

BOOK REVIEWS

Paediatric Epilepsy Syndromes and their Surgical Treatment. Edited by I. Tuxhorn, H. Holtausen and H. Boenigk. John Libbey, 1997. 894 pp.

Ingrid Tuxhorn, Hans Holtausen, Hans Boenigk from the Bielefeld Epilepsy Centre, Germany and John Libbey Publishers must be congratulated on this book which is already becoming the essential *classic* in the field.

Weighing in at 4 lb this multi-author book, of over 800 pages and 86 chapters, covers the state of current knowledge and best practice in the field of paediatric epilepsy surgery. Although there are some surgical contributions this is primarily a text for physicians caring for children with epilepsy.

There are over 200 contributors to the book which has been based on the 1995 Bethel–Cleveland symposium ‘Paediatric Epilepsy Surgery’. The editors have been able to include new data during the books production so that it now stands remarkably up to date. There are valuable contributions from paediatric neurologists, child psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, neuroradiologists, neuropathologists, neurosurgeons and others, many established leaders in the field of paediatric epilepsy and epilepsy surgery.

The compilation does inevitably contain some duplication, however, this is generally in the form of one or more chapters by different authors covering similar ground from a slightly different perspective and is to be welcomed.

The complexity of the subject is managed efficiently by grouping various contributions into 13 sections including chapters on the ethics and health economics of paediatric epilepsy surgery in the concepts of medical intractability and catastrophic infantile epilepsy. As might be expected there are large contributions on neuronal migrational disorders, on temporal lobe epilepsy in childhood and on the phakomatoses. The sections on hemispherectomy and on multiple subpeal transection are particularly valuable. There are smaller sections on presurgical evaluation comprising 13 chapters covering localization with EEG and imaging, their indications and the application of the Wada test to children.

This is not just another textbook on epilepsy surgery adjusted to cover children, but is fundamentally a paediatric text. Although it is not designed as a comprehensive textbook it is difficult to find so much relevant accessible opinion and information in any other single source. Furthermore the multi-author structure enables the reader to ‘dip into’ chapters or sections as required, each chapter is able to stand on its own.

This is an essential book for those working in or together with a paediatric epilepsy surgery programme: the paediatric neurologist, neuropsychologist and neurosurgeon all need their own copy! It is likely that this book will become a standard classic in the field, at least for the next few years.

*Dr William Whitehouse
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist
Birmingham Children’s Hospital*

Zentner J (1997) Surgical aspects of corpus callosum section. In: Tuxhorn I, Holthausen H, Boenigk H (eds) Paediatric epilepsy syndromes and their surgical Treatment. John Libbey, London, pp 830-839 Google Scholar. Copyright information. Cite this chapter as: Zentner J. (2002) Surgical Treatment of Epilepsies. In: Sutter B., Schröftner O. (eds) Advances in Epilepsy Surgery and Radiosurgery. Acta Neurochirurgica Supplements, vol 84. Springer, Vienna. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-7091-6117-3_3. An epilepsy syndrome is defined by a group of features usually occurring together. The features in a syndrome may include types of seizures commonly seen, age when seizures commonly begin, part of the brain involved, usual course, genetic information, and much more. Collectively this description provides information on what medicine and other treatments may be helpful. Learn. Types of Epilepsy Syndromes. Edited by I. Tuxhorn, H. Holtausen and H. Boenigk. John Libbey, 1997. 894 pp. Ingrid Tuxhorn, Hans Holtausen, Hans Boenigk from the Bielefeld Epilepsy Centre, Germany and John Libbey Publishers must be congratulated on this book which is already becoming the essential classic in the field. Weighing in at 4 lb this multi-author book, of over 800 pages and 86 chapters, covers the state of current knowledge and best practice in the field of paediatric epilepsy surgery. Although there are some surgical contributions this is primarily a text for physicians caring for children with epilepsy. There are 6 chapters: Rationale for paediatric epilepsy surgery Surgically amenable epilepsy syndromes and pathologies common or unique to the paediatric age group Preoperative evaluation: current practice and future directions Specific issues related to epilepsy surgery in children Lessons from large paediatric surgical cohorts Future directions. The description applies to several tumors referred to in the Classification of the World Health Organization (WHO) as neuronal and mixed neuronal-glioma tumors. Some of them arise typically in the cerebral cortex and represent a common cause of drug-resistant focal epilepsies in children and young adults. There has been a steady increase in the number of books published that are relevant to epilepsy that members of the League will likely find useful for their practice or research. However, keeping up with the books that are available is no easy task. This listing is provided as a service to our membership, where publishers or members can provide information on epilepsy-related books, along with information on where and how to purchase the books. 15% discount for ILAE Chapter members on all books on epilepsy published by John Libbey Eurotext. Use Promotional Code: EPILEPSY when ordering. 15% discount on medical books from Wisepress.com!