OSSX
Hueston C. King, Richard L. Mabry
A Practical Guide to the Management of Nasal and Sinus Disorders
Thieme, Stuttgart 1993
X + 254 pp.; 85 fig.; 48 tables; DM 120.-
ISBN 3-13-796501-2

The preface points to the authors’ goal to enlarge the scope of surgically oriented rhinology by reflections on pathophysiology and conservative therapeutic options in order to give practical advice for the everyday treatment of ENT patients. However, this book does not fulfil the expectation.

Though this book is named A Practical Guide to the Management of Nasal and Sinus Disorders it only covers acute and chronic infections and allergic or hyperreactive disorders of these systems but completely omits e.g. tumors, autoimmune disorders or the trauma-tology of the facial skull. All possible complications of functional endoscopic sinus surgery are discussed in a chapter of its own, while the complications of acute sinusitis are not mentioned at all. The authors summarize fields like the anatomy or physiology of the nose or the surgical management of chronic sinusitis which have been described in a more precise and elaborate way in either textbooks or review articles. The book is enlarged by permanent repetitions and a tenacious language. In order to solve the problem of unclear classifications (allergic/nonallergic/vasomotor/intolerance rhinitis), the authors themselves create debatable headlines like ‘nonatopic allergy’. Absolutely unstandardized techniques like food neutralization or ‘dipstick’ color tests for the diagnosis of allergies are defended. The scientific results of the last 10 years are not taken into consideration, e.g. in describing the basophile histamine release test as a ‘new promising technology’ or in postulating that immunotherapy works by producing blocking antibodies.

The book deals with cross-reactions to food but does not even mention well-known cross-reactions between food and inhalant allergens. Apart from pharmacological therapy, surgical techniques are explained in extenso and illustrated by figures that have been published before. A simple illustration showing the injection of steroids into the turbinate is presented 4 times (!), each half a page in size. This technique is obsolete because of the multiple complications mentioned even by the authors themselves. Other illustrations can be found several times in the book, too.

To summarize, it is very difficult to elaborate the promising concepts announced in the preface. Only a small number of paragraphs dealing e.g. with rhinitis in childhood or old age are worth reading. Altogether this book can be recommended only to those who, because of their own experience, are able to read it with a critical sense and to transfer American therapeutic recommendations to European standards.

C. Bachert, Düsseldorf
This little book comprises the proceedings of the satellite symposium ‘Auditory System’ of the Second Extraordinary International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis media held in Kyoto on April 5, 1993.

Apart from the preface by the editor Honjo the book contains 11 papers presented at the symposium. Seven of them are in Japanese two come from Finland and one each from Italy, Denmark, the Uí > A and Sweden.

Takasaka et al. demonstrate the age-related changes in the Mongolian gerbil cochlea using distorsion product otoacoustic emissions (DPOAE). The average DPOAE amplitude obtained from 24-month-old gerbils was significantly smaller than that from 6-month-old animals. The ultrastructural observation of the older gerbil cochleas clearly demonstrated a lack or reduction of outer hair cells in me organ of Corti. It is very interesting that the loss of outer hair cells with aging is greater in the apical turn of the cochlea than in the middle and basal turns.

Another Japanese group (Ishu et al.) developed a microtesting system to measure the physical strength of the round window membrane in guinea pigs. Thickness and load at breakage were only slightly less than those of the tympanic membrane. Four presentations deal with allergy. Ohashi et al. investigated experimentally the influence of chemical mediators involved in allergic response and systemic anaphylaxis on the tubotympanum as well as on the inner ear. The study demonstrates that these factors may be involved in middle and inner ear diseases.

Two studies are dedicated to immune responses to Haemophilus influenzae, another to the mucosal defence of the nasopharynx in health and disease. Karma and Marttily studied the effect of the Otovent autoinflation procedure on middle ears using tympanometry and sonotubometry. It seems that balloon autoinflation has a positive but relatively small effect on middle ear pressure of normal adults and children. Passau presents his experience with eustachian tube pathology. Toss et al. performed epidemiological studies on secretory otitis. The high prevalence of attic retraction in grommet ears compared to nongrommet ears pointed to the severer course of the disease in the grommet ear. The same applied to myringopexy. Hellström et al. determined the histochemical distribution of hyaluronic acid in middle and inner ear tissues from rats and biopsy material from human inner ears. According to the authors’ opinion, the physicochemical properties of hyaluronic acid including its effects on osmotic pressure could have important functional implications in middle and inner ear physiology. Sakakura and Takeuchi present their hypothesis on the pathogenesis of otitis media with effusion. They propose that a vicious circle of self-mediated inflammation is a possible causative factor for chronic otitis media. This hypothesis may be applied to chronic sinusitis as well as chronic bronchitis. Sando et al. studied the localization of a protective function in the human eustachian tube. They believe that mechanical factors, which are important for the protective function, are located in the superior (roof) portion of the eustachian tube, as seen in cross-section, whereas both mechanical and
functional factors are located in the inferior (floor) portion. Ost-mann’s fatty tissue plays an important role in this function. This book is an excellent help for scientists and clinicians who study otology, especially middle and inner ear physiology and patho-physiology.

A. Kollár, Munich
Axel Perneczky, Manfred Tschabitscher, Klaus DM. Resch
Endoscopic Anatomy for Neurosurgery
Thieme, Stuttgart 1993

The book starts with a brief introduction to the basic principles of neuroendoscopy regarded to be the realization of a ‘key hole’ strategy in the field of neurosurgery. The philosophy to operate by minimally traumatizing eloquent brain areas and according to the pyramid concept when looking through an endoscope is clearly presented. Later on, the authors discuss aspects of technical equipment, like endoscopes, light sources, video taping of camera and photographic systems.

A special part of the book is divided into three major chapters: ‘Intracranial subarachnoid space’, ‘Ventricular system’ and ‘Spinal subarachnoid space’. The different approaches and the specific endoscopic anatomy are explained, including these anatomic structures made visible by changing the angle, the intruding depth and the amplification of the endoscope. The interesting subjects in the chapter ‘Intracranial subarachnoid space’ are supratentorial approaches like supraorbital (medial, para-medial, lateral) and subtemporal ones; infratentorial lesions are reached via medial and paramedial approaches or via the cisterna magna, thir ventricle or on a retromastoidal and transtentorial path. The transbasal approaches vis the clivus or by passing from a ventral direction through the cisterna magna are also mentioned. The burr hole for the interhemispheric approaches can be placed in the frontal or parietal skull section. The chapter ‘Ventricular system’ deals with the approaches through one of the ventricular spaces. The final chapter deals with the approaches to the different segments of the vertebral column. The anatomic structures are very well illustrated by excellent color and black-and-white photos. The authors work out the importance of adequate direction, angle and coordination of the planned endoscopic approach.

Summarizing I would like to call the authors’ efforts successful. The reader experienced in microneuroanatomy will face no difficulties in orientation. Let me suggest every neurosurgeon using neuroendoscopic techniques to complete his personal library with this book.

C.B. Lumenta, Munich
Announcements
Third European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation
Hannover, June 6-8, 1996
3rd Congress of the European Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (EUFOS)
Budapest, June 9-14, 1996

This symposium will be held at the Medizinische Hochschule of Hannover. In addition, a satellite meeting is planned for June 5, which will review the five commercially available cochlear implant systems used in Europe. For details, please contact: