BOOK REVIEW

Osborn's Brain: Imaging, Pathology, and Anatomy

By Anne G. Osborn

Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA and Amirsys Publishing, Salt Lake City, UT, 2012, 1208 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1-931884-21-1, list price: \$349.00

Osborn's Brain: Imaging, Pathology, and Anatomy is the successor to Dr. Osborn's 1993 book *Diagnostic Radiology*, known in some neuroradiology circles as "The Red Book." This volume is presented as a comprehensive neuropathology and neuroradiology learning curriculum, written in prose to convey the reasoning behind the conclusions she sets forth. Neuro-ophthalmologists will likely find this text to be a helpful reference or primary study source.

The text comprises 41 chapters grouped into six larger sections: Trauma; Nontraumatic Hemorrhage and Vascular Lesions; Infection, Inflammation, and Demyelinating Diseases; Neoplasms, Cysts, and Tumor-like Lesions; Toxic, Metabolic, Degenerative, and CSF Disorders; and Congenital Malformations of the Skull and Brain. Each section begins with an introductory chapter, giving important anatomical insights and describing a general approach to the section's content. Following this, individual pathologies are covered systematically with consistent subheadings of Terminology, Etiology, Pathology, Clinical Issues, Imaging, and Differential Diagnosis. Salient teaching points are summarized in boxes of bullet point-formatted content.

Its pages are filled with superb gross anatomic images, histologic images, radiologic images, and diagrams that compliment both the written content and each other; when the complexity of a gross image obscures the effective conveyance of an important concept, a simplified diagram is often also presented to clarify. The author has recruited an impressive cadre of willing collaborators: the image contributor list boasts about 100 names and the text contains over 3300 images.

Of particular interest to neuro-ophthalmologists are the descriptions of multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica (NMO) in Part 3, "Infection, Inflammation, and Demyelinating Diseases," which include both typical and atypical radiologic presentations of these

pathologies. Less common demyelinating diseases from Susac syndrome to Baló concentric sclerosis are also described, and their distinguishing radiologic features are highlighted. The descriptions of the courses of the cranial nerves alone make Part 4, "Neoplasms, Cysts, and Tumor-like Lesions," worthy of one's attention. Radiographic images accompany diagrams that instantly make once abstruse concepts clear, and the text adds detail that anchors these concepts to anatomical landmarks. Although optic nerve imaging is covered in various sections (e.g., NMO, pilocytic astrocytoma, idiopathic intracranial hypertension), the neuro-ophthalmologist reader would likely benefit from more pathologic images of the anterior visual pathways. That being said, Part 4 also contains Chapter 25, "Sellar Neoplasms and Tumor-like Lesions," which shines in its depictions of chiasmal pathologies.

The sixth and final part, "Congenital Malformations of the Skull and Brain," describes abnormalities spanning the spectrum of prevalence, from Chiari malformation to septooptic dysplasia to neurocutaneous syndromes. The strength in the text here is Osborn's ability to convey appropriate complexity in her explanations while maintaining a readable, almost conversational tone. She continues to use this tone to highlight the importance of some facts over others; an exclamation point is not an uncommon sighting.

Osborn's Brain is a large, heavy book, best suited for keeping in a single location for studying or reference. This hardbound text is 8.5 × 11 × 2.3 inches in size and weighs 8 pounds. However, purchase of the text includes a companion eBook license that can be used to access the content from Internet-enabled devices, making the material much more portable. In addition, the online content contains more images, diagnostic tips, and references than those in the physical text alone.

As the book is structured by pathophysiology, it may prove to be difficult to use as a reference text if

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one searches its pages with the goal of addressing a particular clinical or radiologic sign (i.e. the cause of a hyperintense lesion in the cavernous sinus). However, those who devote the time to assimilate its pages will likely find it easy to locate their desired knowledge by attending to the "Differential Diagnosis" subsections of potentially explaining pathologies. Also, one will note that the mechanics of the various imaging modalities are not explicitly covered in this volume, and readers will need to search elsewhere for this information.

Although scholarly works written by a single author are often criticized for their inability to express all aspects of the content presented, *Osborn's Brain* is contrarily exhaustive. In addition, it benefits from a cohesiveness of tone and complexity that is often not seen in texts authored by many. It is likely that in the

following years, a broad audience in the clinical and basic neurosciences will find this text to be an indispensable resource as both a reference and a primary study source. In particular, students of neuro-ophthalmology with an ophthalmology background will benefit from its approach and find its structure as a crescendoing learning curriculum to be just the thing he or she needs to build a solid foundation of neuroradiologic and neuropathologic knowledge.

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