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Alberstone CD, Benzel EC, Najm IM, Steinmetz MP. *Anatomic Basis of Neurologic Diagnosis*

New York: Thieme Medical Publishers; 2009. 580 pages; ISBN 978-0-86577-976-1; price: US \$119.95

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Field of medicine: Anatomy, neuroanatomy, neurology.

Format: Hardcover.

Audience: Medical students, residents, neurologists.

Purpose: To explain the fundamentals of neuroanatomy and illustrate their clinical application.

Content: The book consists of 23 chapters grouped into 4 main sections, covering the full spectrum of neuroanatomic concepts, syndromes, and differential diagnoses, accompanied by more than 500 color illustrations.

The first section, Development and Developmental Disorders, deals with neuroembryology, enabling the readers to gain knowledge on normal nervous system development and developmental disorders. The second section, Regional Anatomy and Related Syndromes, offers detailed description of each subdivision of the nervous system and common syndromes related to the dysfunction of each subdivision. The third section, System-Based Anatomy and Differential Diagnosis, focuses on functional system-based approach to neuroanatomy and patients with neurologic dysfunctions. Finally, the section Fluid-System Anatomy and Function provides a good review of vascular system and cerebrospinal fluids with related disorders.

Highlights: In neurology, logic is one of the most important factors needed to reach a diagnosis. This, of course, requires a good knowledge of gross anatomy of nervous system, its blood supply, and supporting tissues. This book represents a great blend of information on neuroanatomy and establishing neurologic diagnosis based on patient's

signs and symptoms. Logical organization of chapters, according to regions and functional systems, reflects the clinician's approach to patient care. Clear and comprehensive color illustrations enable comprehending structure, function, and dysfunction at a single glance, with all cardinal features summarized in tables and figures. Simple textual descriptions, good illustrations, and tables facilitate learning and memorizing clinically relevant neuroanatomy concepts that underlie neurologic diagnosis.

Limitations: I could not find any major limitations, but I have noticed that some anatomical terms (for example the term Edinger-Westphal nucleus) are not harmonized with the *Terminologia Anatomica*. Since this is an anatomy book, in my opinion, anatomical terms should be quoted according the international standards, at least in parentheses.

Related readings: There are other books with a similar topic, such as Duus' *Topical Diagnosis in Neurology: Anatomy, Physiology, Signs, Symptoms* (Baehr [REMOVED HYPERLINK FIELD] and Frotscher, 2005) or *Neuroanatomy Through Clinical Cases* (Blumenfeld, 2007). What distinguishes *Anatomic Basis of Neurologic Diagnosis* from similar books is that it contains only clinically relevant anatomic details accompanied with original and simplified illustrations. Anatomic details that are with no or little clinical relevance are discussed shortly or omitted. This book represents a great learning tool with the focus on the most important neuroanatomic issues that are essential for making a neurologic diagnosis.