

bullous pemphigoid. Junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder due to mutations in the gene coding for Laminin 332 causing blisters in Lamina lucida. Mechanical fragility at birth is the hallmark of the disease characterized by extensive blistering of the skin associated with crusting and erosions. Skin biopsy is the investigation of choice for the suspicion of bullous disorders in the neonatal period. Light microscopy helps to exclude the other infective bullous disorders; immunofluorescence helps to diagnose the immune-mediated bullous disorders. Electron microscopy helps in identifying the level of

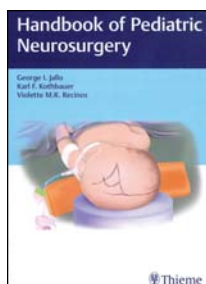
blister formation within the dermo-epidermal junction. Finally genetic testing helps in confirmation of the diagnosis. Treatment includes proper wound care, prevention of secondary bacterial infections, adequate nutrition and prevention of dehydration. This case probably had Herlitz type JEB, presenting in neonatal period with extensive blistering and a lethal course.

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BOOK REVIEW



Handbook of Pediatric Neurosurgery

**GEORGE I JALLO, KARL F
KOTHBAUER AND
VIOLETTE MR RECINOS**

*Thieme Publisher, Germany.
Pages: 514; Price: Not mentioned.*

This book contains 11 sections and 56 subsections. All put together, there are more than 300 chapters contributed by galaxy of Neurosurgeons and allied Neuro-scientists, numbering over 80. The book covers various aspects of Pediatric Neurosurgery, including basic aspects like intracranial pressure (ICP), pain management, imaging, intervention and chemo- and radio-therapy. It also covers pediatric Neuro-trauma, including spinal, peripheral nerve and brachial plexus injury.

First two sections deal with ICP monitoring and pain management. Knowledge of ICP, its pathophysiology, monitoring and management is like ABC of Neurosurgery. The radiology and imaging aspects are dealt to the points, and will help the readers. Authors of this book have emphasized on the value of patient

examination and Clinical neurosurgery, which is amply exemplified by the chapters.

The section of tumors is extensively dealing with various intracranial and spinal tumors having 11 chapters. All important pediatric Neurosurgical tumors are discussed optimally with up-to-date relevant literature. I am sure that by reading this portion, a student or a practicing pediatric-neurosurgeon will not look for anything else. Chapters on vascular abnormalities and malformations are also well written with illustrations and surgical techniques. There is a section on epilepsy surgery and various surgical methods for intractable epilepsy, which also deals with vagal nerve stimulation, deep brain stimulation, various movement disorders and surgical treatment of spasticity.

Overall this book is a landmark publication by eminent authors. The book has larger number of contributors from various parts of the world with plenty of colored illustrations. I am sure this book will have a universal acceptance, and will immensely benefit our friends dealing with pediatric neurosurgical problems.

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