



Jallo GI, Kothbauer KF, Recinos VMR: Handbook of pediatric neurosurgery 1st ed

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The “Handbook of Pediatric Neurosurgery” is an excellent, practical resource covering topics in cranial and spinal neurosurgery in pediatrics, aimed at the readership of junior neurosurgeons. The handbook consists of 56 chapters subdivided into 11 sections over 514 pages.

The first three sections provide an overview of general and critical care in pediatric neurosurgery, neuroradiology, and essentials of applied neurology. The fourth section covers the depth and breadth of pediatric neurooncology. Many chapters include headings of “Surgical Pearls” and “Surgical Technique” which focus on operative management and are likely to be especially useful to neurosurgery trainees. Similarly, Section 5 emphasizes operative as well as non-operative management of cerebrovascular disorders, including a useful overview of radiosurgery.

Sections 6 and 7 cover congenital and developmental cranial and spinal disorders respectively. We found the chapter on “Treatment of Hydrocephalus in the Developing World” of particular interest and importance. Indeed, the perspective offered by the diverse international authorship of this handbook is appreciated. By the same token, there will be regional variations in how individual conditions are treated. For example, British pediatric neurosurgeons rarely manage scoliosis (to which a chapter was devoted) but are required to take on a much greater role in managing non-accidental head injuries

(the legal and social aspects of which were only briefly mentioned).

Section 8 covers functional neurosurgery including epilepsy and spasticity management in good detail. Section 9 explains cranial and spinal trauma as well as peripheral nerve and brachial plexus injuries. Infections relevant to neurosurgery are reviewed in Section 10 and surgical considerations are well explained. Section 11 (“Operating Room Basics”) consists of a single chapter on neuronavigation. This section could have benefitted from a chapter on neuroendoscopy, although this topic has been explained in other relevant chapters as it pertains to hydrocephalus, neurooncology, etc.

Many chapters contain “Common Clinical Questions” which provide a helpful résumé of key issues. Pertinent imaging is included with a selection of representative scans. Detailed information is presented in bite-sized chunks in a manner similar to the prevailing handbooks in neurosurgery—Greenberg’s “Handbook of Neurosurgery” and Samandouras’ “The Neurosurgeon’s Handbook” [1, 2]. Indeed, it has been a pleasure to read this book—the authors and editors are congratulated for achieving their aim of creating a portable, practical guide to common pediatric neurosurgical problems. It will be an excellent resource to neurosurgeons in training to supplement their learning.

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