Exercise Intolerance and Muscle Contracture

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Preface

The main themes presented in this volume are exercise intolerance and muscle contracture. These two topics could seem different at first sight but share common clinical features. For instance, symptoms of exercise intolerance are myalgias and cramps but metabolic contractures as well. Likewise exercise intolerance is sometimes due to dystrophinopathy, itself causing contractures. Therefore, it is justified to gather these two syndromes in one study.

Exercise intolerance and muscle contracture could seem well-known, even obsolete. It is not right. A reappraisal of these has become necessary for two reasons. First of all there are many new causes of exercise intolerance; secondly, the pathophysiology remains obscure in particular for muscle contracture and a clear classification is probably possible.

There is no book devoted to exercise intolerance and muscle contracture. This volume is divided in two parts related to the above topics. The two sections are introduced by a didactic and general overview, describing the main symptoms, classification and classical etiology. The other chapters, written by the best experts, present the recent advances in these syndromes and show many new aspects: new glycogenosis or mitochondriopathies, dystrophinopathies, malignant hyperthermia, myotonic disorders. Pathophysiology and classification of persistent contractures are described as well as therapy. Each chapter is thoroughly referenced, representing important progress in research in the field. Therefore, this comprehensive and updated volume allows neurologists, specialists in internal medicine, rheumatologists, pathologists, biochemists, physiotherapists and all researchers interested in neuromuscular diseases to become familiar with many new and homogenous data concerning exercise intolerance and muscle contracture which could really be considered as new syndromes. Moreover, this book will provide the basis for further developments. Most of the chapters have been presented in Marseille, France, on March 21st and 22nd 1998, during the XIV International Meeting on Neuromuscular Diseases.

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