

ANGIOGRAPHY OF POSTERIOR FOSSA TUMORS. Samuel M. Wolpert. New York, Grune & Stratton, 1976, 196 pages, illustrated and 7 colored plates. \$23.50.

A vast amount of information has been put into this incredibly small and concise book that thoroughly blankets the useful and practical angiographic features of posterior fossa masses. Virtually every type and position of neoplasm is described, including numerous uncommon circumstances and variants, and the book contains many subtractions as well as nonsubtracted views and diagrams. It also addresses those technical features which are practical and important, and the references are pertinent and up to date. Chapter 3 on the clinical and pathologic aspects of posterior fossa tumors is of particular appeal to readers not specializing in clinical neurology or neurosurgery.

The combination of greatly condensed information and the difficulty of translating pictures into words has at times made it taxing for the reader to visualize what is described in the text and legends. For those not thoroughly versed in the nomenclature and anatomy, it would be helpful to have many of the structures in the illustrations identified by words or phonetic abbreviations instead of single letters or arrows because it is distracting to have to look up, one by one, arrows and letters in the frequently lengthy legends accompanying the figures. Another problem (probably due to the fact that the book is heavily illustrated) is that the figures are placed rather far from their text references. The frequent re-reading of the text and turning back and forth to the figure is distracting. There are occasional instances where the reader will question the author's interpretation on studies, particularly in the absence of confirmatory evidence such as direct visualization, photography, encephalogram, or CT imaging.

There are several errors in editing or printing: the legends beneath Figs. 4-32 through 4-36 should be rearranged, and Figs. 2-6 and 2-7 should be exchanged. For the technique of second-order subtraction, combining Figs. 2-7, 2-8, and 2-9 as shown would not seem to result in Fig. 2-10 as stated. The usual second mask ordinarily has much less contrast than Fig. 2-8. Fewer films have largely eliminated the cumbersome second-order technique. It would have been helpful if the author had included the base or submentovertex view in addition to the lateral, Towne, and modified Caldwell views even though it is not commonly used.

Despite these minor criticisms and errors, this small yet surprisingly complete text should find wide use by all those physicians and students concerned with the posterior fossa. As mentioned by the author in the preface, it is still necessary to understand the angiographic appearance of tumors in the posterior fossa despite their ease of discovery by computed tomography.

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GRAPHS AND TABLES FOR USE IN RADIOLOGY. F. Wachsmann and G. Drexler, eds. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1976. 240 pp, \$19.70.

This is the second, completely revised edition of the book

that was first published fifteen years ago. The editors have collected certain numerical data used by radiotherapists, diagnostic radiologists, and radiation physicists in daily practice. These data are given usually in the form of graphs and tables. The sources for these data are presented at the end of each graph or table in the form of two to three references.

The data cover such areas as dosimetry, generation, and attenuation of x- and gamma rays, relative death doses, scattering of x- and gamma rays, and radiation protection. The portion of the book relating to radiodiagnosis lists such factors as patient exposure doses, recommended kilovoltages for radiographs, and skin doses during radiography.

A somewhat unusual feature is that the entire text is repeated in four languages, English, German, French, and Spanish. The authors have succeeded to some extent in listing many important numerical values used in daily practice in a slim volume. Most of the graphs and tables state their message quite clearly. It is recommended to radiation therapists and radiation physicists as a useful volume for quick reference purposes.

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FAIRBANK'S ATLAS OF GENERAL AFFECTIONS OF THE SKELETON. 2nd ed. Ruth Wynne-Davies and T. J. Fairbank. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1976, 262 pp, \$49.50.

The second edition of this work appears 25 years after the first and has been prepared by new authors. As stated in the preface, both the style as well as the content of this new atlas has been changed to provide greater insight into the diagnosis of rare osseous conditions. This text should increase professional interest in the field of rare but generalized diseases of the skeleton.

The book is divided into six sections with 456 pertinent illustrations that describe many new dysplasias of the skeleton and the material is presented in a manner that holds the reader's attention. The clinical and radiographic information and interpretations are relatively abbreviated and comments regarding treatment are presented only in general terms. The references for each clinical entity are highly selective. Since the authors used the nomenclature recommended by the European Society of Pediatric Radiology, some of the terms may not be familiar to practitioners in this country.

As an aid for the diagnosis of skeletal dysplasias and for the differential diagnosis of the general affections of the skeleton, this atlas will be valuable to both orthopedic surgeons, radiologists, and physicians who are interested in general diseases of the skeleton. Residents in surgery and radiology will likewise find it valuable as a quick reference source of the skeletal dysplasias.

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