

Textbook of Stroke Medicine

Second Edition





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CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107047495

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First Edition © Cambridge University Press 2010

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Second Edition first published 2014 First Edition first published 2010

Printed in Spain by Grafos SA, Arte sobre papel

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

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data
Textbook of stroke medicine / edited by Michael Brainin,
Wolf-Dieter Heiss; editorial assistant, Suzanne Tabernig. –
Second edition.

p.; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-04749-5 (Hardback)

I. Brainin, M. (Michael), editor of compilation. II. Heiss, W.-D. (Wolf-Dieter), 1939 December 31- editor of compilation.

III. Tabernig, Suzanne, editor of compilation.

[DNLM: 1. Stroke. WL 355]

RC388.5

616.8'1-dc23 2013048020

ISBN 978-1-107-04749-5 Hardback

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Contents

List of contributors vii Preface ix

Section 1 – Etiology, pathophysiology, and imaging

1. Neuropathology and pathophysiology of stroke 1

Konstantin-A. Hossmann and Wolf-Dieter Heiss

- 2. **Common causes of ischemic stroke** 33 Bo Norrving
- 3. Neuroradiology 45
 - (A) Imaging of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke: CT, perfusion CT, CT angiography 45

Patrik Michel

(B) Imaging of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke: MRI and MR angiography 49

Jochen B. Fiebach, Patrik Michel, and Jens Fiehler

(C) Multimodal imaging-guided acute stroke treatment based on CT and MR imaging 54

Patrik Michel

- Imaging for prediction of functional outcome and for assessment of recovery 64 Wolf-Dieter Heiss
- Ultrasound in acute ischemic stroke 82 László Csiba

Section 2 — Clinical epidemiology and risk factors

- 6. Basic epidemiology of stroke and risk assessment 102
 Jaakko Tuomilehto
- 7. **Common risk factors and prevention** 119 Michael Brainin, Yvonne Teuschl, and Karl Matz

 Cardiac diseases relevant to stroke 140
 Claudia Stöllberger and Josef Finsterer

Section 3 – Diagnostics and syndromes

- Common stroke syndromes 155
 Céline Odier and Patrik Michel
- Less common stroke syndromes 169
 Wilfried Lang
- 11. **Intracerebral hemorrhage** 188
 Corina Epple, Michael Brainin, and Thorsten
- 12. **Subarachnoid hemorrhage** 206 Philipp Lichti and Thorsten Steiner
- 13. **Cerebral venous thrombosis** 222 Jobst Rudolf
- Behavioral neurology of stroke 236
 José M. Ferro, Isabel P. Martins, and Lara Caeiro
- Stroke and dementia 255
 Barbara Casolla and Didier Leys
- 16. Ischemic stroke in the young and in children 266Valeria Caso and Didier Leys

Section 4 — Therapeutic strategies and neurorehabilitation

- 17. **Stroke units and clinical assessment** 285 Danilo Toni and Ángel Chamorro
- 18. **Acute therapies for stroke** 294 Richard E. O'Brien and Kennedy R. Lees

V



Contents

- 19. Interventional intravascular therapies for stroke 311
 Pasquale Mordasini, Jan Gralla, and Gerhard Schroth
- 20. Management of acute ischemic stroke and its late complications 326Natan M. Bornstein and Eitan Auriel
- 21. **Infections in stroke** 342 Achim J. Kaasch and Harald Seifert

- 22. **Secondary prevention** 356 Hans-Christoph Diener, Sharan K. Mann, and Gregory W. Albers
- 23. Neurorehabilitation practice for stroke patients 371Sylvan J. Albert and Jürg Kesselring

Index 399

v

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vii

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viii

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 genetic 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 Tabernig 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.

Michael Brainin Wolf-Dieter Heiss