



Book Review

Acquired Neuromuscular Disorders - Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Treatment by Corrado Angelini and collaborators. Springer Softcover £109.99, eBook £87.50

This concise volume is designed to cover the heterogeneous group of acquired neuromuscular disorders, from etiology to treatment. This is a valuable undertaking, but also quite an ambitious task. Today's aging population and their inherent risks of developing diseases requiring medications with potentially adverse treatment effects like statins, cancer drugs and immune modulators, cancer with related possible paraneoplastic disorders, will make this field of neuromuscular disease even more relevant in the future. The authors are a group of very experienced neuromuscular experts, and the book is aimed at clinicians (not specifically neuromuscular specialists) and pathologists.

The book comprises three parts: Part I Diagnostic tools with 5 chapters (Autoantibodies in Neuromuscular disorders, Electromyography, Imaging of the Muscle, Peripheral Nerve Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Peripheral Nerve), Clinical Myology Entities, Part III Neurogenic Disorders with 7 chapters.

The first part in 5 chapters introduces the reader to the tools available to medicine for diagnosing neuromuscular conditions today. The contributions review and appreciate the role of diagnostic techniques in establishing diagnosis. This section would benefit from a few pages on clinical assessment and indicate a strategy for effective use of these methods, which themselves are very well described. In particular, the chapters on MRI are detailed and clinically very useful.

The second part deals with specific myopathy entities and is overall the most satisfying part of the book with a selection of excellent contributions from leading experts on the major acquired myopathies. Some are well presented in other publications, but the chapters on toxic and endocrinological myopathies particularly provide information that the clinical neurologists will not find in another single volume book.

The third and last chapter regarding neurogenic disorders covers immune, metabolic, infectious, paraneoplastic and toxic neuropathies and includes a contribution on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The book's strength is where it provides comprehensive but succinct discussion, but succinctness in some chapters becomes a lack in necessary detail, although comprehensive footnotes enable further reading. The chapter on ALS is largely restricted to epidemiology and, perhaps to a greater length than necessary, discusses suspected risk factors, whereas clinical manifestation, diagnostics and management are entirely lacking. The editing is somewhat uneven, with some chapter summarized in Highlights, others in Key points, or in Conclusions.

“Acquired Neuromuscular Disorders” is a highly valuable read containing some particular gems for those studying neurology in general or neuromuscular disorders in particular.

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