G. Jallo, K.F. Kothbauer, G. Pradilla (eds): Controversies in Pediatric Neurosurgery

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This original book is made up by 20 controversial subjects, chosen by the authors, to demonstrate how much the selection of the surgical option may be influenced by certain preformed concepts, without, however, impacting the surgical outcome, significantly. The selected 20 topics cover almost the entire field of pediatric neurosurgery, as they deal with the disorders of the cerebrospinal fluid dynamics, congenital cranial and spinal malformations, tumors, vascular congenital and acquired disorders, intracranial infections, and intractable epilepsy. All the chapters convey updated information on the controversial aspects of still debated subjects in pediatric neurosurgery. However, instead of accentuating dubious, the result of the discussion is to demonstrate that pediatric neurosurgery, though still open to debate, has already acquired a stabilized and identifiable core of knowledge, thus allowing both: to base on acquired experiences and to challenge apparently accepted concepts. Such a result certainly depends on the choice of the authors, who are well representatives of the pediatric neurosurgery community and considered opinion

leaders worldwide. They have done their best to share with the readers their convictions without, however, indulging to a dogmatic attitude. The editors have further contributed by summarizing the various points of view in the “Lesson Learned” sections which accompany the various chapters, sometimes offering their opinion, more often emphasizing the current lack of satisfactory answer to the controversies generated by the various contributors.

The book is pleasant to read, printed with the excellent quality which distinguishes Thieme books. The numerous excellent illustrations, as well as the updated list of references for the various chapters, contribute to enhance the quality of the book.

In conclusion, the editors have succeeded in producing a stimulating educational tool addressing relevant aspects of the daily practice of pediatric neurosurgery. Consequently, I would not hesitate to recommend it to all pediatric neurosurgeons, prompt to challenge their opinions at the light of the experience matured by world-recognized experts.

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