

Oklahoma Notes

Basic Sciences Review for Medical Licensure
Developed at
The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

Suitable Reviews for:
United States Medical Licensing Examination
(USMLE), Step 1

Oklahoma Notes

Neuropathology and Basic Neuroscience

Roger A. Brumback
Richard W. Leech



Springer Science+Business Media, LLC

Roger A. Brumback, M.D.
Department of Pathology
University of Oklahoma
Biomedical Sciences Building,
Room 451
940 Stanton L. Young Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
USA

Richard W. Leech, M.D.
Department of Pathology
University of Oklahoma
Biomedical Sciences Building,
Room 451
940 Stanton L. Young Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
USA

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Brumback, Roger A.

Neuropathology and basic neuroscience / Roger A. Brumback, Richard
W. Leech.

p. cm. — (Oklahoma notes)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-387-94389-3 ISBN 978-1-4612-0811-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-4612-0811-2

1. Nervous system—Diseases—Outlines, syllabi, etc.

2. Neurosciences—Outlines, syllabi, etc. I. Leech, Richard W.

II. Title. III. Series.

[DNLM: 1. Nervous System Diseases—outlines. 2. Nervous System
Diseases—programmed instruction. WL 18 B893na 1995]

RC357.B79 1995

616.8—dc20

DNLM/DLC

for Library of Congress

94-42193

Printed on acid-free paper.

© 1995 Springer Science+Business Media New York

Originally published by Springer-Verlag New York, Inc in 1995

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Production managed by Jim Harbison; manufacturing supervised by Jacqui Ashri.
Camera-ready copy prepared by the author.

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN 978-0-387-94389-3

Preface to the *Oklahoma Notes*

In 1973, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine instituted a requirement for passage of the Part 1 National Boards for promotion to the third year. To assist students in preparation for this examination, a two-week review of the basic sciences was added to the curriculum in 1975. Ten review texts were written by the faculty: four in anatomical sciences and one each in the other six basic sciences. Self-instructional quizzes were also developed by each discipline and administered during the review period.

The first year the course was instituted the Total Score performance on National Boards Part I increased 60 points, with the relative standing of the school changing from 56th to 9th in the nation. The performance of the class since then has remained near the national candidate mean. This improvement in our own students' performance has been documented (Hyde et al: Performance on NBME Part I examination in relation to policies regarding use of test. J. Med. Educ. 60: 439-443, 1985).

A questionnaire was administered to one of the classes after they had completed the Boards; 82% rated the review books as the most beneficial part of the course. These texts were subsequently rewritten and made available for use by all students of medicine who were preparing for comprehensive examinations in the Basic Medical Sciences. Since their introduction in 1987, over 300,000 copies have been sold. Obviously these texts have proven to be of value. The main reason is that they present a *concise overview* of each discipline, emphasizing the content and concepts most appropriate to the task at hand, i.e., passage of a comprehensive examination over the Basic Medical Sciences.

The recent changes in the licensure examination that have been made to create a Step 1/Step 2/Step 3 process have necessitated a complete revision of the Oklahoma Notes. This task was begun in the summer of 1991 and has been on-going over the past 3 years. The book you are now holding is a product of that revision. Besides bringing each book up to date, the authors have made every effort to make the tests and review questions conform to the new format of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Thus we have added numerous clinical vignettes and extended match questions. A major revision in the review of the Anatomical Sciences has also been introduced. We have distilled the previous editions' content to the details the authors believe to be of greatest importance and have combined the four texts into a single volume. In addition a book over neurosciences has been added to reflect the emphasis this interdisciplinary field is now receiving.

I hope you will find these review books valuable in your preparation for the licensure exams. Good Luck!

Richard M. Hyde, Ph.D.
Executive Editor

Preface

The United States Congress designated the 1990's as the "Decade of the Brain" in recognition of the importance of neuroscience to the health and well-being of Americans. It has been suggested that as many as 20% of all patients seeking medical treatment have neurologic problems, either as the presenting complaint or as an associated condition complicating the primary illness. To this end, it is important that physicians understand basic neuroscience principles and nervous system diseases. Of course, this text is not encyclopedic but instead is an outline of the knowledge required of all medical students. Interested students can consult numerous texts that provide comprehensive coverage of the field, including *Greenfield's Neuropathology* and the exhaustive 60+ volume *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*. The information selected for inclusion in this volume of the *Oklahoma Notes* series remains true to the goal of the whole series—incorporating only that material vital in both the general clinical practice of medicine and to answer questions on the all-important United States Medical Licensing Examination.

