Textbook of Stroke Medicine

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# Contents

**Preface** vii  
**List of contributors** viii

## Section I – Etiology, pathophysiology and imaging

1. **Neuropathology and pathophysiology of stroke**  
Konstantin A. Hossmann and Wolf-Dieter Heiss

2. **Common causes of ischemic stroke**  
Bo Norrving

3. **Neuroradiology**  
(A) Imaging of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke: CT, perfusion CT, CT angiography  
Patrik Michel  
(B) Imaging of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke: MRI and MR angiography  
Jens Fiehler  
(c) Functional imaging in acute stroke, recovery and rehabilitation  
Wolf-Dieter Heiss

4. **Ultrasound in acute ischemic stroke**  
László Csiba

## Section II – Clinical epidemiology and risk factors

5. **Basic epidemiology of stroke and risk assessment**  
Jaakko Tuomilehto, Markku Mähönen and Cinzia Sarti

6. **Common risk factors and prevention**  
Michael Brainin, Yvonne Teuschl and Karl Matz

## Section III – Diagnostics and syndromes

7. **Cardiac diseases relevant to stroke**  
Claudia Stöllberger and Josef Finsterer

8. **Common stroke syndromes**  
Céline Odier and Patrik Michel

9. **Less common stroke syndromes**  
Wilfried Lang

10. **Intracerebral hemorrhage**  
Michael Brainin and Raoul Eckhardt

11. **Cerebral venous thrombosis**  
Jobst Rudolf

12. **Behavioral neurology of stroke**  
José M. Ferro, Isabel P. Martins and Lara Caeiro

13. **Stroke and dementia**  
Didier Leys and Marta Altieri

14. **Ischemic stroke in the young and in children**  
Didier Leys and Valeria Caso

## Section IV – Therapeutic strategies and neurorehabilitation

15. **Stroke units and clinical assessment**  
Risto O. Roine and Markku Kaste

16. **Acute therapies and interventions**  
Richard O’Brien, Thorsten Steiner and Kennedy R. Lees

17. **Management of acute ischemic stroke and its complications**  
Natan M. Bornstein and Eitan Auriel


Contents

18 Infections in stroke 258
Achim Kaasch and Harald Seifert

19 Secondary prevention 272
Hans-Christoph Diener
and Greg W. Albers

20 Neurorehabilitation 283
Sylvan J. Albert and Jürg Kesselring

Index 307
Preface

This book is designed to improve the teaching and learning of stroke medicine in postgraduate educational programs. It is targeted at “beginning specialists”, either medical students with a deeper interest or medical doctors entering the field of specialized stroke care. Therefore the text contains what is considered essential for this readership but, in addition, goes into much greater depth, e.g. the coverage of less frequent causes of stroke, and describing the more technical facets and settings of modern stroke care.

The textbook leads the reader through the many causes of stroke, its typical manifestations, and the practical management of the stroke patient. We have tried to keep the clinical aspects to the fore, giving relative weight to those chapters that cover clinically important issues; however, the pathological, pathophysiological and anatomical background is included where necessary. The book benefits from the experience of many specialized authors, thereby providing expert coverage of the various topics by international authorities in the field. In places this leads to some differences of opinion in the approach to particular patients or conditions; as Editors we have tried not to interfere with the individual character of each chapter, leaving only duplicate presentations when they were handled from different topological or didactic aspects, e.g. on genetics or rarer forms of diseases.

The development of this textbook has been triggered by the “European Master in Stroke Medicine Programme” held at Danube University in Austria. This program has been fostered by the European Stroke Organisation and has been endorsed by the World Stroke Organization. This book has been shaped by the experiences of the lecturers – most of them also leading authors for our chapters – and the feedback of our students during several runs of this course. Thus, we hope to satisfy the needs of students and young doctors from many different countries, both within and outside Europe.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr Susanne Heiss for her expert editorial assistance and her diligent and expert help in summarizing the chapters’ contents. Thanks also to Nick Dunton and his team at Cambridge University Press for their help and patience.

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