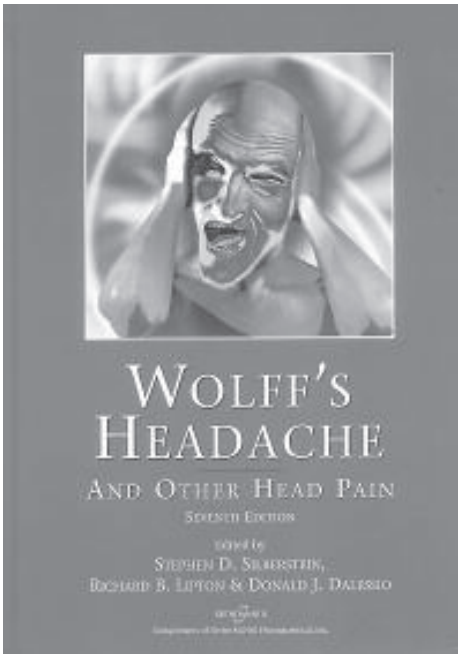
BOOK REVIEWS



WOLFF'S HEADACHE AND OTHER HEAD PAIN, Seventh Edition, by *Stephen D. Silberstein, Richard B. Lipton* and *Donald J. Dalessio*, eds. Oxford University Press, New York, USA, 2001, 625 pages. ISBN 0-19-513518-0

Headache is one of the most common medical complaints of civilized humans, yet severe and chronic headaches are only infrequently caused by organic disease. Headache pain of benign origin may be severe, whereas headache pain of malignant origin may be mild. Many patients fear that their headache is secondary to a serious medical problem and seek not only pain relief but also reassurance that they do not have a brain tumor or other life-threatening problem. For these reasons, every physician must be knowledgeable in the diagnosis and treatment of headache. What makes headaches hurt? What are the underlying mechanisms of headache? How can headaches be best classified? These questions, basic to the understanding of headache, are discussed in detail throughout this book.

This is the seventh, entirely new edition of the "Headache Bible" by Harold G. Wolff that was first published in 1948. Wolff, both a clinician and systematic investigator, introduced science to the study of headache. Wolff died in 1962, at the age of 64, shortly after completing the manuscript of the second edition. The fourth edition (1980) was the first to be multiauthored, and the sixth (1993) expanded the discussions of migraine pathophysiology and neuroimaging.

In the interval since the sixth edition, there has been an explosion of new knowledge about headache. The mechanisms of cephalic pain and the genetics of headache are better understood. New treatments have emerged based on the mechanisms of headache. Numerous well designed clinical trials are available using the headache classification system of the International Headache Society. We have witnessed the introduction of triptans, and enlarged our experience with neuroimaging, both of which are well covered in this edition.

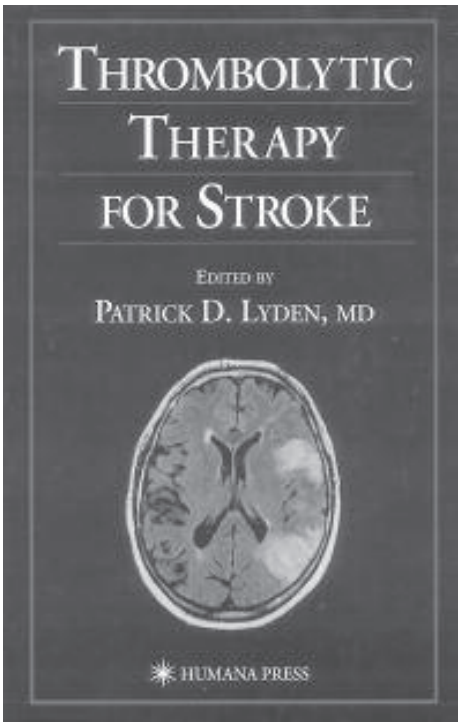
The number of contributors has doubled and included the world's most authoritative experts. Six new chapters have been added, including "Headaches in Children and Adolescents" and "Communicating with the Patient". There is a chapter on migraine genetics, which highlights new discoveries in the molecular genetics of familial hemiplegic migraine.

The book has four sections, each containing several chapters. The first section deals with the diagnosis and classification of headache, clinical anatomy, pathophysiology, genetics, epidemiology and impact of headache. The second section, which is the most extensive one, deals with the diagnosis and treatment of primary headache disorders – migraine, episodic tension-type headache, chronic daily headache, and cluster headache. The third section deals with the diagnosis and treatment of secondary headache disorders, including headaches associated with head trauma, vascular disorders, abnormalities in intracranial structure or function, infectious, toxic and

metabolic headache, cervicogenic headache, disorders of the eye, mouth and teeth, nasal disease, cranial neuralgias, atypical facial pain, giant cell arteritis, and polymyalgia rheumatica. The fourth section includes special topics such as headaches in children and adolescents, behavioral management of headache, and communicating with the patient.

With this seventh edition, Wolff's Headache spans five decades and remains a vibrant and useful source of information for headache specialists and primary care doctors.

Višnja Supanc



THROMBOLYTIC THERAPY FOR STROKE by *Patrick D. Lyden,* ed. Humana Press, 2001, 410 pages. ISBN 0-89603-746-0

This book is intended for physicians who will be treating patients in the first few hours after stroke: neurologists, neurosurgeons, emergency medicine physicians, internists and radiologists, and the reader can find all the data necessary to understand the utility and limitations of thrombolytic therapy. By reading the protocol and working through case tutorials, the reader will become sufficiently familiar with indications and contraindications of thrombolytic therapy to begin evaluating potential patients. Although nothing can replace direct instructions by more experienced physicians, the authors think that by imparting their accumulated knowledge they may guide those physicians who cannot attend a 'hand-on' workshop, or who, having heard the appropriate lectures, feel the need for further guidance.

