



Media and Book Reviews

THE CAUSES OF EPILEPSY: COMMON AND UNCOMMON CAUSES IN ADULTS AND CHILDREN

edited by S.D. Shorvon, F. Andermann, and R. Guerrini,
344 pp., Cambridge University Press, 2011, \$195

Drs. Shorvon, Andermann, and Guerrini, all renowned experts in the field of epilepsy, set about the daunting task of listing all the important causes of epilepsy in *The Causes of Epilepsy: Common and Uncommon Causes in Adults and Children*. The driving factor behind the book is the less prominent role etiology plays in the current epilepsy classifications despite the great increase in knowledge about etiologies acquired through advances in neuroimaging and genetic testing, among others. The book is unique in concentrating solely on this topic.

The book is divided into 5 sections. The first section provides a historical overview and discusses mechanisms of epileptogenesis and the classification schemes. The other sections are broadly divided into idiopathic, symptomatic, and provoked epilepsies, with each section including an introductory chapter explaining these concepts and specifically the way the editors view them. The last section is devoted to status epilepticus. Topics covered in this book include the familiar idiopathic generalized epilepsies and mesial temporal

sclerosis as well as the less familiar epilepsy due to malaria, neuroacanthocytosis, or hot-water epilepsy. Other highlights of the book include the elaborate discussion of the provoked epilepsies including the numerous toxic/metabolic and physiologic etiologies in addition to specific topics such as epilepsy after vaccination or epilepsy after epilepsy surgery.

The chapters, a total of 110, are concise, well-written, and easy to read, with rare overlapping information. All chapters are uniformly divided into clinical features, epidemiology, diagnosis, and management, with frequent EEG samples, MRI/CT images, and illustrative cases. The editors have to be commended on their global approach to the disease and the inclusion of a number of international contributors. The framework employed and information provided will definitely serve as food for thought for any future classification revisions. The book would serve as a comprehensive reference on the causes of epilepsy, and appeal to anyone involved in the care of patients with epilepsy, whether residents/fellows, general neurologists, or epileptologists.

Reviewed by Rani Sarkis, MD, MSc

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