Neurological practice – an Indian perspective

Edited by Noshir H Wadia. Published by Elsevier, New Delhi, 2003, £17 (hardcover), pp 694. ISBN 81-8147-549-6

Neurological practice – an Indian perspective is a multiauthor textbook that gives an impressive insight into past and contemporary Indian neurology. It is indeed befitting that this book is edited by Noshir Wadia, who is the founder of contemporary Indian neurology. His contribution is felt throughout the book (coauthor in 14 of the 32 chapters) and despite the multiple authors the book has a uniform, easy narrative style. The chapter subheadings accurately reflect the current neurological problems affecting the Indian and South East Asian population. The 11 chapters in the section on infections indicate, somewhat dishearteningly, that infection remains the most common cause of neurological disease in the region. The chapter on neurotuberculosis is a must read for neurologists everywhere as tuberculosis has become more widespread, and Indian neurologists have decades of experience in treating this. There are chapters on leprosy, poliomyelitis and subacute panencephalitis, conditions long forgotten in the West and thankfully on the decline in India. Two chapters in this section are outstanding, one on an adult form of polio associated with acute haemorrhagic conjunctivitis related to enterovirus 7 and the other on neurocysticercosis, which surprisingly occurs in a predominantly vegetarian country, and is related to poor hygienic practice. The brain images of a patient with millions of live cysticerci, referred to as the “starry starry night appearance” (a la Van Gogh), are unforgettable, as are the images of leg muscles laden with cysticerci. Practical tips on taking plain x rays of muscles when looking for calcified cysticerci as screening highlight of this chapter. Other sections in this section are outstanding, one on an adult form of polio associated with acute haemorrhagic conjunctivitis related to enterovirus 7 and the other on neurocysticercosis, which surprisingly occurs in a predominantly vegetarian country, and is related to poor hygienic practice. The brain images of a patient with millions of live cysticerci, referred to as the “starry starry night appearance” (a la Van Gogh), are unforgettable, as are the images of leg muscles laden with cysticerci. Practical tips on taking plain x rays of muscles when looking for calcified cysticerci as screening tests and management issues, including the danger of treating patients having high cysticerci loads with praziquantel, are the highlights of this chapter. Other sections include chapters on epilepsy, vascular disease, movement disorders, environmental disorders, etc, as expected in standard neurology textbooks, but with descriptions of certain conditions fairly unique to India. Examples of this is a chapter on arteriovenous malformations include hopping water epilepsy, a form of reflex epilepsy induced by hot water on the head, Madras motor neuron disease, a benign form of amyotrophy, and lateral sclerosis and monomelic amyotrophy. Other exotica include snake poisoning and descriptions about lathyrism, a pure spastic condition caused by a lentil (lathyrus sativus) consumed in the drought season, which has a glutamate receptor neurotoxic. Endovascular management of unruptured intracranial aneurysms: the dawn of a multidisciplinary treatment paradigm (J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2006;77:280–2). The last author of this letter is I Toyoshima and not T Imota, as published. We apologise for this error.

doi: 10.1136/jnnp.2005.077297corr1

S Okawa, M Sugawara, S Watanabe, et al. A novel sacsin mutation in a Japanese woman showing clinical uniformity of autosomal recessive spastic ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay (J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2006;77:280–2). The last author of this letter is I Toyoshima and not T Imota, as published. We apologise for this error.

doi: 10.1136/jnnp.2005.078311corr1

P Scheltens. Subcortical ischaemic vascular dementia: a separate disease entity? (J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2006;77). This editorial commentary should have been published alongside its linked paper in the print journal, but owing to human error it was not. Therefore, the commentary has been published as an electronic page in this issue. We apologise for the error.

doi: 10.1136/jnnp.2005.07822corr1

T Fukushima, M Shirota, T Yonemitsu, et al. Spinal endoscopic biopsy in the diagnosis of central nervous system neurosarcoïdosis (J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2006;77:702). The authors’ names, K Yamada and M Tanno, were published incorrectly. The correct author names are Y Yamada and M Tanno. In addition the correct order of the authors is: T Fukushima, M Shirota, T Yonemitsu, T Yamaguchi, Y Yamada, M Tanno, M Waragai.