BOOK REVIEW

Spine Disorders: Medical and Surgical Management, by J. D. Bartleson and H. Gordon Deen, 302 pp, with illus, \$115, New York, NY, Cambridge University Press (845-353-7500), 2009, ISBN 978-0-521-88941-4

Type and Scope of Book: A comprehensive, dual-authored view of the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of spinal disorders.

Contents: The authors (a neurologist and neurosurgeon) have compiled a detailed review of spinal pathology and treatment in a 14-chapter text. The first 4 chapters are dedicated to regional anatomy of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine, as well as detailed neurologic examination and thorough discussion of differential diagnoses. Particularly informative is the section on lumbar spine pathology with detailed illustrations of physical examinations, maneuvers, and diagnostic techniques. Chapters 5 through 8 discuss diagnostic tests and indications for referring the patient to a spinal surgeon. Chapters 9 through 11 further analyze surgical treatments for disorders, discussing techniques as well as imaging and diagnostic studies specific to given regions of the spine.

Strengths: This text analyzes spinal disease through both a neurologic and a neurosurgical perspective. It is easily read and provides numerous descriptions. The reader is aided with multiple diagrams and illustrations throughout the text.

Deficiencies: Because the book is comprehensive, it attempts to thoroughly cover all aspects of spinal disease. Review of these topics is difficult in the available limited space. The figures are somewhat limited in portions to the text; thus, addition of more figures may have improved the focus of the discussion.

Recommended Readership: Primary care physicians, residents, fellows, and the general population interested in treatment of spinal diseases.

Overall Grading: ★★★★★

James S. Harrop, MD, *Division of Spine and Peripheral Nerve Disorders, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA*

Grading Key

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