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“New Perspectives in Sacral Nerve Stimulation”, by U Jonas and V Grünewald

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This book provides an overview of an important subject matter. Over the last decade sacral nerve stimulation has become an established therapeutic technique for patients with voiding and storage bladder problems. A great deal of information is available in the worldwide scientific literature; however, it is not often well collated. The strength of this book lies in its ability to put that information into a logical and structured format. This enables the reader to comprehensively understand this specialist area from its inception to its current position as an important adjunct in the medical care of specific patients.

One of the problems encountered by many clinicians in the field is the surgery required to insert sacral nerve stimulators. This surgery is carried out in the domain of the neurosurgeon. However, urologists and gynaecologists, who are not formally trained in neurosurgery, perform most of the stimulator insertions. This book gives clear step-by-step instructions on how to perform the procedures, what possible complications to expect and how to avoid them where possible. The pictorial guide is extremely helpful. Needless to say, this book provides an important reminder for those who have been

trained appropriately in performing these procedures, but who may need reassurance that their practice continues to be correct.

The scientific work looking into the current practice and results of those working in the field provides invaluable information for the new trainee. Some of the early problems of this technology are well documented. Furthermore, how to overcome some of the patient compliance issues with regard to repeated bladder investigations, surgical complications and long-term follow-up are also alluded to. It is apparent this treatment needs robust psychological assessment of the patient's ability to cope with it. This is an important point for those considering work in this field.

The book format is well chosen with good pictures, clear diagrams, helpful hints and points well documented. The overall layout is pleasing to the eye and makes it easy reading. All the chapters are well referenced and easy to comprehend.

In my opinion this is an essential scientific document for anyone thinking of embarking in this field and a valuable handbook for those already in the field. I would thoroughly recommend it.

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