

BOOK REVIEW

Neurosurgical Operative Atlas. Spine and Peripheral Nerves (3rd edition)

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ISBN: 978-1-60406-898-6

2017

513 pages

Thieme Publication

Spine and peripheral nerve surgeries are commonly performed in orthopaedic practice. Surgery involving the spine is complicated and risky. The preparation of the patients, number of instruments used, the cost of the procedures and the pressure felt by both the surgeon and patients are tremendous. The indemnity coverage for the spine surgeon is among the highest in the country reflecting on the amount of risk compensation involved in the area. The simplest spinal procedure like lumbar discectomy may end up with grave complications. Thus, it is understood that training in spine and peripheral nerves is tough and requiring fullest commitment. Within the period of training, the coverage of surgical procedures may not be sufficient, especially in term of number of complex spinal and peripheral nerve surgeries. Even for a fully trained surgeon, a new procedure like minimally invasive technique may require 30 to 40 cases as learning curve. Thus, development of skill in the surgery does not stop at the end of fellowship programme or training attachment in special overseas centres. It is a continuous, life long process.

Neurosurgical Operative Atlas. Spine and Peripheral Nerves by Wolfla CE and Resnick DK is an outstanding book for the surgeons and surgeon-in-training to revise, improve and learn spine and peripheral nerve surgery techniques and related issues pertaining to them. Detailed information is provided which are easily understood. It covers most of the common and uncommon procedures in spinal and peripheral nerve surgeries, both conventional and some latest techniques. For spinal procedures, this book focuses mainly on spinal trauma and degenerative spine conditions. Special techniques in metastatic spine disease, spinal infection and deformities surgeries are however not covered. Peripheral nerve surgeries illustrated in this book include surgical exposures for peripheral nerves, nerve repair and transfers.

The book is divided into four parts; cervical, thoracic, lumbosacral spines and peripheral nerves. Altogether, there

are 74 chapters or procedures illustrated, from simple carpal tunnel release to minimally invasive approaches to the thoracic and lumbar spines. It also covers stereotactic radiosurgery in the thoracic spine. Most of the topics can be considered as general topics e.g. surgical approaches, spinal fusion and instrumentation procedures. Over 100 authors have contributed to this book.

I found this book fairly interesting and helpful because it covers both common procedures performed on the spine and peripheral nerves. Combination of both areas is probably uncommon; therefore, it makes this book different and attractive. The images are excellent and most of the relevant information is available. The authors have successfully addressed the common procedures performed by providing the relevant information, techniques and images. Surgical videos (8 videos) are also accessible online (with given code) at the publisher media center.

This book is recommended for those who are committed to understand and improve their basic surgical skills, minimizing surgical complications and improve the patients' outcome. It may provide some assistance to those who want to learn and understand the basic principles and rationales of spine and peripheral nerve surgeries. This book is certainly useful for orthopaedic, spine and neurosurgeons who are directly involved in the related procedures and training. It is useful for quick reference and revision prior to performing the procedures. Nevertheless, this book will not replace the benefit of being in the operation theatre and personally observe and seek direct clarifications on the procedures performed by the experts.

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