

DeJong's The Neurological Examination, Sixth Edition

edited by William Campbell, 671 pp., illus., Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2005.

This latest edition of DeJong's *The Neurologic Examination* is an updated version last completed in 1992. The text is revised to reflect up-to-date knowledge, using examination techniques and anatomy to guide the differential diagnosis. It is divided into the traditional categories of the neurologic examination, including mental status, cranial nerves, motor system, sensory system, reflexes, and coordination. Additional sections discuss special concerns of the autonomic nervous system, orthopedics, circulation, CSF, the coma examination, and an overview of localization. As noted in his introductory comments, editor William Campbell uses the text to illustrate that the art of the neuro-

logic examination has not been lost in an age of neuroimaging.

This text is supplemented by helpful "boxes" that highlight clinical pearls and illustrative cases regarding the examination point under discussion. Tables and a few key illustrations summarize differentials and lists of clinical findings. The index is useful for looking up a quick sentence on uncommon conditions discussed on rounds. Neurologic terms are well defined. Each chapter includes a complete bibliography, containing classic and updated texts and more recent journal articles. To keep students of neurology focused, each section ends with a clinical chapter of various neurologic syndromes as they relate to the neuroanatomy and examination findings.

The text could easily be covered by a medical student during a neurology rotation. It is also a classic reference for neurology residents at all levels of training as their examinations techniques become progressively more refined. Even experienced practitioners may benefit from this

comprehensive review of examination vis-à-vis neuroanatomy.

As the title implies, the text focuses on examination techniques and diagnosis based on examination findings. Other diagnostic methods and treatments are not discussed or are mentioned only briefly. While the text does offer lists of differential diagnoses, it is not a comprehensive discussion of neurologic disorders. It also does not delve into ancillary diagnostic testing such as MRI, EEG, and EMG, or more research-oriented techniques such as magnetoencephalography, fMRI, and PET. It also does not address the developing nervous system and child neurology, other than to discuss the emergence of reflexes.

Overall, Campbell's revision is a comprehensive text on the neurologic examination. It reminds us of the elegance of examination techniques and diagnosis. Although dedicated to students of neurology, this text reminds all of us of the importance of neuroanatomy as a basis for neurologic study.

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