



Preface

If, as has been said, “concision gives energy, but also adds restraint,” then it is an unfortunate fact that all too often introductory texts on neurosurgery, in sacrificing brevity for comprehensiveness, obscure the underlying elegance of neurosurgical practice. In both its framework and its execution, *Neurosurgical Essentials* seeks to avoid that familiar pitfall. It is meant to provide that elusive pedagogic product, the readable and digestible primer to a complex subject.

As alluded to in the “essentials” of its title, this book takes as its goal the articulation of both what is necessary for a proper understanding of clinical neurosurgery and what reflects the field’s conceptual essence. As such, this text does not provide detailed descriptions of cellular or molecular mechanisms of neurologic pathology and should not be seen as a substitute for either a capable teacher or a comprehensive textbook. Rather, it is a guide to the important landmarks on the neurosurgical landscape and an invitation to further exploration.

This text was written primarily to help medical students and surgical interns appreciate the fundamentals of diagnosis and treatment of neurosurgical patients. It also provides a useful introduction or review for neurologists, psychiatrists, and general surgeons for whom neurosurgery is an important element in clinical practice and a suitable subject for board examinations. The major topics are organized into alphabetical chapters, each emphasizing pertinent text, illustrated with high-quality images and line drawings, and followed with key questions and answers.

To those for whom this book will serve as the introduction to neurosurgery, I hope some of its elegance is revealed.

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