Book Review

COMPANION TO PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY: ILLUSTRATED CASES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

by Peter James Dyck, P. James B. Dyck, Christopher J. Klein, Phillip Low, Kimberly Amrami, JaNeen Engelstad, and Robert J. Spinner, 432 pp., Saunders Elsevier, 2010, \$159

Companion to Peripheral Neuropathy starts with a description of symptoms following a fascicular nerve biopsy experienced by Peter James Dyck (P.J.D.)—one of the authors of the book. P.J.D. did not have a neuropathy; he wanted to obtain normal nerve tissue for study and comparison. This is just one example that shows how dedicated the authors of this text are to peripheral neuropathy.

As its name indicates, the book is a companion to the original work by Dyck and Thomas, *Peripheral Neuropathy*. You do not, however, need to own *Peripheral Neuropathy*, which is more used as a reference, to use this book.

The first thing you will notice when opening *Companion to Peripheral Neuropathy* is the abundance of high-quality pathology pictures and MRIs. The book is divided into 4 sections. Each consists of several chapters written in a case report format by experts—mainly from the Mayo Clinic, but there are also some national and international contributions. The first section approaches the use of MRI-targeted fascicular nerve biopsy. The case reports illustrate how MRI of peripheral nerves may narrow the differential diagnosis or suggest the pathology and help target an optimal biopsy site. The second section, called “Diagnostic Case Reports,” consists of a series of clinical cases that are either unique or very informative, widening the reader’s differential diagnosis and expanding his or her knowledge about the diagnosis and management of patients with peripheral

neuropathies. The third section discusses the diagnostic workup, in a standardized manner, of several patients with autonomic neuropathies. The last section of this book is somewhat different from the general format of the text as it is not written in a case report format and focuses on new insights that came to light after the publication of the fourth edition of *Peripheral Neuropathy*. This includes discussions of a very interesting study on the ability of expert neuromuscular physicians to clinically diagnose polyneuropathy in diabetic patients, thermal disk quantitative sensation testing of cooling discrimination, amyloidosis typing based on laser microdissection and mass spectrometry, an introduction to touch-pressure sensograms, and other interesting topics.

The book also comes in a free online version. The best feature of the online version, apart from the searchable text, is the easily accessible references. Clicking on the reference in the text will directly show you the abstract in PubMed.

The text is mostly written in a case report format which makes reading it enjoyable. It does not, however, cover all aspects of peripheral neuropathy and the reader should have some background on the subject or use a reference book on peripheral neuropathy. When, on some rare occasions, I have found the case discussion insufficient, the references provided at the end of each case report were helpful.

I enjoyed reading and learning from *Companion to Peripheral Neuropathy*. This excellent book, written by authorities in the field, should be read and studied by anyone taking care of many patients with peripheral neuropathy.

Reviewed by Chafic Karam, MD

Disclosure: Dr. Karam serves on the editorial board of the Resident & Fellow Section of Neurology®.

Copyright © 2010 by AAN Enterprises, Inc.

Neurology®

Companion to Peripheral Neuropathy: Illustrated Cases and New Developments

Chafic Karam

Neurology 2010;75:e61

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181f73718

This information is current as of October 11, 2010

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/75/15/e61.full>

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2010 by AAN Enterprises, Inc.. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.