Photo Atlas of Skull Base Dissection: Techniques and Operative Approaches

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EXTENT P/H 434 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN €209.95, 9781588905215
PUBLISHER Thieme (Stuttgart), 2009
REVIEWER Ramez Kirolos
STAR RATING *****

This is an outstanding book for both practising skull base surgeons and those in training. The operative textbooks and pure anatomical atlases that are available provide basic knowledge for skull base surgery. The detailed knowledge presented here complements other textbooks with practical anatomical teaching to enable learning of complex skull base techniques. There is a great need for a book covering the practical neuroanatomy of the skull base such as this atlas.

The book acts as a reference for teaching both practising and training neurosurgeons attending cadaveric courses in surgical neuro-anatomical approaches. In addition, it encompasses the contributions of ophthalmology, otorhinology and maxillofacial surgery to skull base operative practice. The chapters are divided into sections according to the operative corridors, namely anterior, anterolateral, lateral, posterolateral and posterior skull base. In addition to all the approaches to the skull base performed by neurosurgeons, which are elegantly included, there are detailed descriptions of endonasal and paranasal sinuses/facial approaches, which are more familiar to ENT and maxillofacial skull base surgeons. The dissections describe the extracranial anatomy relevant to surgery on extended lesions of the skull base. The description of the anatomy and approaches to orbital lesions is comprehensive.

There is comprehensive, step-by-step dissection to reveal the anatomical landmarks for operative skull base approaches. It shows the anatomy as encountered through different surgical exposures. The anatomical dissection is most impressive with very clear, succinct text that is in sequence with the dissection steps. The style is very clear and to the point. The description of the approaches comes from renowned, experienced authors in the field. The reader will certainly become knowledgeable in the techniques and operative approaches indicated in the book's title.

This atlas contains very high-quality photographs, with comprehensive anatomical views. In a few chapters, clear diagrams were appropriately used to clarify more demanding details, for example, with the petrosal approaches. This publication will be regarded as the reference atlas of skull base dissection.

Endocrine Surgery: A Companion to Specialist Surgical Practice

TOM LENNARD

EXTENT P/H 244 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN £230.00, 9780702030161
PUBLISHER Saunders (Oxford), 2009
REVIEWER James Kirkby-Bott
STAR RATING ****

This book covers the specialty topic of endocrine surgery. There are eight chapters of almost equal size covering the various glands involved plus chapters on genetics/familial disease and clinical governance. The scalpel icons help with the large number of references. My major criticism is that not all of these glands have equal importance in endocrine or glandular surgery and this affects the overall quality of the book. The chapters on endocrine pancreas and carcinoid cover the 'smallest volume areas' and are two of the three best chapters in this book. There has been an effort to distinguish endocrine pancreas from exocrine pancreas but salivary gland disease gets a chapter of similar length to thyroid disease.

The parathyroid chapter is the third outstanding one of this book. It is in depth, relevant in its proportions and very insightful, with a real sense of giving the opinion of supremely experienced parathyroid surgeons. The chapter on carcinoid tumours is similar in the means of its success. The authors are world leaders in this field and much of the evidence base comes from them. The chapter benefits from superb colour reproductions and good line diagrams.

The thyroid chapter is too short. The section on thyroid cancer is weak as a consequence of its brevity. As an endocrine examinee for the FRCS examination (reading the 3rd edition), I had to find another text for this topic. It has a good description of Graves' disease but again this is a low-volume topic given almost equal page space as goitres and cancers.

More colour images would have helped the thyroid and adrenal chapters enormously, and currently the thyroid chapter is too brief for the series' aims. Despite this, the book has some real high points: the parathyroid, carcinoid and endocrine pancreas chapters are a class apart and worth the price just for themselves.

Health Records in Court

JANE LYNCH

EXTENT P/H 192 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £22.99, 9781846192227
PUBLISHER Radcliffe (Abingdon), 2009
REVIEWER Robert Wheeler
STAR RATING ****