

# Book reviews

## **Childhood Feeding Disorders. Behavioral Assessment and Intervention**

By Jurgen H Kedesdy and Karen S Budd  
Baltimore, MD: Paul H Brookes Publishing Co.  
1998, pp 402, US\$34.95 paperback  
ISBN 1557663165

Feeding disorders in children present a formidable challenge to pediatric health-care providers. Frequently it is difficult to unravel the complex etiologies, including underlying medical conditions, neurodevelopmental problems, and overlying primary and secondary psychosocial issues. Too often we work and try to solve these problems in isolation, when a more comprehensive global approach is required. This text outlines the medical and environmental causes of feeding disorders in children, highlighting classification, behavioral issues, and interventions to treat the child and family.

The book is easy to read and understand. The problems are illustrated by a series of clinical vignettes, which outline common scenarios, followed by a discussion of the etiologies, interventions, and outcomes. I found these to be particularly useful in emphasizing the major points which are made in the text. The chapters are extensively referenced and a comprehensive index is provided.

The introductory chapter 'Feeding from a biobehavioral perspective' provides an excellent overview of feeding disorders. More detailed chapters include information on assessment of environmental factors and environmental interventions, which outline a framework for behavioral assessment and specific interventions. Other chapters which would be helpful for a variety of practitioners include 'Children who eat too little', 'Undereating with growth deficiency: failure to thrive', 'Children with chronic illness', and 'Children with delays in feeding skills'. Chapter 2, entitled 'Biological factors in feeding and growth', was overly simplistic in comparison to the other chapters. This chapter attempted to be comprehensive about specific medical issues, including investigation of underlying disease states. Unfortunately, it contained many inaccuracies, especially in the pathophysiology and investigation of feeding disorders. However, overlap in other chapters dealing with medical issues helps to overcome this deficiency.

Overall, this book is a valuable resource for medical or allied health practitioners who deal with feeding disorders in children. It provides a framework for a multidisciplinary approach to these difficult problems.

*Christopher J Justinich*

## **The Clinical Psychologists Handbook of Epilepsy Assessment and Management**

Edited by Christine Cull and Laura Goldstein  
London: Routledge. 1997, pp 227  
£45.00 hardback; £14.99 paperback  
ISBN 0415130514

If you did not know that an interested clinical psychologist would be an invaluable addition to your epilepsy service, this book will fill an important gap in your knowledge. If you work with a clinical psychologist who is new to the field of epilepsy, this is the ideal publication.

The editors and their contributors are leading teachers and researchers and have a wealth of clinical experience to inform their writing. There are outstanding chapters on 'Epilepsy and Memory' by Pat Thompson and 'Epilepsy and Learning Disabilities' by Colin Espie and Audrey Paul.

All doctors treating intractable epilepsy should be familiar with ways of taking psychological control of seizures, or get back on track by reading Laura Goldstein's chapter.

The book covers epilepsy at all ages. After beginning with a brief overview of epilepsy, there are well referenced chapters on anticonvulsant drugs, neuropsychological and epilepsy surgery assessment, psychological responses to epilepsy, subjective quality of life, behaviour problems in children, and a final chapter by the editors on the way forward. The index includes names, which makes the whole book even more valuable as a source for reading.

*Michael Prendergast*

# Notice

**6th Congress and 1st Advanced Course of the European Society of Magnetic Resonance in Neuropediatrics (ESMRN)**  
*Marseille, France. January 19–22, 2000*

Topics covered by the congress are: prognostic expectations in pre- and perinatal anoxo-ischemic insults, new developments of NMR in neuropediatrics, epilepsies, malformations, and metabolic diseases. For information contact: Charles Raybaud, Neuroradiologie, Hôpital de la Timone, 13385 Marseille Cedex 5, France. Tel: +4 91 38 65 26; Fax: + 4 91 38 68 33. E-mail: [charles.raybaud@wanadoo.fr](mailto:charles.raybaud@wanadoo.fr). Or contact the Administrative Secretariat, MCO Congrès, 27 rue du Four à Chaux, 13007 Marseille, France. Tel: +4 95 09 38 00; Fax: +4 95 09 38 01. E-mail: [mcocongres@aix.pacwan.net](mailto:mcocongres@aix.pacwan.net). <http://www.seminaire.com/mco>