Book Reviews

Controversies in Neuro-Oncology
“Best Evidence Medicine for Brain Tumor Surgery”

Publisher: Thieme
Published: 2013
Language: English
Pages: 495
84 figures (33 colored), 115 tables
Editors: Alfred Quiñones-Hinojosa, Shaan M. Raza (both Baltimore, Maryland, Editors)

With ongoing research in the field of neuro-oncology, therapies and treatment strategies for malignant as well as benign intracranial tumors have become more complex over the past years. This comprehensive guide to neuro-oncology aims at giving state-of-the-art, evidence based guidelines for treating tumors of the brain and skull.

Based on common (astrocytomas, meningiomas, metastases) and rare entities such as chordomas and glomus jugulare tumors the book is divided into 15 sections and 49 chapters. Each section includes information on general clinical features such as incidence, clinical presentation and diagnostics. But the main focus is on treatment strategies and controversies, which have become apparent over the past decades due to the use of new technical equipment, the evolution of minimally invasive techniques and increasing knowledge about the biology of tumors. Important surgical aspects are extensively discussed allowing for a best evidence based approach to treating each patient individually. Topics include: the optimal extend of resection, the benefits of intraoperative imaging, the use of agents such as 5-ALA, minimally invasive techniques such as endoscopic procedures but also adjuvant therapies and radiosurgical approaches.

The authors of each chapter thoroughly summarize the current literature based on its level of evidence. Every chapter contains tables listing the most important articles published over the past decades. Furthermore key results of relevant studies are discussed separately. For a quick review every chapter provides the reader with expert recommendations in separate boxes, which are prominently visualized. The images used to illustrate each section are of high resolution and well chosen to underline key facts, such as the image on endoscopic transphenoidal approach for pituitary tumors or approaches to cranial base meningeoms.

Overall this book is an up to date evidence based guideline for every neurological surgeon, radiosurgeon and conservative neuro-oncologist. Today individualized treatment plans based on age, tumor entity and tumor biology have become more important in patient care. Based on current literature, this book allows physicians to find the optimal treatment for their patients on a case to case basis.

Neurosurgical Infectious Disease
Surgical and Nonsurgical Management

ISBN: 978-1-60406-805-4
e-ISBN: 978-1-60404-821-4
Publisher: Thieme
Published: 2013
Language: English
Pages: 317
72 figures (12 colored), 11 tables
Editors: Walter A. Hall (Syracuse, New York, Editor), Peter D. Kim (St. Paul, Minnesota, Editor)

Infections of the central nervous system can potentially cause major morbidity and mortality if not diagnosed and treated early. As its title implies, this book is intended for neurological surgeons to guide diagnosis, prevention and treatment of neurological infectious diseases.

The book is subdivided into 5 sections with 3–5 chapters per section with a total of 19 chapters. Each topic is researched well, ample citations and references are given. The 72 images provide a great overview on radiological imaging, histopathological staining and intraoperative findings. Although the pathology is readily identifiable on the illustrative images used, the resolution of MRI and CT scans could be better.

Useful background information on immunology, microbiology, radiology and antibiotics are given in the first section. The authors also focus on prevention of development of resistance to antibiotics which becomes
more and more important with the rising number of infections caused by multi-resistant bacteria in hospitals.

Furthermore, diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of infections are discussed based on agent and location. Core information for clinicians such as clinical presentation, expected lab results and surgical as well as non-surgical treatment options are well described. The ample use of tables makes it even easier to get an overview on important information to be used in the clinical routine.

One section focuses on special neurosurgical issues, such as postoperative infections, infections of implanted devices and specifics about prophylaxis in neurosurgery. Special emphasis is also given to certain populations with specific needs such as the pediatric population, the elderly and the immunocompromised patients.

The described surgical treatment options are up to date including minimally invasive techniques such as endoscopic procedures, use of neuronavigation and intra-operatively guided procedures to ensure minimal trauma to the infected nervous system.

Overall this book is a great reference for any physician treating infections of the central nervous system, but particularly for neurological surgeons.

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