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Pattern Recognition Neuroradiology

by Neil M. Borden, Scott E. Forseen.

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Reviewed by Rebecca J. Hunt

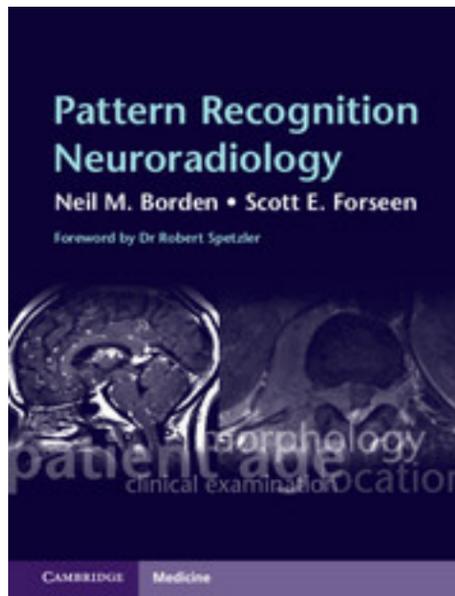
Book Review of Pattern Recognition
Neuroradiology by Neil M. Borden,
Scott E. Forseen.
Cambridge University Press.

ISBN 978-0-521-72703-7. Indicative cost £54.

This 339 page paperback text is marketed as intended for medical students, neuroscience trainees, general radiologists and radiology trainees preparing for exams and . I would suggest that the book is too in-depth for medical students, but may be of interest to the remaining intended audience, being of most use to radiology trainees during their neuro-radiology rotation or in the run up to exams.

The book adopts a novel layout, being broadly divided into sections on the brain and spine. Each of these is further divided into chapters of text and a large image gallery.

The text sections begin with a chapter on basic concepts including definitions, terminology and an overview of imaging, followed by a basic approach to image interpretation. The bulk of the text can be found in the next chapter which addresses pathologies based on disease processes and location. The remaining chapters are in the format of lists covering differential



diagnosis by lesion location and morphological characterisation. The main text section provides brief, core information to supplement the images in the subsequent gallery which is extensive, and composed of well labelled, generally good quality images.

Whilst the layout is unique, I find it fragmented and awkward to have to continually flick between the passage of text and the corresponding images. The references to the images are found at the start of each text sub-section, meaning one often has to refer to three separate pages regarding a single topic. The lists are useful, but relatively broad and not comprehensive.

The legends associated with the images are purely descriptive with no clinical history or patient demographics to correlate, which I feel would be useful. It

is difficult to use the images as a starting point for learning, as there is no direct reference to the associated text, and hence one has to look up the pathology in the index which is laborious.

The strength of this text is its comprehensive, well labelled image gallery which enables the reader to familiarise themselves with the imaging appearances of an extensive range of neurological and neurosurgical pathologies. The text section is generally well written and the book is portable.

Unfortunately, I find the layout frustrating and difficult to use, making it unsuitable as a quick reference text. The book is too succinct to be of sufficient depth for neuro-radiology exams, and the lists of differentials not as well organised or comprehensive as other available publications, meaning this book struggles in finding its niche.