

Book Review

PEDIATRIC EPILEPSY, THIRD EDITION

edited by John M. Pellock, Blaise F.D. Bourgeois, and W. Edwin Dodson, 900 pp., Demos Medical Publishing, 2008, \$165

Pediatric Epilepsy is an all-encompassing work that strives to stay current with the publication of the latest edition. Written by leaders in the field of pediatric epilepsy, it is clearly organized, beginning with the basic mechanisms underlying epilepsy, followed by classification (using the 1989 International League Against Epilepsy system), diagnosis, treatment, and, finally, the social and psychological issues specific to children. The third edition improves on the second with the addition of a section on epilepsy syndromes organized by age at onset. It also includes a new chapter on channelopathies written by Dr. Edward Cooper, which was extremely valuable and thorough. In fact, every chapter has been updated or entirely rewritten.

I found the section on antiepileptic drugs especially useful. While most texts simply provide a

cursory outline of a medication's indications, mechanism of action, and other features, this work goes to great lengths in detailing the pivotal trials leading up to approval. Clinical studies and treatment recommendations in the pediatric population are also separated from adult data, making this a valuable reference for child neurologists and residents. While some medication chapters included supplemental tables and figures detailing adverse events and interactions, I would have liked to have seen this for more of the medications.

This third edition has many improvements compared to its predecessor. I would highly recommend this work to any trainee or practicing physician caring for children with epilepsy. It is well-written and as concise as a comprehensive reference text can be.

Reviewed by Keith R. Ridel, MD

Disclosure: Dr. Ridel serves on the editorial board for the Resident & Fellow Section of Neurology®.

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