Roger A. Brumback
Richard W. Leech

Acknowledgments

This text would not have been possible without a great deal of help and support from a number of individuals. We want to thank all those who assisted in our education in neuroscience and neuropathology including: William M. Landau and Philip R. Dodge of the Washington University School of Medicine, Lowell W. Lapham of the University of Rochester Medical Center, and Ellsworth C. Alvord, Jr. of the University of Washington School of Medicine. These great teachers demonstrated the importance for good patient care of a thorough understanding of the pathophysiologic mechanisms of disease. Currently, Fred G. Silva, Chairman of the Department of Pathology of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine has provided us with the supportive environment necessary to pursue our teaching and writing.

In the preparation of this volume, Elizabeth Claire Maletz supplied the many drawings and Mary Helen Brumback assisted with the typing and proofreading.

Contents

Preface to the <i>Oklahoma Notes</i>	v
Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
1. Nervous System Structure and Function	1
Components	1
Central nervous system subdivisions	1
Spinal cord	1
Brain stem	2
Cerebellum	2
Diencephalon	2
Basal ganglia	3
Corticothalamus and allocortex	3
Cerebral cortex	4
Blood supply	6
Neuron	8
Axon	9
Dendrite	10
Neuronal physiology	11
Acetylcholine	15
Dopamine	17
Norepinephrine	19
Serotonin	21
γ -Aminobutyric acid (GABA)	23
Glycine	25
Glutamate	26
Opioids	28
Neuroglia	29
Astrocyte	29
Oligodendrocyte	30
Ependymal cell	32
Microglial cell	32
Endothelial cells	32
Pia-arachnoid	32
2. Principles of Cerebral Localization	34
Syndromes	34
Hemisyndromes	34
Behavioral syndromes	34
Frontal lobe syndromes	34
Parietal lobe syndromes	34
Temporal lobe syndromes	34

Occipital lobe syndromes	35
Basal ganglia syndromes	35
Thalamic syndromes	35
Hypothalamic syndromes	35
Brain stem syndromes	35
Cerebellar syndromes	35
Spinal cord syndromes	35
Peripheral nervous system syndromes	36
Visual disturbances	36
Vertigo, dizziness, unsteadiness	36
Unilateral facial paralysis	36
Gait disturbances	37
Epilepsy and seizure disorder	37
3. Brain Edema and Mass Effect	40
Edema	40
Intracranial fluid dynamics	40
Brain herniation	41
4. Pathology of Cerebrovascular Disease	45
Stroke	45
Hypoxia, ischemia, infarction	45
Hypoxic/ischemic encephalopathy	48
Transient ischemic attacks (TIA's)	53
Fibromuscular dysplasia	53
Moyamoya disease	53
Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (conophilic angiopathy)	54
Arteritis (vasculitis)	54
Hypertensive cerebrovascular disease	56
Intracranial vascular aneurysms	57
Arteriovenous malformations	59
Subependymal and intraventricular hemorrhage	59
5. Pathology of Central Nervous System	
Infections	61
Sites of CNS infections	61
Blood-brain barrier	61
Meningitis	61
Focal suppurative infections	64
Fungal and parasitic CNS infections	65
Neurosyphilis	67
Lyme disease	69
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	69
Arbovirus encephalitis	72
Herpesvirus encephalitis	73
Poliomyelitis	73
Rabies	74
Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE)	75
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies	76
6. Neurodegenerative Diseases and Dementia	78
Definitions	78
Alzheimer's disease	78
Pick's disease (lobar atrophy)	81

