Publisher summary:
Movement disorders affect a growing patient population, but providing comprehensive care is extremely difficult. Several of these conditions are progressive and incurable; the basal ganglia has a complex role in movement control, with many potential malfunctions. This book focuses on rehabilitation approaches that have been developed and utilized internationally in an attempt to minimize impairment and maximize participation amongst these patients. Each chapter is written by movement disorder experts, rehabilitation specialists and health care professionals, giving a broad overview of current interventions and emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary management, focussing on deliverable outcomes. Common conditions such as Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, dystonia and Huntington's disease are comprehensively covered. This book gives neurologists, geriatricians and rehabilitation specialists an up-to-date, theoretically-based approach to managing movement disorders related to basal ganglia malfunction. Also valuable for physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, nurses and social workers seeking to develop and plan appropriate interventions.

Review:

In addition to the Publisher's summary above, I would add that this comprehensive text, edited by Professor Iansek and Professor Meg Morris, provides an excellent introduction and update to clinicians regarding their knowledge of the most common movement disorders. It considers an optimal multidisciplinary approach, basing best practice concepts on evidence-informed work.

As expected, the Morris-Iansek pairing has maintained a clear construct throughout the book, with each chapter providing well-referenced information about movement disorders. The book begins by reviewing neuroanatomy and pathophysiology, particularly of the basal ganglia, clearly linking this to current medical, surgical and allied health management options.

The chapters that follow then provide an overview of the roles of individual professions involved in this field of rehabilitation, eventually offering an overview of a holistic multidisciplinary approach in managing these complex conditions.

From the viewpoint of a clinician, although aware of complexity and overlap of some of the conditions, it is good to be able to see clear comparisons between clinical presentation and likely condition progression of varied common movement disorders, including dystonia, Parkinsonism and Huntington’s Chorea. It was also interesting to see within the book, a couple of chapters reviewing aspects of cerebral palsy and management of children, plus a section considering the place of outcome measures.

From a personal viewpoint, I was proud to see several APPDE members as chapter authors, or acknowledged in the book. If I had one criticism – and it is only a small one - it is the lack of a page at the back of the book with all the abbreviations encountered. As per writing prerequisites, although written in full the first time a term is used, abbreviations are widespread throughout the text. Such a page would save the reader a lot of backwards and forwards thumbing of the book reminding them of unfamiliar terms, enabling a smoother read.

I end my piece however agreeing with other reviewers. This comprehensive text provided an invaluable overview of movement disorders to any professional working with people with these diagnoses within their clinical practice. It would be a welcome edition on your desk.

Bhanu Ramaswamy MCSP
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