Book Review

Manual of Epilepsy
by Author: Dr. H.V. Srinivas
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Pages: 95

The correct diagnosis of Epilepsy, its delineation into etiological diagnoses, and appropriate treatment, continue to be a challenge in India. Whereas state of the art management is available in many metropolitan cities today, thousands of patients with Epilepsy languish in villages, deprived of correct diagnosis and appropriate medication. The need of the hour is to educate all levels of physicians comprehensively about this widespread disorder. Towards that end, this concise book fills the gap excellently.

The book is targeted towards practicing physicians, medical students and post-graduate MD Medicine students. The author has emphasized the importance of history in the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of Epilepsy in a detailed manner, and then gone on to give guidelines about which investigation to use in particular scenarios. The sections on utility of different imaging modalities and EEG is very informative. Further, he has discussed when to start medication, when to consider stopping medication, and which drugs are appropriate in particular subtypes of Epilepsy. There is also a concise discussion of Epilepsy in children and elders, as well as the very important issue of Epilepsy in women with the attendant reproductive and endocrine considerations. A small chapter on seizures in medical conditions such as cerebral malaria and other febrile encephalopathies, the correct treatment of these in light of the multiple adjunct medications going on, and the timing for tapering of the antiepileptics in this situation, would have been welcome.

An important part of this book is the section on social aspects including marriage, driving, travel and the law in relation to Epilepsy in our country. These are invaluable to both patients as well as the treating physician.

The writing style is lucid and very readable, and the illustrations and images are clear. All in all, this is a very valuable, quick overall guide to the management of Epilepsy, and is highly recommended to all students and physicians.

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