Preface

The Importance of Neurology for the Non-Neurologist

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Editor

Neurology is fascinating for neurologists and non-neurologists alike. Not only does our nervous system control all bodily functions but also our brain is the essence of who we are and how we think, perceive, feel, behave, and remember. Diseases of the nervous system are common, and all diseases of the nervous system have available treatment. Treatment is occasionally curative, often disease modifying, and there are always symptomatic treatments available. There has been remarkable progress in understanding diseases of the nervous system. Every year there is a greater number of new therapeutics available in neurology than almost any other field of medicine.

Non-neurologists commonly diagnose and treat neurologic diseases. This issue of Medical Clinics of North America is directed to the non-neurologist, and its primary aim is to improve the care of the patient with a neurologic problem. This issue contains all the most important neurologic topics for non-neurologists. The information is presented in a way that reviews the neuroscience and neuropathology and provides high-yield, clinically relevant, and practical information for patient care. Neurologic disease is increasingly prevalent, and many physicians and other health care providers are on the frontlines of caring for patients with neurologic concerns. Familiarity with the epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, management, and prognosis associated with neurologic conditions is essential for all health care providers.

This issue begins with a thoughtful and comprehensive overview to the approach to diagnosis in neurologic conditions (Milligan) and continues with expert perspective on the approach to patients with one of the most common symptoms, dizziness (Whitman), and gait disorders (Ronthal). The issue continues with the most common neurologic disease and one that is associated with pain and lost income, headache, with articles on migraine (Burch), nonmigrainous headache (Vgontzas and Rizzoli), and concussion (Jackson and Starling).
The number of Americans affected by Alzheimer disease (AD) has reached 5.7 million, making it the sixth leading cause of death in the country. By 2050, this number is likely to double or even triple. Atri provides an outstanding and comprehensive review of AD that is pertinent to the care of the patient with dementia. Stroke is the leading cause of disability and the fourth leading cause of death. One in six people worldwide will have a stroke in their lifetime. Caprio and Sorond have done an excellent job describing the primary and secondary prevention of stroke. Epilepsy is highly prevalent, affecting people of all ages. In the United States, there are 3.4 million people with epilepsy, and there are 65 million people worldwide with epilepsy. Johnson provides a compelling and modern overview of seizures and epilepsy. Multiple sclerosis and autoimmune neurology of the central nervous system are increasingly important topics due to the novel therapeutics and new diseases that are being recognized. Galetta and Bhattacharyya provide an extremely interesting contribution regarding these topics. Parkinson’s disease is a feared diagnosis for many older people, and Reich and Savitt provide a highly informative and practical overview regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson’s disease and essential tremor. Rounding out this issue’s topics are informative and comprehensive articles on entrapment neuropathies of the upper extremity and lower extremity by Doughty and Bowley and peripheral neuropathy by Barrell and Smith.

This important issue of *Medical Clinics of North America*, Neurology for the Non-neurologist, comprises the most significant neurologic topics for the non-neurologist and contains incredibly well-written pieces that cover the full scope of neurology. The authors are all highly respected experts and provide a state-of-the-art update and perspective for each topic. Collectively, these contributions will provide health care providers with an invaluable resource as they treat patients facing neurologic conditions.

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