Michael G. Fehlings, Alexander R. Vaccaro, Maxwell Boakye, Serge Rossignol, John F. Ditunno Jr, Anthony S. Burns: Essentials of spinal cord injury: basic research to clinical practice

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This multi-author textbook contains 54 chapters which summarize and present the current knowledge about spinal cord injury (SCI).

It is subdivided in seven sections:

1. **Principles of SCI clinical practice** include anatomy, pathophysiology, epidemiology, imaging, classification and clinical management, covering medical, surgical, interdisciplinary aspects and rehabilitation, with some discussions about complications (22 chapters).
2. **Controversies in management**, the next highlight of this book, focusing on timing of surgery, EBM review of hypothermia, management of cervical facet dislocation, of thoracolumbar burst fractures with cord or cauda syndrome (5 chapters).
3. This third section about **neuroprotective and neuroregeneration approaches** reviews the current research around SCI (10 chapters), whereas section.
4. **Neurophysiology and imaging** gives the essential information to non-neurologists who are not yet familiar with MEP, SSEP, sympathetic skin response, transcranial magnetic stimulation and summarizes the qualitative and quantitative MRI predictors of outcome (5 chapters).

5. **Plasticity and recovery** includes 8 chapters from electrophysiology to functional restoration through robotics and finally through peripheral nerve grafts.
6. **Resources** is a short 2 chapter section focussing on registries and on expanding opportunities of patients with SCI.
7. In the last section called “**Achieving success**”, emerging areas such as neurogenomic and neuroproteomic approaches for studying neural injury and breakthroughs of the last 20 years are presented.

Key points are listed at the beginning, and pearls and pitfalls are found at the end of each chapter. This is didactically very valuable, as one can get the key messages of each chapter very quickly. The chapters are adequately illustrated and the reader can find useful summarizing tables.

The index at the end of the book allows to find where the interesting topics or key words are discussed.

This text book can be recommended not only to surgeons and physicians treating patients with SCI, but also to students and fellows interested in this topic.

Many of these chapters would deserve to be referenced in future publications.

Conflict of interest None.

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