



Book review

Evaluation and Treatment of Myopathies

Robert C Griggs, Jerry R Mendell and Robert G Miller

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It was with great anticipation that I began reading *Evaluation and Treatment of Myopathies* by Drs Griggs, Mendell, and Miller. These authors are well recognized in the field of neuromuscular diseases as clinicians and researchers; and their collective experience and knowledge base would be difficult to match by any similar group of authors writing a clinical treatise on neuromuscular diseases. I was not to be disappointed. This volume provides a readable and concise text that is comprehensive in its approach. Each topic is covered in adequate detail without being overwhelming. The information presented reviews the clinical presentation, standard laboratory features, treatment options, and pathogenesis as well as the most recent advances. It is extremely well referenced. It is both pragmatic and academic at the same time and will be a useful addition to the library of any clinical neurologist, resident in neurology, or neuromuscular clinician.

This book is organized into three major sections. The first section is devoted to a review of the motor unit, the definition of myopathies, and a review of the clinical and laboratory evaluation of the patient with muscle disease. It reviews newer techniques now widely applied to the genetic disorders of muscle including: Southern blot analysis and PCR techniques in a way that is easily understood by all. The second section is devoted to the description and discussion of the specific disorders. For each disorder the clinical presentation, laboratory evaluation, pathophysiology, genetics, and treatment options are fully reviewed and well referenced. This section is well organized and includes chapters devoted to the muscular

dystrophies, inflammatory myopathies, congenital myopathies, metabolic disorders, mitochondrial disorders, periodic paralyses, and the myopathies associated with systemic diseases. It is very readable and any one of the sections is a concise review of the topic in hand. In the third and last section of the text, general strategies of the clinical management of muscle patients are reviewed. This section includes chapters devoted to the evaluation of muscle pain and fatigue as well as the prevention and management of medical complications of myopathies. It is a useful adjunct to the sections on specific disorders and provides the reader with an approach that is generally applicable to all neuromuscular disorders.

This volume has its place among the more extensive texts including the two volume set *Myology* that has been recently revised by Dr Andrew Engel and Dr Clara Franzini-Armstrong and *Walton's Diseases of Voluntary Muscle*. It provides a good companion text to the other notable clinical review *A Clinician's View of Neuromuscular Diseases* by Michael H Brooke. This text is now in its second edition and has been the most readable text on the clinical aspects of neuromuscular diseases. However, given its age, ie a copyright of 1986, it is no longer up to date in many recent advances. *Evaluation and Treatment of Myopathies* provides an update and is more thorough in the coverage of the topics while still maintaining readability. It was a great pleasure to read and enjoy the text.

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