Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Questions and Answers for Parents

This book is of interest to occupational therapists who want to gain an overall understanding of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: signs, causes, evaluation, and treatment. As the title implies, it is also a book to which an occupational therapist might refer a family to enhance parental understanding.

The bulk of this work concentrates on the concepts and principles of cognitive behavioral self-control therapy. It concisely and methodically discusses a variety of techniques. An appendix contains blank recording forms that would be useful in implementing a cognitive behavioral program. Some specific case studies are included as well as a section on the troubleshooting of behavior management programs. Some resource organizations are listed along with their telephone numbers.

As the parent of a child with attention deficit disorder, I deem this question-and-answer-format book a good find for occupational therapists working with children and parents. Although this book does not address treatment of specific sensorimotor systems often found dysfunctional in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, it does deal with a general overview of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and offers a wealth of information regarding behavioral management of the disorder.

Sue Chain Parker, OTR

Reference

Contemporary Conservative Care for Painful Spinal Disorders

This text is a compilation of various diagnostic and treatment approaches to acute, subacute, and chronic spinal disorders. It is presented in eight parts: Introduction and Overview of Degenerative Spine Problems; Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry of Spinal Disorders; Psychosocial/Economic Factors Related to Spinal Disorders; Acute Spinal Care Options: Evaluation and Treatment; Subacute Spinal Disorders; The Place for Surgical Treatment; Rehabilitation of the Patient With Chronic Spinal Disorders; and Special Issues in Spinal Care.

Although the context is not new, the text is an up-to-date summary and collection of a wide array of information. Part 4 includes osteopathic, chiropractic, and physical therapy care, in which noted physical therapist Robin McKenzie explains his approach. Part 5 discusses physical and functional capacity evaluations, integrated work hardening, and quantification of function. Vocational rehabilitation, ergonomics, preemployment screening, and the disability system are covered in Part 8.

Although the editors state that the book is aimed toward physical and occupational therapists as well as physicians, no occupational therapy contributors are listed among the 54 contributors. An occupational therapy contributor could have enhanced the profession's image.

The text is lengthy and, at times, challenging to read, but it is quite comprehensive and could be a valuable reference text, especially for therapists with beginner and intermediate levels of clinical experience in spinal disorders.

Joyce Harju Tredceau, OTR, BCACP


Written primarily for the family or primary caretaker of the person with head injuries, this guide is presented in a loose-leaf binder format, which allows the reader to concentrate on pertinent sections as the loved one goes through the rehabilitation process. Although written for the general public, the book contains many medical terms; however, there is a comprehensive glossary of terms. The information provided may be helpful when used as a tool to reinforce the family's role as a member of the rehabilitation team. Overall, this guide is an excellent compilation of information addressing a complex subject in a meaningful way. Selected contributions are presented by a staff psychologist and a speech and language pathologist; however, the approach would seem more team oriented and comprehensive if other team members such as the physical therapist, the occupational therapist, and the therapeutic recreation specialist had contributed. The text is nevertheless a practical and valuable teaching tool.

Sue Zukowski, MEd, OTR

Knee Pain and Disability (3rd ed.)

This book is one of 10 volumes in Dr. Cailliet's pain series, several of which, including "Hand Pain and Impairment and The Shoulder in Hemiplegia," are favorites of occupational therapists working in these areas. Although this volume may not be as essential as some of the others in the series, it would be an asset to the library of the occupational therapy department or school. Dr. Cailliet states that "the knee joint is probably the most complicated joint in the human body" (p. 1). The thorough discussion of the anatomy, diagnosis, and treatment of knee conditions contained in the first half of the book is appropriate for physicians (al-
though understandable, thanks to clear pictures and concise text, to anyone previously exposed to the study of anatomy.

Perhaps most relevant to occupational therapists are the last four chapters, “Arthritides Affecting the Knee,” “Fractures about the Knee Joint,” “Congenital and Acquired Deformities of the Knee,” and “The Knee in Gait: Normal and Abnormal.” They contain information valuable to therapists working in pediatrics, rheumatology, orthopedics, and neurology. Aside from providing the occupational therapist with a holistic understanding of the patient’s lower extremity disability and treatment (including surgeries), the book deals with specific such as sleep positioning, splinting, weight-bearing, and appropriate activity levels, which can be particularly important to the occupational therapy treatment plan.

