

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders, 2nd Edition.

Michael A. Jenike, Lee Baer, and William E. Minichiello, Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1990, pp 453, \$45.00.

The mind is a tad like the pachyderm in the tale about the blind men and the elephant. It is, like the elephant, complex enough to allow partial description from many points of view. As such, it has been catalogued and systematized by armies of neurologists, behaviorists, Freudians, cognitive scientists, and pharmacologists. Now functional brain imaging gives nuclear medicine physicians the "hands" to form their own point of view. And so it is that the second edition of *Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders* includes a chapter on radionuclide imaging and comes to be reviewed here.

Dr. Jenike and his colleagues are well known for their work in obsessive compulsive disorders (OCD). This is the second edition of a text first published in 1986. It has been extensively revised and expanded. Several additional authors have been included to document additional facets of the disease (such as its relationship to childhood and pregnancy). The layout and illustration quality are much improved from the first edition. The result is a comprehensive text that is well-written and exciting to read.

The book is divided into four sections. The first reviews the clinical aspects of OCD, including its diagnostic features, epidemiology, and relationship to other medical and psychiatric disorders. The second probes the etiology of OCD, the third its modes of treatment, and the fourth examines practical aspects of patient management. The nuclear medicine physician will be most interested in the third section, particularly the chapter on neuroimaging, which summarizes clinical data through 1989.

This chapter was written by the UCLA group and stands as a model for how imaging research can be performed scientifically. The authors examine the data, suggest verifiable hypotheses, and consolidate these findings into a broad perspective. Obsessive compulsive dis-

ease is suggested to represent a failure of the caudate nucleus to integrate and appropriately repress cortical inputs, particularly those from the limbic region. This method of generating a predictive model from imaging data is a logical and satisfying approach. Too often, image findings are simply enumerated and referenced, leaving the reader with little more than a list of apparently unrelated facts. I suspect that after reading this chapter, many nuclear medicine imagers will be stimulated to investigate other sections of the book as well.

The late Thomas Hackett, in his wise and entertaining foreword, predicted that this book would become a standard psychiatric text in the years to come. It would be of interest to many nuclear medicine physicians with a commitment to clinical PET or an interest in neurophysiologic research. Perhaps the third edition will devote a whole section to radionuclide imaging.

James A. Scott
*Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts*

MRI Atlas of the Brain

William G. Bradley, Graeme Budder, Martin Dunitz Ltd, London, 1990, 353 pp, \$75

The authors of this book state in the preface that their intention is to provide an explanation of MRI principles that is easily understandable to the large numbers of radiologists who are faced with interpreting MRI examinations without the benefit of formal MRI training. This is, indeed, a formidable challenge that the authors have attempted to meet by short but comprehensive chapters on the fundamentals of MRI signal generation and advanced MRI techniques. These are followed by chapters primarily arranged by disease categories (e.g. tumors, cerebrovascular disease, demyelinating diseases), as well as chapters on hemorrhage and the use of gadolinium-DTPA as a contrast agent.

However, the authors have had limited success in attaining these goals. While some of the chapters are excellent, others are mediocre. The chapters on MRI fundamentals, flow phenomena, and hemorrhage are the high points of

the book, in that they are concise and clear explanations of complex topics that are rendered understandable to the general reader not well-versed in the terminology or complexities of MRI. These chapters are supplemented by excellent diagrams and MRI images which illustrate with great clarity the salient points made in the text.

Unfortunately, the remainder of the book does not live up to the expectations generated by these excellent chapters. The chapter on new techniques, for example, is overly complex, given the intended audience. Although this chapter contains a section entitled "clinical illustrations," which one would expect to be of some utility to radiologists without formal MRI training, it has more theoretical interest and little practical value for most radiologists. The chapter on tumors has some merit, in that it provides a comprehensive listing of brain neoplasms with MRI illustrations of many of them. However, it only provides the most basic information on each, often only a three- or four-sentence thumbnail sketch. In a similar fashion, the chapter on the pediatric brain is relatively rudimentary, with more emphasis on technical aspects than on clinical disease states. There is relatively little discussion of myelination in the infant brain, a process to which MRI is particularly sensitive.

In addition, there are a number of minor flaws which further detract from this work. These include the misspelling of a disease (Pelizaeus Merzbacher), mislabeling of a set of images, and use of the same set of images more than once in different chapters. The illustrations could also benefit from the use of arrows or markers to indicate the specific findings described in the accompanying captions.

Thus, this book represents an amalgam of very valuable material of use to the general radiologist with that of only relative worth. As one might expect, the overall product is better than many competing books, but it is not the leader in its category.

James Provenzale
*Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts*