



Z. NICHOLAS ZAKOV, MD, SECTION EDITOR

## HANDBOOK OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Edited by William C. Koller  
Marcel Dekker

This excellent review is one of the most readable, yet in-depth and complete monographs dealing with Parkinson's disease currently in existence. It is state-of-the-art, and includes excellent reviews of 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1, 2, 3, 6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP) and the current status of brain graft. The editor has selected a substantial list of contributors from both sides of the Atlantic who are well known and respected in the field.

The book begins somewhat nontraditionally with chapters discussing history, epidemiology, and genetics. These are followed by sections on individual symptoms, pathology, neurochemistry, and neuropharmacology, and finally, a chapter on etiology and several on treatment. Yet there is some logic in this organization based on the individual authors' expertise and bias. The appendix is especially handy because it includes various rating scales that are hard to find without referring to individually published articles. A sufficient number of illustrations adequately depict the concepts discussed.

Overlap between chapters is minimal, given the large number of contributors, and attests to good editing. As with any multi-authored text, however, quality, organization, and usefulness vary. The opening chapter by Tyler and the section describing the history of Parkinson's disease are especially interesting and thorough. This is also true of the chapter by Koller discussing classification. Jankovic's chapter about motor symptoms is excellent and well organized. Sections on pharmacologic treatment, which include anticholinergics, amantadine, L-dopa, and dopaminergic agents, are among the best in the book, although there could have been more detail pertaining to various approaches to the management of the on-off effect. Some of the chapters about individual symptoms are too detailed and seemingly are given excess emphasis, including those dealing with the autonomic nervous system and the section discussing dysarthria. The chapter about sleep is well written but seems out of context and might have been more appropriately included with the other sections dealing with symptoms.

Perhaps the most controversial chapter is by Langston, who convincingly argues that "if not genetic in origin then the disease must be due to something in the environment," dismissing the possibility of some undiscovered intrinsic mechanism.

Despite these minor shortcomings, this is a superb reference work that should be read by anyone with an interest in Parkinson's disease.

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## THE HEART AND STROKE: EXPLORING MUTUAL CEREBROVASCULAR AND CARDIOVASCULAR ISSUES

Edited by Anthony J. Furlan  
Springer-Verlag

This book is an important contribution to the literature of the newly emerging clinical discipline of brain and heart interactions. Dr. Furlan has assembled a distinguished group of contributors for this addition to the new monograph series, *Clinical Medicine and the Nervous System*.

Cardioembolic stroke, the subject of the first of five major sections, constitutes nearly 40% of the text. It begins with a chapter regarding the history of cerebral embolism and hemorrhagic infarction and covers a wide range of clinical aspects of cerebral embolism of cardiac origin. This section thoroughly reviews such important topics as cerebral ischemia with mitral valve prolapse and mitral annulus calcification, as well as the timely topic of anticoagulation therapy of acute non-septic embolic stroke.

The section on cardiovascular neurobiology covers more basic issues of central nervous system regulation of cardiovascular functions, as well as the clinical problem of cardiac dysfunction following stroke. Anoxic encephalopathy following cardiopulmonary arrest, and practical diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to syncope and orthostatic hypotension are among the topics reviewed in the section on global brain ischemia. Management of coexisting carotid and coronary artery

disease is the focus of the section on stroke and open heart surgery. The final section, on epidemiology and risk factors, explores the interaction of risk factors between cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.

*The Heart and Stroke* is a well written and balanced text, valuable not only to neurologists and cardiologists, but also to generalists who encounter these common cerebrovascular and cardiovascular problems.

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## THROMBOSIS AND PLATELETS IN MYOCARDIAL ISCHEMIA

Edited by Jawahar L. Mehta and C. Richard Conti  
F. A. Davis

This book, edited by a clinical investigator, attempts to summarize recent data linking thrombosis and platelets in myocardial ischemia, but extends beyond this ambitious goal to include data on the role of neutrophil myocardial injury and various mediators (thromboxanes, leukotrienes, arachidonic acid derivatives, and prostacyclin). The book enlarges the scope of the title by including chapters on angioplasty for evolving myocardial infarction and on the use of fish oil and drugs for hyperlipidemia.

As in most monographs, little or no new data are presented; however, several authors wrote interesting narratives summarizing previous studies. Two contributors in particular, Michael Davis and Erling Falk, did a good job in describing their careful pathologic studies of coronary thrombosis in various ischemic syndromes.

Little attempt was made to integrate the chapters or reduce duplication. Many chapters are actually subject reviews, particularly those on thrombolysis, drug trials, and pharmacology. The sections about the platelet and the role of the neutrophil contain the most practical new information for a clinician who has been away from basic science training. Chapters describing arachidonic acid, cyclo-oxygenase metabolites, and leukotrienes are the most difficult to read, but give the reader some background on the active research in these areas.

For the general internist, medical resident, and medical student, this book—especially the clinically oriented

chapters—is a good reference source. To read the book cover to cover requires a commitment to the understanding of ischemic heart disease; the book is a valuable resource at this level. However, since new information is emerging rapidly in many of the areas discussed, the book will soon be outdated.

## MEDICAL GYNAECOLOGY

Edited by M. C. MacNaughton  
Blackwell Scientific

This book's aim is to offer practical information to physicians in the practice of general-office gynecology, and is well worth reading in this context. The text is based on a decade of first-hand experience of a group of medical specialists staffing family planning clinics in Glasgow. Subjects covered include sexual dysfunction, premenstrual syndrome, genetic counseling, pregnancy termination counseling, sterilization counseling, infertility, family planning, artificial insemination, screening healthy women for cervical cancer, health and sex education, sexually transmitted diseases, and menopause.

*Medical Gynaecology* is directed toward general practitioners, family planning physicians, obstetricians, and gynecologists. Medical students may also find this book valuable. The book contains an abundance of information that is very useful at the level of day-to-day outpatient care of well women. The text is directed toward the practicing clinician, and thus emphasizes patient counseling; it is not intended to address highly technical matters.

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### Erratum

The title of the co-author of a review of the book *Pulmonary Physiology in Clinical Practice* was listed incorrectly in the May-June 1988 issue. The correct title is Edward M. Cordasco, Jr., DO.