Barbara B. Lucas, MS, OTR

Manter and Gatz’s Essentials of Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology (8th ed.)


F. A. Davis, 1915 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1493.

328 pp., $21.95.

The eighth edition of Manter and Gatz’s Essentials of Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology is an integration of human neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, clinical neurology, and neuropsychopharmacology. The authors’ presentation of the content is comprehensive, concise, and direct without citations or references. This edition, as with previous ones, includes schematic graphics of the nervous system in halftones of red and black throughout the text. The authors have updated and revised each chapter, using boldface type to emphasize key words and concepts. The three new chapters in this edition are (a) Physiology of Neurons, (b) The Blood Supply to the Brain, and (c) The Clinical Approach to the Patient With Neurologic Disease. The third new chapter is of special interest to therapists in clinical settings; in addition to the descriptions of the current neurologic diagnostic tests (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid, EEG, evoked-potential studies, nerve conduction, electromyography, MRI, PET, SPECT), the authors encapsulate the mental status exam and the cranial nerve, reflex, and sensory and motor system examination in this chapter. The text concludes with a bibliography of selected readings of which half have been published between 1987 and 1992. The index is detailed and serves as a useful reference to items in the text.

This publication may be useful to the occupational therapy student as a review or study guide; for the student, this text is recommended as an adjunct to a comprehensive neuroscience text. The book is an essential quick reference for the therapist seeking current, concise, basic information about the nervous system. The absence of references and citations in support of the content may be a factor in determining whether to use this book in an academic setting exclusive of other materials.

Jeanne Ericsson Lewin, MS, OTR

Premie Potential: Improving the NICU Environment of the Premature Infant


Communication Skill Builders, 3330 E. Bellevue, PO Box 42050, Tucson, AZ 85733. 16 pp. in manual, $69.

Being in the NICU can be an intimidating experience for anyone. Premie Potential: Improving the NICU Environment of the Premature Infant, a videotape and manual, provides a clear and comforting introduction to this environment for professionals and family members.

The videotape shows how a premature infant is bombarded with stimulation (monitors beeping, bright lights, overhead pages) in a nursery that is not attuned to his needs. The viewer is then shown how to match the infant’s ability to handle input with environmental modifications and handling skills. At the same time, the viewer is reminded that no two premies will respond the same way. The videotape shows how premies signal their needs through approach and avoidance cues. Background information on environmental neonatology is presented in the manual, along with written reinforcement of the material in the videotape.

Premie Potential confirms the adage that a picture is worth a thousand words. The videotape shows the NICU environment, both positively and negatively, in a manner that written material alone could never show. The only problem with the videotape is that the background music occasionally overpowers the presentation and lessens its impact. However, demonstrations of how these premies are handles and positioned and their response to the techniques make this a valuable teaching tool for new-comers to the NICU environment.

Sandra L. Saperstein, MS, OTR

The ABCs of Medicare Part A and Part B For Clinicians


M. J. Therapy & Associates, Inc., 4900 Spring Street, Racine, WI 53406.

14 pp., $9.95 (plus $4.95 shipping and handling).

Get the facts about Medicare from this concise, well-organized booklet. The author’s answers to 17 highly relevant questions about Medicare will help prevent coverage denials that lead to discontinuation of services. The author stresses that the question of eligibility rests on descriptive documentation, whether the service is for treatment implementation to facilitate progress or for skilled services to establish a maintenance program.

The booklet explains the difference between part A and part B of Medicare, who qualifies, and whether evaluations and reassessments are covered. It reviews two chief reasons for coverage denial, recommends phrases for descriptive documentation, and explains the appeal process. This easy-to-understand booklet is a great reference and a valuable reminder for documentation in the clinic.

Deborah A. Rider, OTR

Principles of Geriatric Neurology

Robert Katzman, MD, and John W. Rowe, MD (1992).

F. A. Davis Company, 1915 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1493.

368 pp., $75.

This book is divided into three sections: (a) general principles (e.g., normal aging of the nervous system, neuropsychopharmacology), (b) evaluative procedures, and (c) special issues of the elderly (e.g., dementia, Alzheimer disease, falls and gait). Particular emphasis is placed on Alzheimer disease.

Written in textbook format, this book contains many references to current research. The reference lists at the