Complications in Neurosurgery I

Progress in Neurological Surgery

Vol. 11

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Preface

17 years ago, in 1966, the first volume of Progress in Neurological Surgery was published. Edited by H. Krayenbühl, P. E. Maspes, and W. H. Sweet, this new series was planned to present up-to-date reviews of recently gained knowledge in the discipline and practice of neurosurgery. The contributors to this series were known specialists in their field, and their contributions were based on both their personal experience and review of the world literature.

The first volumes explored problems related to the biology, diagnosis, and treatment of gliomas. Later volumes presented reviews in the area of aneurysms, cerebrovascular disease, pediatric neurosurgery, stereotaxis, pituitary and parapituitary neoplasms, treatment of pain, microsurgery, and craniocerebral trauma. The breadth of knowledge represented in the series often precluded treating an entire topic within a single volume. And then, some volumes were substantially delayed because a few manuscripts arrived late - a common problem with many scientific books. Despite the editors’ dedication, the goal of producing one volume a year became elusive.

This original group of editors has retired after completing the tenth volume of Progress in Neurological Surgery. A new editorial board has taken on the burden and challenge of continuing this valuable series that bridges the substantial gap between neurosurgical journals on the one side and the (often multivolume) texts and specialized monographs on the other. The new editorial board will benefit from the experiences of their predecessors, some of whom have been our teachers in the field of clinical neurosurgery. The managing editor has profited personally from discussions with Prof. Krayenbühl of Zürich, and Prof. Sweet of Boston.
The basic concept of the series remains unchanged. Experts in the vast discipline of clinical and experimental neurosurgery will be invited to contribute chapters that review their own experience, as well as the pertinent literature. Important new knowledge in the particular field of interest will be related to the clinical practice. The focus will be particularly on the interests of the practicing neurosurgeon who is not in direct contact with a teaching hospital. Each general topic will be covered in one or several volumes, each presenting specific problems related to special individual neurosurgical procedures, each containing about 200 pages, and each published as soon as possible after the chapters are received. We hope that this approach is flexible enough to allow the continued publication of reviews of immediate and common interest.

The next few volumes of Progress in Neurological Surgery will concern complications that arise during and after neurosurgical procedures. They will detail what complications can occur, how the difficulty can be avoided, and what can be done if a particular complication cannot be forestalled. The papers collected in the volume at hand tackle the problems of cerebral edema, postoperative epilepsy, venous thromboembolism, respiratory complications, and infections. Future volumes will present, among other topics, discussions of problems in connection with electrolyte disorder, postoperative hemorrhage, psychiatric disturbances, and cerebrospinal fluid collections and fistulae. Plans for later groups of volumes on other general problems exist.

Some of these books may reevaluate topics presented earlier in the series - not a repetition of previously published material, but rather further evaluation of still unsolved problems, of newly developed methods, and of the most current knowledge in the field.

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