

BOOK REVIEWS

Management of Patients with Neuromuscular Disease, J. Bach, ed., pp. 414, 2003. Price £20.99 (hardback). ISBN 1 56053 604 7. Hanley & Belfus, Philadelphia, USA.

This book comprises 414 pages divided into 13 chapters. It is further divided into 3 sections, reflecting management of patients during the different stages of neuromuscular disease. The first section is on “the evaluation and management concerns throughout all stages, the second “the physical intervention stage” and the last “the stage of prolonged quality survival”.

In the first section there is a short but comprehensive description of the different neuromuscular disorders. There is an extensive survey of the different medical therapies and the section also covers the fields of nutrition, swallowing and cardiac management.

In the second section, the interest of the author—management of respiratory complications—becomes evident. The last part of this section deals with “end-stage” management of respiratory failure. The last section is more or less totally devoted to long-term management of respiratory failure.

The section ends with a chapter on quality of life and ethical issues.

The book is rather short, but it contains more or less everything you need to know about rehabilitation of patients with neuromuscular diseases. Every sentence contains information, and every statement is thoroughly supported by references. The references are many and adequate and the book is well illustrated.

Although a large part of the book is devoted to advanced respiratory management it is highly recommended to specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation who deal with patients with neuromuscular diseases. As a matter of curiosity, anyone interested in the history of medicine will be satisfied to find that the author gives credit to Edward Meryon for being the first to describe Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

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