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Popp AJ, Deshaies EM, editors.
A guide to the primary care of
neurological disorders.

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Field of medicine: Neurology

Format: Soft-cover book

Audience: Primary health care physicians, neurologists, as well as professionals working in clinical neuroscience. This book belongs to the category "neurology for non-neurologists."

Purpose: As one of the editors (AJP) put it, this book "... provides easy-to-access advice from clinical neuroscience specialists in neurosurgery, neurology, ophthalmology and otolaryngology, among others."

Content: Book is divided into 4 sections. Each of the sections consists of several chapters.

I Primary care and the neuroscience. This section provides a description of basic research and statistical methods in neurology, as well as of ethical questions that arise in that field. Basic neurological terminology is presented and most common neurologic diseases and syndromes are described, such as headache, stroke, pain syndromes, mental health diseases (memory problems, disorientation, problem of abstract thoughts, personality changes, etc.). Special attention is given to stroke, myasthenia gravis, and Guillan-Barré syndrome.

II Diagnosis of the patients with neurological disease. The section describes classical neurological diagnosis based on neurological exam, including the diagnosis of speech disorders. Furthermore, it presents modern imaging techniques, such as computerized tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, digital subtraction angiography, and their importance in the diagnosis of neurological disorders.

Neurophysiologic techniques, such as electroencephalography, electromyography, and evoked potentials,

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as well as their indications in the neurological diagnosis, are also presented.

III Diagnosis and management of common neurological symptoms section describes diagnostic strategies for the most common neurologic diseases and syndromes, such as diseases of the spine and spinal cord, headache, pain syndromes, diseases of the peripheral nervous system, and movement disorders with emphasis on the Parkinson disease. It also describes epilepsy, dementias and possibilities for their treatment, the management of the diseases of vision, audio-vestibular system, as well as disorders of consciousness.

IV Management of specific categories of neurological disease and patients. Head trauma, intracranial hypertension, and their diagnosis and treatment are described very well, together with the prevention and treatment of ischemic and hemorrhagic brain diseases, where primary care medicine has important role. Infective and autoimmune neurologic diseases in children and adults, as well as epilepsy, are presented clearly and concisely, which is especially important for the non-neurologist.

Highlights: The essential literature is very well chosen for readers interested in a more detailed insight into the field. For a primary health care practitioner, the chapters about head and spinal cord trauma, ischemic and hemorrhagic cerebrovascular diseases are very informative and give straightforward answers how to diagnose and treat patients in acute stages of these diseases.

Each chapter ends with uniform "Pearls and principles," pointing out the most important facts, as well as "Referral" highlights inserted in the text. This makes the Guide to the Primary Care of Neurological Disorders a valuable resource for non-neurologists working with patients suf-

fering from acute or chronic neurologic disorders in their everyday practice.

Limitation: A book that aims to give a general view of the field for the beginner is necessarily limited in the amount of the information presented. However, the content of Guide to the Primary Care of Neurological Disorders is well balanced throughout chapters, giving the readers valuable information about the specific fields of clinical neuroscience.

Related reading: There are other books with a similar topic, such as “Neurology for the Non-Neurologist” by William J Weiner and Christopher G. Goetz (Lippincot, Williams & Wilkins, 2004), as well as a book under the same title [REMOVED HYPERLINK FIELD]by Wigbert C. Wiederholt (WB Saunders, 2000). Guide to the Primary Care of Neurological Disorders is unique in that it describes the modern approach to clinical neuroscience, but also addresses basic research methodology, including statistics.