, long-term prognosis and quality of life.

In general, the material presented in the chapters is well-organized, cogent and well-referenced, with citations as recent as

2010 (when the text presumably went to press). Virtually all of the current issues in the field of cerebral palsy are given an appropriate, balanced consideration; the only exception for this reviewer was the absence of any mention of the topic of intra-operative sensory and motor evoked potential monitoring during scoliosis surgery. The illustrations are of variable quality; those in the imaging and orthopedic chapters are particularly effective. Ideally the best way to illustrate the major clinical patterns of cerebral palsy would be a series of video clips made available either in an accompanying CD or on a website. Presumably this possibility was not feasible for budgetary reasons; instead the clinical patterns are illustrated with a combination of photographs and drawings, with mixed results.

The main flaw in this book is a failure to edit the word and sentence construction of some authors whose first language is not English – notwithstanding a claim to the contrary by the editor in his Prologue to the current edition. In consequence, in a significant number of chapters with ostensibly excellent content, important sections contain obviously incorrect words, neologisms and incomplete or run-on sentences. On many occasions these sections are thus rendered virtually incomprehensible; on other occasions, with the use of incorrect words or neologisms, the result is unintentionally hilarious.

In summary, this book is a thorough, well-conceived and timely review of an important neurological disorder. In significant sections of the book, however, its readability is unfortunately seriously compromised – for those with English as a mother tongue, and far more so for those having English as a second language. For those interested readers who are content to cherry-pick the contents, this book is certainly a worthwhile purchase; anyone else may do better to wait for a more idiomatic third edition.

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