

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Emergency Neurosurgery

edited by

Nihal Gurusinghe

Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

Peter Hutchinson

*University of Cambridge, Society of British Neurological Surgeons and Royal
College of Surgeons of England*

Ioannis Fouyas

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Naomi Slator

North Bristol NHS Trust

Ian Kamaly-Asl

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Peter Whitfield

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

THE CHALLENGES OF ON-CALL NEUROSURGERY

Abteen Mostofi

St George's University Hospital

Marco Lee

Stanford University

Nihal Gurusinghe

Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Trust



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-45430-8 — The Challenges of On-Call Neurosurgery
Abteen Mostofi, Marco Lee, Nihal Gurusinghe
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009454308

DOI: 10.1017/9781009384520

© Abteen Mostofi, Marco Lee and Nihal Gurusinghe 2023

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-45430-8 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-38451-3 Paperback
ISSN 2755-0656 (online)
ISSN 2755-0648 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Every effort has been made in preparing this Element to provide accurate and up-to-date
information which is in accord with accepted standards and practice at the time of
publication. Although case histories are drawn from actual cases, every effort has been
made to disguise the identities of the individuals involved. Nevertheless, the authors,
editors and publishers can make no warranties that the information contained herein
is totally free from error, not least because clinical standards are constantly changing
through research and regulation. The authors, editors and publishers therefore
disclaim all liability for direct or consequential damages resulting from the use of
material contained in this Element. Readers are strongly advised to pay careful attention
to information provided by the manufacturer of any drugs or equipment that they
plan to use.

The Challenges of On-Call Neurosurgery

Elements in Emergency Neurosurgery

DOI: 10.1017/9781009384520
First published online: October 2023

Abteen Mostofi
St George's University Hospital

Marco Lee
Stanford University

Nihal Gurusinghe
Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

Author for correspondence: Nihal Gurusinghe, nihalgurusinghe@aol.com

Abstract: On-call neurosurgery concerns practice related to urgent and emergency neurosurgical care including outside of 'normal' working hours. Being on call involves many competing responsibilities and is regarded as one of the most demanding aspects of a neurosurgical career. The on-call work pattern has evolved over the past decade due to changes in demographics, technology and working practices, each of which have brought new and emerging challenges. These challenges aside, the on call provides a unique and rewarding environment to make a meaningful difference to patients and to learn the science and art of neurosurgery. Success in on-call work requires not only good technical knowledge and application but also a wide variety of non-technical skills. These skills will help in dealing with some of the difficult situations neurosurgeons in training face when on call, making the experience more manageable and educational.

Keywords: challenges, emergency, neurosurgery, on call, preparation

© Abteen Mostofi, Marco Lee and Nihal Gurusinghe 2023

ISBNs: 9781009454308 (HB), 9781009384513 (PB), 9781009384520 (OC)
ISSNs: 2755-0656 (online), 2755-0648 (print)

Contents

1 Introduction to On-Call Neurosurgery	1
2 The Changing Shape of On-Call Neurosurgery	4
3 Key Strategies to Cope with Challenges	7
4 Conclusions	13
References	15