BOOK REVIEW

Stroke Essentials for Primary Care: A Practical Guide, Current Clinical Practice series, edited by David Always and John Walden Cole, 224 pp, \$69.95, Totowa, NJ, Humana Press (telephone: 973-256-1699), 2009, ISBN 978-1-934115-01-5

Type and Scope of Book: A multiauthored overview of the approach to the diagnosis and management of cerebrovascular disease.

Contents: This concise textbook covers ischemic stroke and transient ischemic attack as well as intracerebral hemorrhage and subarachnoid hemorrhage. Diagnosis and clinical management are reviewed succinctly. In addition, expert guidelines are provided in an easy-to-read format. Common clinical scenarios such as when to use intravenous tissue plasminogen activator in patients with ischemic stroke, screening for aneurysms, and the controversies of anticoagulant therapy after intracerebral hemorrhage are reviewed concisely. Special topics such as stroke in the young, carotid artery stenosis, and cerebral venous thrombosis are reviewed in more detail in additional chapters of this text.

Strengths: The concise length of the chapters and the easy readability make this an ideal book for practicing physicians to read and to reference. Practical recommendations and management, including expert consensus guidelines, are provided.

Deficiencies: Since the chapter on acute stroke management was written, additional data have been published regarding intravenous tissue plasminogen activator in the 3- to 4.5-hour time window.

Recommended Readership: Primary care, internal medicine, neurology and internal medicine residents in training, and general neurologists.

Overall Grading: ★★★★★

Kelly D. Flemming, MD, *Department of Neurology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN*

Grading Key

★★★★★ = outstanding; ★★★★ = excellent; ★★★ = good; ★★ = fair; ★ = poor.