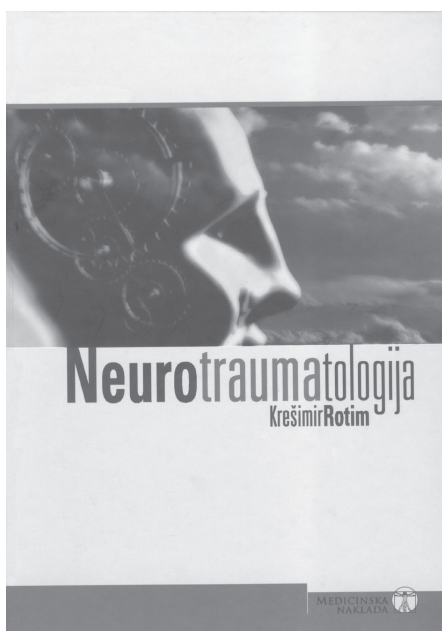


BOOK REVIEWS



**NEUROTRAUMATOLOGIJA
(NEUROTRAUMATOLOGY) by Krešimir
Rotim and coworkers.**

**Medicinska naklada – Textbooks and Handbooks,
Zagreb, 2006; 118 pages, 15 chapters, 64 figures,
one table and one appendix. ISBN 953-176-320-8**

The second half of the 20th century was characterized by rapid industrialization and communications development, which was associated with an increase in traumatism of a pandemic nature. The man's temperament and ambition frequently exceed real abilities of his biological system. This discrepancy between ever growing and faster modern technical achievements on the one hand, and limited possibilities of the human body frequently grows into a tragic conflict, typically exemplified by different types of isolated injuries, including nervous system lesions, polytrauma and lethal outcome.

The severe forms of disability and high mortality rates are quite common sequels of craniocerebral inju-

ries, in particular when combined with other lesions and polytrauma, primarily due to the loss of consciousness and impossible contact with the patient. That is why neurotraumatism poses a serious medical, public health and economic problem. Therefore, neurotraumatology as a medical discipline has a very prominent place in general traumatology, neurosurgery and neurology.

This book is intended for medical students, dental medicine students and medical college students, and for residents in surgery, neurosurgery and neurology. It contains 15 logically related chapters that conveniently and simply present current concepts in neurotraumatology along with practical daily experience of the author and his coworkers. The contents of the book is modern, excellently documented by numerous illustrations, making considerable contribution to the literature in neurotraumatology, the more so as it is written in Croatian.

First chapter brings a brief account of the head and spine anatomy. It is followed by the epidemiology and classification of craniocerebral injuries, which are comprehensively described in chapters 4 to 10. These are followed by two chapters on the lesions of the spine and spinal cord, and a chapter on peripheral nerve lesions. Chapter 14 addresses maxillofacial lesions that are frequently associated with craniocerebral injuries, while chapter 15 deals with neuron-ophthalmologic manifestations of craniocerebral injuries.

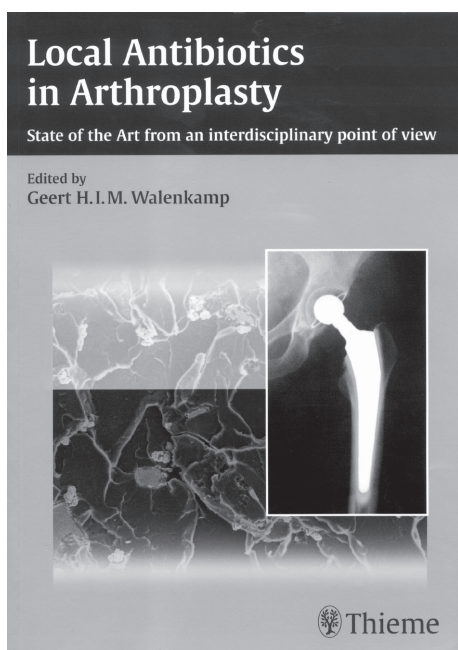
The book deals with all relevant fields of neurotraumatology, presented conveniently and appropriately for the intended readers. Although combining contributions by a number of coworkers, Professor Krešimir Rotim has successfully integrated the various issues and styles into a book characterized by uniform composition and clear presentation. The more demanding readers will find a list of recommended reading and up-to-date literature at the end of each chapter.

A novelty found in the book is the paper on the expertise of non-material damage caused by nervous system injury in civil lawsuit.

The book has been reviewed by Professor Anđelko Vrca, Professor Marija Definis-Gojanović and Professor

Branko Bakula. The book has been printed in 500 copies, and has moderate price.

Živko Gnjidić



**LOCAL ANTIBIOTICS IN
ARTHROPLASTY – STATE OF THE ART
FROM AN INTERDISCIPLINARY POINT
OF VIEW**, by *Geert H. I. M. Walenkamp*,

Editor. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart – New York,
2007; 170 pages

The first paper describing fixation of the hip prosthesis with acrylic cement was published in 1960 by John Charly. This improved fixation of the prosthesis has gained acceptance in joint replacements worldwide, and it has been generally considered to be the operation with one of the highest quality of adjusted life year improvement.

Nine years later, Hans Wilhelm Buchholz invented a proper admixture of antibiotics to commercial bone cement. PMMA as a drug carrier with sustained release of gentamicin has been proven as an optimal system for stable fixation as well as for killing bacteria for 6 weeks after surgery. This later advantage allowed re-implantation of the prosthesis in case of local infection. Prophylactic use in primary prosthesis implantation was another

indication, and it has been proven as an excellent solution.

Statistical data from Swedish and Norwegian hip registers proved prophylactic infection behavior as well as protective effect against early loosening of the prosthesis arising as the result of disguised low-grade infection.

Many different local antibiotic release systems with high local tissue concentrations at the operative site with minimal systemic side effects have been developed. Hence, gentamicin mixed in PMMA cement is considered to be the gold standard in local antibiotic treatment.

Antibiotic protection of non cemented prostheses still remains controversial, introducing new research into antibiotic binding to metal and polymer as well as into sustained release of such agents.

The growth of resistant bacteria such as MRSA should be borne in mind when designing commercial bone cement-antibiotic systems. Development of a new generation of customized antibiotic-bone graft or antibiotic-implant systems would make highest achievement, efficiently contributing to the struggle against surgical side infection caused by resistant bacteria. These facts motivated the leading European experts in the field to organize an international congress that took place in Maastricht in April 2006, under the patronage of the European Bone and Joint Infection Society.

The present book is the result of multidisciplinary research with collaboration of clinicians and scientists from different disciplines, and it presents the state-of-the-art in local antibiotic prophylaxis and treatment in arthroplasty.

The authors' aim completely covers local antibiotic treatment of arthroplasty patients, dealing with the problems of general character as well as the more complex and unusual situations. The book has been edited by Geert H. I. M. Walenkamp, with a long list of contributors. The book contains 170 papers, 17 chapters, 83 figures, 105 single illustrations and 30 tables. Each paper makes a whole by itself and should be considered accordingly.

Aljoša Matejčić, Dinko Vidović