The authors have reviewed the scientific rationale for thrombolysis: first, most ischemic stroke cases are caused by thrombo-emboli; second, a portion of brain, the penumbra, remains salvageable for a few hours after vascular occlusion; and third, promptly delivered thrombolysis can remove the offending occlusion and restore cerebral blood flow to the penumbra in time to salvage brain and neurologic function. Then, the reader can find the preclinical development of thrombolysis for stroke patients and the early pilot trials. Next, the pivotal clinical trials that demonstrated efficacy and safety of thrombolysis are presented, followed by description of treatment protocol for treating patients: field triage and management, emergency department therapy, brain imaging, clinical decision making and patient selection, drug administration, post-thrombolysis management, and treatment of complications. In the final section of the book, the authors demonstrate the use of the protocol employing a series of real patient case histories.

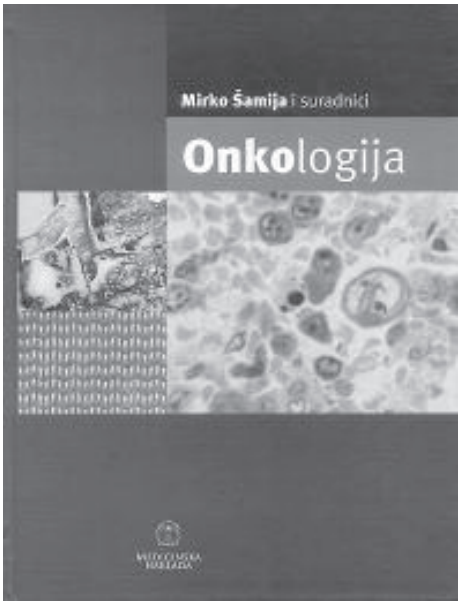
The book consists of four parts and eighteen chapters. The first part, *Background and Basic Investigations,* describes the mechanism of thrombolysis, pathogenesis of cervicocranial artery occlusion, and ischemic penumbra and neuronal salvage. In the second part, *Scientific Rationale and Clinical Trials,* the authors discuss preclinical testing of thrombolytic therapy, combination of thrombolytic therapy with neuroprotectants, early studies of thrombolytic therapy for stroke, experience with intravenous thrombolytic therapy for acute ischemic stroke, intravenous thrombolytic therapy for acute ischemic stroke with a review of the results of large, randomized clinical trials, further analysis of NINDS Study, intra-arterial thrombolysis in acute ischemic stroke, and combinations of intravenous and intra-arterial thrombolysis. Part 3, *Using Thrombolysis for Acute Ischemic Stroke*, deals with the case for thrombolytic therapy in stroke patients, the case

against the present guidelines for stroke thrombolysis, how to run a code stroke, interpretation of CT scans for acute stroke, the NINDS t-PA for acute stroke protocol and research directions, and the future of stroke therapy. Part 4 consists of 21 illustrative documented cases.

As for references, the authors have assembled the essential papers and protocols that have been well accepted and will stand the test of time. They intend this guide to be useful as a starting point and as a ready reference for the clinician encountering a novel or unusual case.

The authors are hopeful that the readers will find this book useful and entertaining. It is brief, because time is precious, and the message is simple. One should look forward to a future in which more stroke victims enjoy the benefits of thrombolytic stroke therapy and are returned to a productive, independent life.

Vida Demarin



ONKOLOGIJA (ONCOLOGY) by *Mirko Šamija et al.*, eds. Medicinska naklada, Zagreb, 2000, 495 pages. ISBN 953-176-109-4

This excellent book reminds me of a small encyclopedia of oncology. Mirko Šamija and 56 coworkers, to our scientific public very well known professors, scientists and physicians, have managed to conveniently present all aspects of modern oncology.

Sad but true, it is anticipated that deaths from cancer in the next 5-10 years will overtake the presently still leading cause of death in western world, i.e. cardiovascular diseases. Against this background, cancer studies have become an increasingly important part of the undergraduate medical curriculum at universities all over the world. Fortunately, thanks to this book that has been acknowledged as a textbook by the University of Zagreb and University of Rijeka, it has become a comprehensive textbook for undergraduate students. Although it is written in a modern educational style, in my modest opinion, this particular book is far too big and detailed for medical students. This book will also be of interest to trainees in oncology as well as to colleagues in specialties allied to oncology. Doctors involved in palliative care and occupational therapy will also find this book to be of interest. We do know, as a fact, that virtually all doctors have contact with cancer patients, and therefore this textbook is to be recommended to everyone working as a physician, and especially to doctors in primary care.

The book is divided into four sections: Biology of cancer, Epidemiology of cancer, Clinical oncology, and Public health and cancer. The first section is about the general principles of cancer, including news in molecular oncology, biology and physiology. The primary focus of the second part is epidemiology of cancer. The third section of the book provides us with information on diagnostic and therapeutic methods and measures for each cancer as well as on pathohistologic examination. Additionally, many chapters provide the readers with information on clinical presentation, examination findings and management of all known cancer forms. I would like to emphasize that the problem of palliative care and pain management is also covered in this part of the book. In the last section, which is dedicated to public health measures, the authors have succeeded to give their contribution to the issue of primary, secondary and tertiary cancer prevention. At the end of each chapter, there is a list of papers to which

the reader can refer for any further information. Finally, most chapters have many tables, useful diagrams, and are nicely illustrated. At the end of the book, an index is provided.

I trust the reader will find this textbook to be an important educational resource and ultimately of benefit to their approach and clinical management of the cancer patient. Although this contribution of Professor Šamija to our scientific and medical literature is enormous, it is even geater for showing that we are able to accompany the continuous progress of medical science with constant development of new diagnostic procedures and imaging techniques.

Ingrid Marton