

A practical aspect of this book is the provision of detailed procedures and recipes in the Appendix, which allows the novice to perform the techniques from scratch. Unfortunately, this carries an inherent drawback that needs to be highlighted. The danger with set protocols is that they tend to be followed rigidly. This should not be so in immunohistochemistry, especially when the demonstration of antigens is largely dependent on tissue fixation. Fixatives and the duration of fixation vary widely between laboratories, and adaptation of staining protocols to suit local conditions is an important aspect of immunohistochemistry. The optimisation of procedures (particularly antigen retrieval and incubation times) is therefore an essential prerequisite to achieving successful immunostaining. Tissue preparation, albeit a less important area, has not been mentioned in this book. It is also interesting that the authors chose to illustrate immunohistochemistry with several fluorescent preparations of antibody PGP9.5, which works equally well in fixed samples and paraffin-embedded tissue sections—perhaps a reflection of the authors' preference.

One of the major advantages of modern immunohistochemical techniques is their reliability and efficacy in paraffin-embedded tissue.

Apart from these minor deficiencies, this book achieves its purpose of providing the newcomer with practical information and enough theoretical knowledge to understand current immunohistochemical techniques. Pertinent references are provided for further information at the end of each chapter. The text is clearly and adequately illustrated, and the layout is easy to follow. I would recommend it as a handbook to students starting out in the use of this powerful diagnostic and research tool.

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## Neurology in practice, second edition

By: Yu YL, Fong JKY, Ho SL

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*Neurology in Practice* by Dr YL Yu et al is a nicely written manuscript that is in a very readable form, with notes, tables, and short paragraphs. The authors have achieved with success the difficult task of condensing medical neurology into a 198-page booklet with both precision and comprehensiveness. In my opinion as a neurosurgeon, I do not quite agree with the authors that "the role of neurosurgery in ICH [intracerebral haemorrhage] is limited", as stated in the chapter on cerebrovascular diseases, because early surgical intervention may shorten the length of hospital stay and reduce morbidity.

It will be beneficial for physicians to consult neurosurgical colleagues for mass lesions in the brain (eg haematoma or tumour) to enable a more comprehensive management plan to be made for the patient. Head injury and its sequelae are very common complaints in everyday general practice and deserve

more attention from the authors. In the next edition, the section about brain tumour and head injury should be separated into two chapters, as they are not related. In addition, more detailed information and indications for admitting patients with head trauma for observation should be included.

In my opinion, *Neurology in Practice* serves as a pocket handbook in neurology and provides a quick reference source to medical students and interns in their bedside practice.

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