

Entrapment Neuropathies

David M. Dawson, Mark Hallett, and Lewis M. Millender
2nd Edition; Little, Brown and Company, Toronto
Hard cover, 434 pages. Cdn \$96.95
ISBN 0-316-17743-1

Patients can present to physicians with a multitude of neuromusculoskeletal complaints. Among these complaints, chiropractors are likely to see many types of nerve injuries. Although many injuries can occur adjacent to the spine, as in lateral stenosis or disc herniation, many patients can complain of injuries which are more peripheral in origin. This book, "Entrapment Neuropathies", is a recent text which addresses many of the conditions arising from nerve injury due to entrapment.

Dawson and Hallett, both neurologists, along with Millender, an orthopaedic surgeon, have written a thorough text dealing with peripheral entrapment nerve injuries. More than 400 pages describe the various aspects of these neuropathies, including clinical presentation, etiology, treatment and electrodiagnostic studies. Fifteen pages of index and over 250 illustrations highlights the relevant materials. The first chapter introduces the basic terms and describes the degenerative process incurred by nerve damage. Subsequent chapters discuss the more common entrapment neuropathies, such as carpal tunnel, thoracic outlet and peroneal nerve injuries in order of frequency.

The book is well-written and easy to read. The authors present the material in an unbiased manner by focusing on the "literature" and the general consensus in the medical community, rather than merely stating their opinions. Moreover, emphasis is placed on the subtle clinical presentation which allow for more definitive diagnosis. Each chapter contains a list of differential diagnosis which is informative and comprehensive. Finally, the chapter on electrodiagnostic studies is of interest since it provides the rationale and jargon for such studies, as well as the typical findings in an injured nerve.

Although the text is well referenced, some of the sources used by the authors were outdated. This became evident in some of their ideas and comments. One such example was the relationship stated to exist between radiographic findings and clinical symptoms; i.e. they felt that increased degenerative changes in the cervical films correlated to the degree of clinical symptoms.

Early detection and recognition of nerve injuries cannot be overemphasized as the prognosis is directly related to the initiation of the treatment. This text is a comprehensive, well-written source which will help the physician to hone his/her skills and ultimately lead to better detection of peripheral nerve injuries. It is this reviewer's opinion that "Entrapment Neuropathies" is a text which will benefit both student and clinician involved with the neuromuscular system.

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Handbook of Clinical Chiropractic

Lawrence H. Wyatt, Jr, DC, DACBR
Aspen Publishers, Inc., 1992
ISBN 0-8342-0250-6

At last, a truly user-friendly manual on practical clinical chiropractic! The soft-cover style, only 4" by 9" results in a 'comfortably portable' text; it slips into a clinic jacket pocket or briefcase with ease.

The size and layout of Dr. Wyatt's guide is in sharp contrast to the usual ominous clinical tomes; however, like a microchip or fibre optic strand, its size belies its contents.

The text is clearly divided into four main sections. Quite unique is Part I on Record Keeping and Professional Protocols - covering such valuable practical topics as 'when to refer' and 'hospital protocols'. Part II, 'Clinical Investigation' demonstrates evaluation of the patient via orthopedic and neurologic testing, laboratory investigation and diagnostic imaging. (A wonderful touch in the radiology chapter is a single page summary on practical radiation physics. Finally, someone has explained the everyday application of mAs and kVp! Bravo!)

Part III discusses differential diagnosis, covering rheumatology, oncology, spine pain, and a chapter of well-summarized conditions affecting the abdomen, chest, nervous system and skeleton. Part III concludes with a brief overview of Commonly Prescribed Medications with Neuromusculoskeletal Side Effects.

But Dr. Wyatt has saved the best for last. Part IV is an excellent treatise of management protocols, specifically chiropractic, including chapters on trauma, low back pain, contraindications to chiropractic manipulation, physical therapy modalities and nutrition.

The frequent use of simple, easy-to-read charts throughout the text enhances the reader's grasp of the multitude of well-referenced protocols.

Dr. Wyatt's Handbook of Clinical Chiropractic is an excellent, concise primer, where every page is useful. As a doctor or future doctor, you will be hard-pressed to find a better value. Congratulations on completing a formidable project, Dr. Wyatt!

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