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Book Review

THIEME Atlas of Anatomy, Head and Neuroanatomy

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Michael Schuenke, Erik Schulte, and Udo Schumacher Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc., Stuttgart, New York, 2010 Softcover: 412 pp.

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This Neuroanatomy Atlas is one of the most concise and fully updated texts of the central nervous system anatomy, which is highly recommended for students, residents, faculties, as well as those who are interested in detailed and clear understanding of the structures of the central nervous system. It could be used as a quick reference source by any clinician or scientist who would like to have a resource available on hand.

In addition, this Atlas can be an excellent reference source for those who are involved in teaching Neuroanatomy at the advanced level.

The quality of the illustrations and images are of the highest and clearest standard, which helps students to easily grasp and understand such a complex field. The clinical applications mentioned in each section are well thought and relates well to the topics of discussion, which apart from being an Atlas, highlights the relevant clinical applications to the point, which is an important aspect in educating in such a complex field.

The book is divided into two sections: (1) Head and (2) Neuroanatomy. The Head section is divided into ten subsections, and the Neuroanatomy in twelve subsections.

The only suggestion for completion of such a great valuable Atlas is the need for more detailed bony anatomy of the spinal vertebral column from a neurosurgical point of view; highlighting the differences between each section and some clinically relevant pathology of the related structures will make this Atlas a great concise reference source for both neurosurgeons or spine surgeons.

Since many of the classical neurosurgery or spine surgery textbooks and Atlases in the past used traditional nomenclature of the structures of the brain and the nervous system, it is highly recommended to the authors and consulting editors to add a glossary section to this highly valuable book a at the end including the traditional names in conjunction with the new nomenclature so that the younger generation and future academics could have a complete resource that can be used as a reference without any confusion, and importantly, to retain the respect and the honor of our founding fathers and pioneers of our field and let them know that they are not forgotten. For example, Aqueduct of Sylvius vs Cerebral Aqueduct, or Nerve of Wisberg vs Intermediate Nerve.

This is an invaluable Atlas that needs to be recommended to any student, resident, clinician, academic, and anyone who would like to have profound knowledge of the Central nervous system anatomy with some of the most common related pathologic disorders.

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