
Preface

After the publication of this book in 2005, medical students in neurology clerkships, psychiatry residents rotating through neurology ward services, as well as many students in allied health fields found this textbook to be a valuable resource in learning the complicated field of neurology. The book continues its original purpose of being short enough to be easily read during a 3–4-week clerkship, having many clear 2-color illustrations, focusing on the most common and important neurologic diseases, and emphasizing the pathophysiology of the disorders. The glossary of medical terms is updated enabling the students to quickly understand the various complex medical terms they encounter.

We have updated and expanded the scope of this textbook to include increasingly prominent neurologic diseases with a new chapter on sleep disorders and a new section on paraneoplastic neurologic syndromes. New information has been added about the phenomenology and pathophysiology of neurologic disease that has been learned in the intervening decade. Although we made every effort to include new information, we were careful to keep the text concise and clear—a hallmark that made the first edition very useful to students and trainees.

Important improvements to the first edition of the textbook are the addition of video clips that provide examples ranging from how to perform the normal neurologic exam to abnormal exam findings common in the diseases discussed. In addition, we begin each chapter with an illustrative case. This helps to provide the patient context for the information in the chapter and remind the reader why this knowledge is important. We hope this will supplement the learning experience and put a “face to a name” when learning about neurologic disease.

We have maintained the order of the original text beginning with a discussion of the approach to the neurologic patient and introductions to the neurologic exam and tests commonly ordered to evaluate patients. Just as in performing the neurologic exam, the text follows a neuroanatomical organization. Within each chapter, key representative diseases that manifest in the particular region of the neuroaxis are reviewed. We continue to cover both adult and pediatric neurologic diseases.

We hope this edition will continue to be valuable to all those who seek to learn the fundamentals of neurology.

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