Atlas of the Epilepsies

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Atlas of the Epilepsies is an encyclopedic, comprehensive textbook describing clinical features, symptomatology, EEG tracings, gene mapping where appropriate, differential diagnoses, and treatments for literally, hundreds of epilepsy disorders and syndromes. There is a small section in the beginning on basic sciences, pharmacology of anti-epileptic agents, imaging modalities such as MEG, PET, and optical imaging. There are a couple of chapters on MR spectroscopy also.

Each chapter of the several hundred available explores differential diagnosis well and has color-coded EEG waveforms, which makes them easier to identify and read. The chapters are on the short side and there is plentiful basic science missing from the book. Each chapter ranges from about 3 to 6 pages in length. The strength of the book is its encyclopedic descriptions of disorders which resemble epilepsy and the hundreds of epilepsy syndromes themselves. This makes it an ideal reference textbook for neurologists, epileptologists, neurosurgeons, pharmacologists, and medical students. The book is not aimed for the academic scientist

interested in slice physiology for instance. The three volume work written by Dr. Phillips Schwartzkroin called Epilepsy Research: Academic Press and other volumes are much better for research aspects of the epilepsies. This book serves its purpose as an atlas very well. It is also a comprehensive textbook aimed at looking for specific information clinically. The book is not meant to be read from cover to cover and that is an area where other clinical texts can play a role. The book by Luders on Epilepsy Surgery comes to mind right away. For EEG, Niedermeyer's text Electroencephalography: Wolter's Kluwer Health is a classic for learning electrophysiology of epilepsy. There are specific volumes devoted totally to slice work: Dingledine's Brain Slices: Plenum Press, and Avital Schurr and Rigor Brain Slices: Fundamentals: CRC Press.

This book is likely to become a benchmark in the field of epileptology. It seems to serve a generous purpose for the study of clinical manifestations of epilepsies. I can recommend this book without hesitation to the international Neurology community.

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