



ISCHEMIC CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE

Editors: Harold P. Adams Jr, Vladimir Hachinsky, John W. Norris

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Ischemic Cerebrovascular Disease aims to be a comprehensive though practical resource for the busy physician. For the most part, this goal is achieved. Especially laudable is the strong commitment to Evidence-Based Medicine throughout the text. The book is consistent in tone and easily read, and well-organized. I had no difficulty finding the topics I looked up, using either the Index or the detailed Table of Contents.

The book is probably strongest in its discussion of the physician's management of stroke, devoting about one-third of its pages to this. I found the dis-

cussions on the use of heparin in acute stroke and antiplatelet agents for primary prevention to be balanced, helpful and up-to-date. My only quibble with this section is that the book perpetuates the myth that anticoagulant agents should be used only with great caution in patients with falls.

The aspects of stroke care not typically managed by physicians were less well covered. I eagerly turned to the section on dysphagia, but was disappointed. There was an excellent discussion of the epidemiology of dysphagia and aspiration pneumonia, as well as the validity of various swallowing assessments, but the information that I need to make decisions on individual patients was not there (and perhaps does not exist).

There were some surprising omissions. Given the authors, I expected more than half a page on vascular dementia. Additionally, the widely-used Oxfordshire Community Stroke Project Classification, one I find very useful in day-to-day practice, was nowhere to be found.

Overall, this is an excellent, up-to-date resource. Most Stroke Units should have a copy, as should physicians who devote much of their time to stroke management. Trainees will find this a useful resource. Non-physicians may also find aspects of the text interesting and helpful.

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