

### **THE RADIOLOGY OF ACUTE CERVICAL SPINE TRAUMA**

*(Second Edition), by John H. Harris Jr. and Beth Edeiken-Monroe Williams and Wilkins, 1987*  
295 pages, \$62.25

*The Radiology of Acute Cervical Spine Trauma*, by Harris and Edeiken-Monroe adequately covers all the important radiological features of cervical spine trauma. It is an academic discussion of cervical sprains, fractures and dislocations; it tells how to recognize them, and how to differentiate them from other conditions that simulate traumatic lesions.

The injuries are discussed in chapters classified according to mechanism of injury. Although good examples of each type of injury are presented, the radiographic reproductions are mostly poor in quality – so much so that some diagnoses are equivocal even after reading the accompanying caption. There is also a distinct absence of clinical correlation in the cases presented. For example, most fractures are presented as examples of certain types of injury (such as hyperflexion), but there is no specific history of the actual injury leading to that specific fracture. Consequently, the reader is left wondering how, in real life, an injury of that nature occurs.

Special imaging procedures such as tomography, MRI, CT and three-dimensional CT are included to illustrate their unique value in diagnosing subtle or difficult-to-image lesions. Unfortunately, there is only one example of a pillar view – a normal – which seems inadequate for any book setting out to discuss the radiology of cervical spine trauma.

John Taylor DC/Vancouver

### **THE RADIOLOGY OF VERTEBRAL TRAUMA**

*(First Edition), by John A. Gehweiler Jr., R.L. Osborne Jr., and R.F. Becker*  
Saunders, 1980  
460 pages, \$95.95

*The Radiology of Vertebral Trauma*, by Gehweiler, Osborne and Becker is a top-quality textbook that should be required reading for every chiropractic student and practitioner. The text discusses trauma of the entire spine – not just the cervical spine. It is clearly written with constant attention to detail, and the result is a strikingly professional and thorough publication.

The graphics, the artist's illustrations, and the superior-quality radiographic reproductions are excellent. Most of the cases presented are supported by histories of the real-life incidents that caused the specific injury under discussion. The net result is an easy-to-read, clearly-illustrated, step-by-step guide to understanding spine trauma.

Gehweiler's emphasis is clearly on the plain film examination, including and stressing the importance of "special views" – such as the supine-oblique 30° view and the vertebral arch or pillar view. The value of these important projections is vividly illustrated with several examples of subtle neural arch fractures and dislocations that are virtually invisible on routine radiographs. That there are no examples of "special imaging procedures" is, perhaps, because the book was written before the advent of MRI and during the early stages of CT imaging.

At \$95.95, Gehweiler is a far better value than Harris at \$62.25, not only because of its broader scope, but because it is a far superior production. It teaches rather than merely lectures. Although both address a topic about which chiropractors can never learn too much, Harris is a good text, Gehweiler is an excellent one.

John Taylor DC/Vancouver

### **AIDS TO THE EXAMINATION OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

*Bailliere Tindall*  
Toronto, 1986  
61 pages, \$9.50

*Aids to the examination of the peripheral nervous system* is a brief, concise book originating as War Memorandum No. 7 in 1943. This revised edition contains 59 photographs, 23 diagrams and 8 illustrations within 61 pages to make for an easy to read review of the peripheral nervous system. The book illustrates dermatomal and peripheral nerve sensory maps, and covers a complete pictorial review of pertinent muscle testing relating to peripheral nerve injury.

Though primarily directed to the student or intern, this book would serve well as a handy shelf reference for the practicing chiropractor.

P.D. Aker, DC  
Clinical Resident

### **ESSENTIALS OF SKELETAL RADIOLOGY**

*T. Yochum, L. Rowe Williams and Wilkins*  
Volumes 1 and 2, 1987  
\$150.00

There is a saying that, "Every picture tells a story." Quite often that holds true for the cover of a text as well. Rarely does one find a text of superb quality with a mediocre cover. "Essentials of Skeletal Radiology" is no exception.

I waited, like so many other people, for this highly publicized radiology text to arrive. Upon unwrapping it from its mailing case, I knew I was about to review something special.

The cover, black in color with gold lettering offset on a blocked red background, was one of the most distinctive that I had seen in a long time. Having now reached a level of high expectations, it would have been easy to have been disappointed. However, as I began to read page after page I soon realized that the expected high quality of the text inside equalled – if not surpassed – the standard of excellence with which the cover initially expressed.

The text is written primarily by T. Yochum and L. Rowe with contributions from other authors complimenting various portions of several chapters. What is particularly interesting about the book is its overall format. Most of the chapters begin with a table of contents. This not only provides the reader with an overview of the chapter's contents, it also allows quick referral to a topic of greatest interest. At the chapter's end is a *capsular summary* providing a "meat and potatoe" overview of the chapters information. For anyone seeking a quick review – no better addition to a text could be found. For those special readers who may desire additional information on a particular topic, the references at the end of the chapter are listed by disease entity.

\* Book Review editor, Dr Z Szaraz, DC

The chapters themselves are pleasing to read. This in part is due to the fact that although the overlying theme of the book is comprehensive, the text itself is not exhaustive in nature. Its chapters are informative, but they are not overburdened with complicated terminology. A large number of graphs, tables and line drawings within both volumes compliment the written text and adds to the readers comprehension abilities.

Of utmost importance in any radiology book is the quality of the radiographic reproductions. In keeping with the Williams and Wilkins tradition, the reproductions are absolutely superb. Few texts indeed match the high quality of reproductions found throughout each chapter.

Volume I is divided into nine distinct chapters. Chapter one, Radiographic positioning and normal anatomy, utilizes labeled radiographs and when appropriate labeled dry specimens in order to reinforce the anatomy of the various regions shown being radiographed. Chapters 2-4, Congenital Anomalies and Normal Skeletal Variants, Measurements in Skeletal Radiology and Scoliosis, respectively, were till now only found under the separate cover of a multitude of texts. Each chapter provides an adequate understanding of the topic thus eliminating the need for multiple book expenditures. Chapter 5, The Natural History of Spondylolysis and Spondylolisthesis and Chapter 6, Diagnostic Imaging of Spinal Stenosis and Intervertebral Disc Disease offer current concepts and information thus providing stimulating reading for all. Chapter 7, Principles of Radiology offers base line information about osseous


patho-physiology and the various methodologies of advances in Diagnostic Imaging. Volume I finishes with Chapters 8-9, Skeletal Dysplasias and Trauma.

Volume II begins with a chapter on Arthritic Disorders. The vast amount of information contained within this section makes it absolutely essential reading for everyone. Chapters 11-14 encompasses: Neoplasms, Infection, Vascular and Metabolic/Endocrine Disorders. Very few articles are about report writing. Thus chapter 15 is in offering a "nuts and bolts" approach to this topic. Several case studies at the chapters end provide excellent examples for future reference. Not without a sense of humor the authors present chapter 16, Radiographic Artifacts. A wonderful collection of the "WHATEZIT" variety. Volume II ends with a Radiographic Anthology of Vertebral Names. A compilation of 88 named vertebra with the anatomical and pathological reasons for their radiographic appearances briefly described.

*Essentials of Skeletal Radiology* is destined to be a core text for many radiology courses taught throughout the Chiropractic profession. The variety of information provided to the reader in just two volumes certainly makes the book worth investing in.

I recommend this text very highly and compliment the authors on a job well done. The two volumes sell for approximately \$150.00

J Grillot DC/CMCC



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