
Preface

Brainstem disorders may result in a broad spectrum of clinical signs and symptoms ranging from isolated signs, including vertigo, gait unsteadiness, and double vision, to complex clinical syndromes and life-threatening situations, such as basilar artery thrombosis.

The complex topography of the brainstem represents a challenge even for experienced neurologists in localizing brainstem lesions and diagnosing brainstem disorders. Modern magnetic resonance imaging and electrophysiological techniques have significantly improved understanding of brainstem function. However, the clinical examination continues to be the cornerstone of topodiagnosis, and careful matching of clinical and technical findings is a prerequisite for the correct diagnosis.

This comprehensive clinical handbook presents a review of all brainstem disorders and provides the relevant clinical knowledge required for the diagnosis. In addition to a detailed outline of the basic brainstem neuroanatomy the work discusses the state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging procedures for brainstem lesions. The topodiagnostic analysis of neurological findings is explained in detail and brainstem disorders are illustrated by a large number of magnetic resonance images and brief reports.

Twenty-five contributors and two editors participated in the writing of this text. One of the most appealing features of this book is the vast experience of our authors evidenced by the many important contributions they made to the understanding of brainstem function in recent years.

The editors want to thank and acknowledge all those who participated in the development of this text. We are profoundly aware of their genuine personal commitment and extensive time devoted to writing these chapters. It is our hope that this publication will be useful in clinical practice and enrich knowledge of brainstem disorders.

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