

Media and Book Reviews

MOVEMENT DISORDERS IN CHILDHOOD

By Harvey S. Singer, Jonathan W. Mink, Donald L. Gilbert, and Joseph Jankovic, 279 pp., Saunders Elsevier, 2010, \$99.95

Although adult neurologists usually are keen to evaluate and treat movement disorders, some movement disorder specialists may not treat children, leaving the leading role to pediatricians who might feel inexperienced dealing with diseases of the nervous system.

Movement Disorders in Childhood is primarily focused on tackling this problem by offering a practical and concise resource for clinicians. Written by Drs. Harvey S. Singer, Jonathan W. Mink, Donald L. Gilbert, and Joseph Jankovic, this book is organized into 5 sections that cover the essentials for recognizing and treating these diseases.

The first section begins with a review of the relevant anatomy of the basal ganglia and cerebellum. The authors offer a general classification of movement disorders to establish the necessary framework for diagnosing movement disorders in children. The second section focuses on transient and developmental movement disorders, which are often due to a normally maturing CNS. Some examples include the minimal chorea of infants, mild action dystonia in toddlers, and overflow movements in young adults. The third and fourth sections form the bulk of the text, presenting paroxysmal movement disorders and hyperkinetic/hypokinetic movement disorders, with comprehensive descriptions of the pathophysiology of tic disorders and chorea in children. In addition, readers can also find effective coverage of dystonia,

myoclonus, tremor, ataxia, and parkinsonism. The fifth section covers the molecular basis of inherited metabolic causes of movement disorders, cerebral palsy, movements that occur during sleep, and drug-induced and psychogenic movement disorders. Every chapter has a didactic approach, making use of tables and figures when necessary, that helps readers conceptualize the main features of each disease.

Three appendices at the end of the text include a review of pertinent pharmacology, a discussion of genetic testing for diagnosing of movement disorders, and a guide to an online video atlas. In the first appendix, there is a description of each drug that includes its mechanism of action, standard dose, contraindications, interactions, side effects, and special considerations. This is particularly useful for residents and fellows, and it can also serve as a quick reference for more experienced clinicians.

The video atlas is particularly educational as it provides Web access to 70 videos, offering a comprehensive visualization of the phenomenology of movement disorders in children. The video clips, including brief audio descriptions, show the salient features of each movement disorder.

The clear organization of the book allows the reader to proceed in a logical manner, highlighting the major points of each disease. Neurologists and pediatricians will find this well-written, concise, book very useful for approaching children with movement disorders.

Reviewed by Francesca Di Biasio, MD

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