Book Reviews

Cutaneous Surgical Anatomy of the Head and Neck, Hubert T. Greenway. Pp. xi + 133, 60 illustrations. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Tokyo, Melbourne, New York, 1991. Paperback £18.50

In contrast to the National Health Service scene in this country, there is a large and a flourishing group of dermatologists who practise a wide variety of surgical procedures in the USA. It is with this group of specialists in mind that a series of entitled 'Practical Manuals in Dermatologic Surgery' has been published. Other books in this series include monographs on skin grafting, electrosurgery of the skin, flaps for facial surgery, the dermatological surgical suite and local anaesthesia in dermatological surgery.

The authors of the present volume are a director of clinical anatomy in a dermatological surgical Fellowship program and a cutaneous oncologist. They consider the surgical anatomy of the cutaneous and immediately subcutaneous areas of the face, eye, ear and the front and lateral aspect of the neck, extending down to, but not through, the parotid gland, the muscles of mastication and the sternomastoid. The brief text is illustrated by clear large line drawings which occupy almost half the book and the anatomical descriptions are supplemented by some short sections on clinical considerations of the anatomical features.

Although this slim paperback will certainly be of value to the specialist surgical dermatologist, its limited scope will not appeal to the more general anatomist or surgeon.

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Migraine – A Strategy for Treatment, N. Bosanquet and J. Zammit-Lucia. Pp. 40, not illustrated. Daniels Publishing, Cambridge, 1991. Paperback £14.95.

It is estimated that migraine annually costs the NHS £30 million – £15 million for drug therapy and a similar amount for GP consultations. The costs are relatively low for a condition with a prevalence of 10% but at least 50% of migraineurs do not consult a doctor and less than 5% are referred to hospital. The indirect costs of work absence were estimated at £280 million. The calculations of these costs are clearly explained and the many assumptions made on incidence and treatment demonstrate some of the difficulties facing health economists. The analysis of the costs of acute and prophylactic therapy is particularly topical following the recent introduction of the 5-HT₁ receptor agonist sumatriptan. In acute attacks of migraine the efficacy of placebo is 25%, aspirin and metoclopramide 40%, oral sumatriptan 60% and self-injected subcutaneous sumatriptan 70%. The cost of sumatriptan per attack is £16.00 and £41.00 oral and injection, respectively. Traditionally, prophylactic therapy is offered to those who suffer two or more severe

attacks per month. The authors suggest that for those patients who suffer between one attack per month and one every three months there is likely to be greater therapeutic and economic benefit, over five years, from prophylactic therapy rather than treating each acute episode. Clinical experience suggests that patients are unlikely to accept prophylactic therapy for attacks of this infrequency but evidently the scope of prophylactic therapy may need to be widened. This review of the allocation of resources for the treatment of migraine is recommended to clinicians interested in migraine and to health economists.

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Prevention and Screening in Office Practice, edited by Andrew K. Diehl. Pp. 175, Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1991. Hardback £22.50.

This book is one of a series on 'Contemporary Management in Internal Medicine'. The series reviews recent changes in medicine and their application to general practice. One of the problems in general practice is how to keep up to date with medical advances and their application to everyday practice. The aim of this series is to help the general practitioner to keep updated with the relevant changes in medicine in a timely, efficient and concise way. To this end, six books are produced each year in a five yearly cycle covering all relevant areas of medicine.

This book on *Prevention and Screening in Office Practice* provides a review of eight important topics in screening and prevention. Each topic covers an area where recent medical knowledge could change our management. The topics covered are: the periodic health examination, immunization of adults, prevention of osteoporosis and fractures, screening for hearing impairment, screening for breast cancer, screening for gynaecological malignancies, screening for colorectal cancer, and prevention of complications of diabetes mellitus.

Each topic is covered in a systematic way. The epidemiology of the condition and the evidence for prevention is covered including identification of high-risk groups. A comparison of the screening tests is given and the cost-effectiveness of screening programmes is considered. There is further guidance on the implementation of the screening programme and consideration of the problems encountered.

This short book gave clear guidance in controversial areas relevant to everyday practice. It is unusual to find a book of this quality and I strongly recommend it.

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