

Book Reviews

Peripheral denervation of the hand. Volume 1 (188 pp) and Peripheral denervation of the foot. Volume 2 (144 pp).
C D Enna

The author has a vast experience in the management on sequelae of peripheral nerve damage of leprosy patients. Even though the author refers to other pathological conditions that may result in peripheral denervation of hands and feet, it is clear that most of the text and illustrations are based on the author's experience with leprosy patients. This also becomes evident when the author states that the volume on *Peripheral Denervation of the Foot* is a companion volume to *Peripheral Denervation of the Hand*.

Both volumes are well illustrated, though there is repetition of figures in both volumes. There are still typographical errors and many misspellings in the foreign language references. The author apologizes in the prefaces of both volumes that due to space limitations not all relevant literature could be quoted. . . . I consider one of the great weaknesses of both volumes is that the author has referred to very little relevant literature published in the last 10 years. As a consequence we do not have any updated material on the latest principles and treatment techniques with regard to the assessment and management of the denervated hand and foot.

Volume 1, Peripheral denervation of the hand, has the following chapters:

1, Functional anatomy of the hand; 2, Secondary deformities and the insensitive hand; 3, Deformities and peripheral nerve paralysis; 4, Rehabilitation; 5, The consequence of neuropathy.

I fail to understand why a chapter on secondary deformities should follow the chapter on functional anatomy. Should the primary results, e.g. loss of sensation and functional defects of motor loss not be discussed first? These are now discussed in Chapters 2, 3 and 5. There is also an overlap between Chapters 2 and 5 as the titles suggest.

Volume 2, Peripheral denervation of the foot, also has 5 chapters;

1, Anatomy and function; 2, Primary paralytic deformity; 3, The insensitive foot; 4, Complementary changes; 5, Consequences of the neuropathic foot.

I would recommend these books for surgeons, medical officers and therapists working with leprosy patients if the price is reasonable. Both volumes are too technical for other paramedical professionals working with leprosy patients. Medical officers and therapists working with diabetic patients could have some use of the volume on the foot, but they need to be aware that recent information regarding assessment and treatment is missing. Hand-surgeons and hand-therapists can do without the volume on the hand. Personally, I would like to have seen another edition of *Surgical Rehabilitation in Leprosy*, a book that was edited by the author and published in 1974, but has been out of print for many years.

Wim Brandsma

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