

Preface

Clinical Evaluation and Management of Spasticity aims to be an authoritative resource for practitioners interested in learning more about the management of spasticity. Given the recent advances in treatment, there has for some time been a need for a text devoted entirely to this topic. This is the first such volume.

This book is divided into three sections, each intended to allow one to refer quickly to management strategies for specific neurologic diseases as well as specific treatment modalities.

The first section reviews basic concepts in spasticity, including the physiology and pharmacology of spasticity, the clinical evaluation of spasticity, and an overview of the clinical features and principles in the management of spasticity.

The second section outlines current treatments for spasticity. It covers such topics as physical and occupational therapy approaches, splinting and orthotics, electrical stimulation, orthopedic interventions, nerve blocks, use of botulinum toxin, specific medical interventions, including novel treatments such as tizanidine, and the use of intrathecal medications and neurosurgical interventions.

The final section reviews a coordinated approach to the treatment of spasticity and specific neurologic diseases, including spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, stroke, cerebral palsy, and traumatic brain injury. The chapters herein provide a framework for physicians to develop a care plan for patients with these disorders. Spasticity is often a poorly treated manifestation of many neurologic disorders, and it is our hope that this book will become the definitive reference to the management and treatment of spasticity, and will ultimately lead to the improvement of patient care.

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