

A necessary limitation of a book on any medical topic is the delay between submission and publication. This delay makes it impossible for authors to include information on the most recent scientific studies — information that is particularly important for chapters that involve newly published outcomes of treatments. An example of this difficulty is found in chapter 17, “Radiation Therapy for Pituitary Adenomas.” Its authors provide an excellent summary of indications for treatment, methods of radiation delivery, outcomes, and complications, but the referenced studies are inclusive only up to 2007.

The three-part chapter on acromegaly is concise and informative. Its one shortcoming is the result of what has been a widespread problem in the United States for more than a year — the range of normal values according to age for the insulin-like growth factor I assays that are commercially available is too low. This inaccuracy can lead to misdiagnosis of acromegaly or relapse of treated acromegaly.

The chapter on the diagnostic evaluation of Cushing’s disease addresses the most problematic area of pituitary disorders. The authors have been at the forefront of establishing that late-night levels of cortisol in saliva are an indicator of loss of the normal circadian rhythm of cortisol production. The presence of high levels of cortisol in saliva may be detectable before the 24-hour urinary-free cortisol concentration is abnormally elevated. A shortcoming of this discussion is that the authors fail to mention the variability or reliability in results from various commercial laboratories. Essentially, the diagnosis of Cushing’s disease on the basis of the measurement of salivary and urinary-free cortisol levels remains problematic.

The discussions of the results of pituitary surgery are informative and well written by neurosurgeons who have experience in the field. What is not adequately discussed, however, is the need for a neurosurgeon who has adequate experience and expertise with this operation. The results of pituitary surgery are reported only by neurosurgeons who devote their practices to this procedure; outcomes from neurosurgeons who perform the operation infrequently are not reported.

Overall, this book is useful for the general medical community and for clinical endocrinologists. Its major strengths are the comprehensiveness of the chapters and the quality of the details and writing. This is a valuable addition to any medical library.

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CORRECTIONS

Weekly Paclitaxel in the Adjuvant Treatment of Breast Cancer (April 17, 2008;358:1663-71). In Figure 2B (page 1668), the label above the hazard ratio plot should read, “Hazard Ratio for Overall Survival (98.3% CI).” The figure has been corrected at NEJM.org.

Asthma (March 5, 2009;360:1002-14). In Table 2 (page 1006), for Ciclesonide, the Comments entry should read, “Prepared as an aerosol solution, activated by airway esterases, approved for twice-daily use.” In the first footnote under Table 2, the sentence beginning “Mometasone and ciclesonide have been approved for once-daily use” should instead begin with “Mometasone has been approved for once-daily use.” The article has been corrected at NEJM.org.

NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal’s Web site (NEJM.org/meetings). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

MS 2009: MAXIMIZING CARE STRATEGIES

The conference will be held in Phoenix, AZ, on May 9.

Contact the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Arizona Chapter, 5025 E. Washington St., Suite 102, Phoenix, AZ 85034; or call (800) 344-4867 or (480) 968-2488; or fax (480) 966-4049; or e-mail pcarll@aza.nmss.org.

INFANTILE SEIZURE SOCIETY

The 12th Annual Meeting, entitled “International Symposium on Epilepsy in Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Related Conditions,” will be held in Kurume, Japan, May 9 and 10.

Contact the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Kurume University School of Medicine, 67 asahi-machi Kurume City, Fukuoka, 830-0011 Japan; or call (81) 942-31-7565; or fax (81) 942-38-1792; or e-mail iss2009@med.kurume-u.ac.jp; or see <http://www.med.kurume-u.ac.jp/med/ped/iss2009/index.html> or <http://www.iss-jpn.info>.

MAYO CLINIC JACKSONVILLE

The following courses will be offered in Amelia Island, FL, unless otherwise indicated: “Clinical Reviews and Primary Care Update 2009” (June 8–11); “Mayo Clinic’s 19th Annual Hematology/Oncology Reviews” (July 27–31); “Pulmonary Hypertension: An Update on Evaluation and Treatment” (Jacksonville, FL, Aug. 29); “Mayo Clinic Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease Review” (Sept. 11–13); “Mucosal Imaging and Ablation of GI Neoplasias” (Jacksonville, FL, Oct. 3); and “Mayo Clinic Endoscopy Live 2009” (Jacksonville, FL, Oct. 8–10).

Contact Mayo Clinic, 4500 San Pablo Rd., Davis Bldg., 172W, Jacksonville, FL 32224; or call (800) 462-9633; or fax (904) 953-2954; or e-mail cme-jax@mayo.edu; or see <http://www.mayo.edu/cme>.