Parkinsonism (Parkinson's syndrome)	82
Huntington's disease (Huntington's chorea)	86
Spinocerebellar degeneration	87
7. Nervous System Tumors	90
Pathophysiology of symptoms	90
Diagnosis of brain tumor	92
Glioma	92
Primitive neuroectodermal tumor (PNET)	99
Peripheral neuroblastoma	101
Pheochromocytoma	101
Craniopharyngioma	101
Colloid cyst of third ventricle	102
Meningioma	103
Schwannoma (neurilemmoma)	104
Neurofibroma	105
Hemangioblastoma of cerebellum (Lindau's tumor)	106
Chordoma	107
Primary central nervous system lymphoma	107
Metastatic tumors	108
8. Pathology of Craniocerebral Trauma	111
Craniocerebral trauma	111
Missile injuries	111
Closed head injury	113
Delayed complications of head injury	120
9. Peripheral Nerve and Muscle Pathology	122
Anatomy and physiology	122
Electrophysiologic studies	136
Pathology	137
10. Pathology of Toxic and Nutritional Diseases	157
Central pontine myelinolysis	157
Marchiafava-Bignami disease	157
Methanol (methyl alcohol; wood alcohol) poisoning	158
Ethylene glycol poisoning	158
Lead poisoning	158
Arsenic poisoning	159
Mercury poisoning (organic or inorganic mercury)	159
Thallium poisoning	160
Carbon monoxide poisoning	160
Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome	161
Alcoholic cerebellar degeneration	162
Vitamin E (α -tocopherol) deficiency	163
Vitamin B deficiency	163
Hypoglycemic encephalopathy	164
Hepatic encephalopathy	164
Uremic neuropathy	165
Kernicterus	165
Radiation effects	165
11. Pathology of Neurometabolic Disorders	167
Gaucher's disease	167

	Niemann-Pick disease	169
	G _{M2} -gangliosidosis	171
	Fabry's disease	172
	Ceroid lipofuscinoses	173
	Metachromatic leukodystrophy	174
	Krabbe's disease (globoid cell leukodystrophy)	175
	Peroxisomal disorders	176
	Mucopolysaccharidoses	178
	Aminoacid disorders	180
	Transferase-deficient galactosemia	181
	Glycogen storage disorders	181
	Wilson's disease (hepatolenticular degeneration)	184
	Alexander's disease	185
	Canavan's disease	185
	Leigh's disease	185
	Lesch-Nyhan disease	186
	Porphyria	187
12.	Pathology of Demyelinating Disorders	190
	Multiple sclerosis (MS)	191
	Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis	193
	Acute necrotizing hemorrhagic encephalomyelitis	194
	Guillain-Barré syndrome	195
13.	Nervous System Malformations	197
	Definitions	197
	Neural tube defects (dysraphic disorders)	197
	Trisomy 21 syndrome (Down's syndrome)	200
	Hydrocephalus (hydrocephaly)	200
	Anomalies of neuronal migration	204
	Hydranencephaly	205
	Porencephaly	205
	Multicystic encephalopathy	206
	Holoprosencephaly	206
	Encephalocele	207
	Agenesis of the corpus callosum	207
	Arrhinencephaly	208
14.	Spinal Cord Pathology	210
	Vascular disorders	210
	Inflammatory conditions	211
	Spinal trauma	213
	Degeneration of intervertebral disc	214
	Rheumatoid arthritis	215
	Ossification of posterior longitudinal ligament	215
	Syringomyelia	215
	Neoplasms	215
	Spinal cord anomalies	215
15.	Pineal Gland Pathology	217
	Anatomy and physiology	217
	Innervation of pineal gland	218

Circumventricular secretory organs	218
Pineal neoplasm	219
Germ cell tumors	220
16. Pituitary Gland Pathology	222
Pituitary gland location	222
Embryonic derivation	222
Vascular supply	223
Cellular architecture of adenohypophysis	224
Neurohypophyseal hormones	224
Hypothalamic hypophysiotrophic hormones	226
Adenohypophyseal hormones	226
Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)	226
Thyrotropin	228
Gonadotropins	229
Human growth hormone	230
Prolactin	231
Pituitary adenoma	233
17. Eye Pathology	235
Orbit	235
Eyelids	236
Cornea, sclera, and conjunctiva	237
Anterior and posterior chambers	242
Uveal tract	245
Lens	247
Vitreous	249
Retina	249
Vascular disease	254
Pigmentary retinopathy	257
18. Ear Pathology	260
External ear	260
Middle ear	261
Inner ear	263
Cochlea	264
Physiologic studies	267
Otitis media	271
Otosclerosis	273
Ménière's disease	274
Self-assessment examination #1	277
Self-assessment examination #2	283
Answers to self-assessment examinations	289