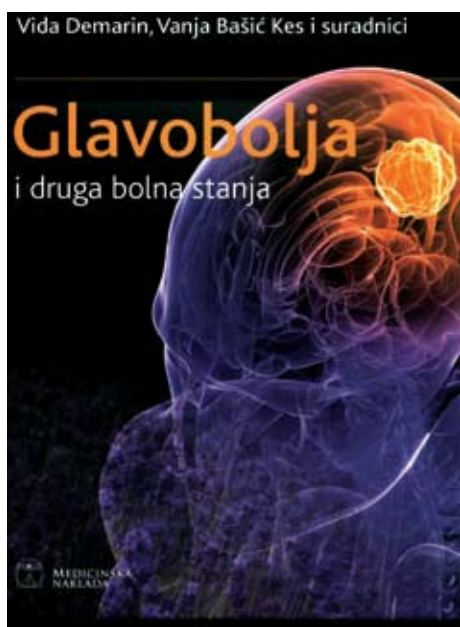# BOOK REVIEW

GLAVOBOLJA I DRUGA BOLNA STANJA HEADACHE AND OTHER PAIN CONDITIONS,

by Vida Demarin, Vanja Bašić-Kes, et al. Medicinska naklada, Zagreb University Textbooks, Zagreb, 2011, 400 pages, 23 chapters, 163 figures, 41 tables. ISBN 978-953-176-520-6.

Croatian market was lacking for a long time a good up-to-date book dealing with headaches and other pain conditions. This book is an official university textbook for students of the School of Medicine, University of Mostar. It presents a good source of knowledge not only for medical students, but also for neurology residents, other professionals in different medical specialties as well as specialists of dental medicine.

The authors, Vida Demarin, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Associated Professor Vanja Bašić-Kes are neurology specialists, included the leading experts from different fields of medicine as coauthors in this book, making it an interdisciplinary and modern approach to headache and pain.

The book deals with headache and pain in a reader-friendly way. The anatomical, physiological and pathophysiological background of the headaches and pain are described as well as the modern classification of headache, therapy and main comorbidities (stroke, CADASIL, MELAS; epilepsy, vasculitis, degenerative disorders of the spine, ocular disorders, psychiatric disorders). Special and interesting is the modern approach to diagnostic methods, therapy and prevention of headache and pain. The text is written in a modern and simple way, with many figures and tables that enable easy comprehension.

The text is easy to follow and the chapters are clearly defined. Each chapter has a short introduction, definition of disorder, epidemiology, classifications, etiology, pathology, pathophysiology, clinical findings, diagnostic algorithms, differential diagnosis, therapy and prevention. The information is additionally described by colorful and very detailed figures. The most important facts are summarized in color textboxes in each chapter.

History and main neuroanatomical, physiological and pathophysiological aspects of headache and pain as well as international classification of headaches are described in first chapters. The next chapter is dealing with diagnostic tools in the evaluation of headaches and pain, followed by chapters devoted to the main subtypes of primary headaches, i.e. migraine, tension headache, cluster headache, craniofacial neuralgias. Tenth chapter is dealing with secondary headaches, followed by chapters on chronic daily headaches and migraine and epilepsy. Rheumatologic disorders, temporomandibular disorders and orofacial pain, ocular disorders, and psychiatric disorders are described in separate chapters, which give a new insight in their role in neurologic disorders.

A special chapter on headaches in childhood provides new and interesting aspects of this topic.

Low back pain and painful diabetic polyneuropathy as the most common pain disorders in general population as well as new methods such as percutaneous laser decompression of intervertebral disk and alternative noninvasive methods (acupuncture) are described in separate chapters. At the end of the book, special chapters are devoted to guidelines for headache and neuropathic pain treatment.

Hard cover and interestingly illustrated front page bring much pleasure to the readers as well as practical format. New and high-quality references are at the end of each chapter, while an index is presented at the end of the book.

The book has been reviewed by Zvonko Kusić, Head of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Professor Josip Paladino and Professor Maja Relja.

These days, we are witnessing a dominance of foreign language literature in the field of medicine, especially in English language. This book is not only a student book, it should be part of the library of each medical and dental professional who deals with headache and other pain disorders. Domestic readers will welcome this concise and interesting book in Croatian with gratitude.

Iris Zavoreo