

Book Reviews

Pharmacotherapy of Alzheimer's Disease

SERGE GAUTHIER. Price: PS 29.95. Publisher: Martin Dunitz Publishers, UK. Date of Publication: 1998. ISBN: 1-85317-583-8.

The content of each chapter in this book is extensive and comprehensive. The main subject in each chapter is covered thoroughly and it is authenticated by references. However, most of the chapters were disorganized. This book covered an adequate overview of the different aspects of Alzheimer's disease, including the natural progression of the illness, general principles of its pharmacotherapy, and the clinical trials that were designed for its treatment including the tests and scales performed in these clinical trials. Treatment methods were also explored in this book., which covered the following topics. 1. How decisions are made in different countries about which drugs should be granted regulatory approval. 2. The classes of drugs used for Alzheimer's disease with their pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic considerations. 3. The pharmacoeconomic evaluation of new treatments for Alzheimer's disease. 4. Social and ethical concerns for the introduction of new anti-dementia compounds. 5. A review of the history of the developed drugs in Alzheimer's disease, and a preview of their future. 6. The steps towards optimal use of Alzheimer's-specific drugs (including cases). 7. The role of the family in the drug treatment of Alzheimer's disease and the effects of treatment on the family, and 8. The general principles of pharmacotherapy of Alzheimer's disease.

The treatment methods discussed in this book were not deeply analyzed (i.e., not advanced enough), which limits its use to non-specialized individuals or to students or the public in general as an educational tool for those requiring an introductory reference to the pharmacotherapy of Alzheimer's disease. Specialized users (i.e., Physicians and Pharmacists) are better to use other references for consulting pharmacotherapy issues in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

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Clinical Diagnosis & Management of Alzheimer's Disease

SERGE GAUTHIER. Price: PS 65.00. Publisher: Martin Dunitz Publishers, UK. Date of Publication: 1999. ISBN: 1-85317-655-9.

Alzheimer's disease is a major health problem all over the world and for many years has been under-diagnosed and under-treated. There is an overwhelming interest for better understanding of Alzheimer's disease, as the prevalence of this disease doubles every 5 years, from age 65 to age 85. It is estimated that there are 10 million cases of Alzheimer's disease worldwide, thus escalating socioeconomic costs for all countries.

The first edition of this book was published in 1996. The book became immensely popular among practicing physicians and caregivers of this unfortunate disease. The multidisciplinary authorship of this second edition truly represents global response to this major health problem. The results of recently published clinical trials of epidemiological studies, electrophysiological tests, stabilization therapies, functional brain imaging, molecular genetics have been incorporated in this edition which will have significant impact on the quality of life of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

The principle objective of this edition is clearly focused on clinical aspects of Alzheimer's disease. This edition contains seven chapters beginning with the introduction of the disease process followed by diagnosis, natural evolution, medical management and community and institutional care. The authors have deliberated on ethical and legal issues and finally concluded with the future diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease. Each chapter is richly supplemented with comprehensive and up-to-date references, a very rewarding experience for readers and researchers alike. All chapters are dealt with highest level of scientific content and is professionally very rewarding.

The book is recommended for all levels of physicians, internists, neurologists, psychologists, psychiatrists as well as those who are engaged for family, community or institutional care of AD patients. This book is among those very few on the subject, which will have far greater readership, than what may have been anticipated, both for its scientific merit, and the quality of its presentation.

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Book Reviews

Symptom Management in Multiple Sclerosis

RANDALL T. SCHAPIRO. 204pp. Price: USD 19.95. Publisher: Demos Medical Publishers, USA. Date of Publication: 1998. ISBN: 1-888799-22-6.

Symptom Management in Multiple Sclerosis, 3rd edition (1998) is 204 pages, small size, easy to read book by Randall T. Schapiro. This book provides a long term experience in managing patients with a wide variety of multiple sclerosis (MS) symptoms.

The book consists of 3 parts. Using simple non-medical language the book starts part one with simple anatomy to define MS and introduce the available medication to treat the disease process.

Part two is the main portion of this book and covers the management of MS symptoms mainly non-pharmacological measures, the symptoms covered include fatigue, swallowing and swollen ankles etc.

The last part of the book covers general health aspects in regard to MS, including diet, exercise and rehabilitation measures.

The book is directed primarily to MS patients and their families as well as all health care professionals caring for MS patients. As a physician, the book would provide you with simple terms and ways to help you in managing and teaching your patient in regard to specific symptomatic problems, mostly in non-pharmacological measures.

The quality of coverage is wide and excellent for the main audience. I would strongly recommend this book for doctors caring for MS patients, especially in non-English speaking communities, to help and assist him to explain to his patient the simple way and measure about the common MS symptoms and how to deal with them as a patient.

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Benign Childhood Partial Seizures & Related Epilepsy Syndromes

CP PANAYIOTPOULOS. 406pp. Price: PS 59.00. Publisher: John Libbey & Co. Date of Publication: 1999. ISBN: 0-86196-577-9.

This book's main content is of specific types of epileptic syndrome in childhood. The first part is of general aspects of diagnosis of epilepsy and EEG, roles in the diagnosis and management of epilepsy. Part two covers the rolandic epilepsy and parts 3,4, and 5 covers the occipital seizure and related syndrome.

I found this book of excellent quality in its coverage of the subjects. It is full of valuable information and detail. The style of giving the information is comprehensive and easy to follow.

The first part of this book is important to all physicians in particular non-neurologist to understand the diagnosis and the role of the EEG.

The other parts of the book with the extensive detail are really of interest only to the specialist.

I would recommend this book to be part of the Medical Library to every hospital.

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