

BOOK REVIEW

Diagnosis and Management of Multiple Sclerosis.
John O. Fleming, MD. Published by Professional Communications, Inc., Caddo, Oklahoma. ©2002, 320 pp.

Dr. Fleming is to be congratulated on an excellent manual on the diagnosis and management of multiple sclerosis. As director of the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, School of Medicine. Dr. Fleming is well versed in the treatment and management of MS. This 320-page manual covers the major areas of MS pathogenesis and treatment. There is an excellent discussion on epidemiology and genetics, a concise and up-to-date summary of the immunology and pathogenic etiology, excellent examples of neuroimaging, a practical and authoritative review of diagnosis, a well-balanced view on disease treatment, and useful paradigm for predicting prognosis. The major advantage of the book is its many tables, some of which include the risks of affected individuals in a family to develop MS. dosages of disease modifying agents, and

lists of symptomatic treatments, etc. The section on treatment provides an accurate description of the results of various clinical trials to date on this disease. A careful discussion is given to the pros and cons of whether or not to initiate immunotherapy early. The handbook will be of most use to students rotating through neurology, general practitioners who see MS patients, and to general neurologists who would like a review of current managements. The drawback of books such as this is that within a few years many of the conclusions may be out-of-date, especially in reference to treatment. Many physicians are turning to web-based data to obtain the latest information on treatment of specific disorders. Having this book on a website would allow for rapid access and the opportunity for it to be updated regularly. In conclusion, I recommend this book without reservation.

MOSES RODRIGUEZ, MD