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Vestibular disease and pathology remains one of the most difficult areas for the practicing otolaryngologist. In this book, the authors try to present a comprehensive text that will help the reader to understand this topic on a very deep level. It is 432 pages and is part of the Contemporary Neurology Series. It is written primarily by and for neurologists but would be of interest to anyone who treats vestibular disorders, including otolaryngologists and ear, nose, and throat residents. Robert W. Baloh, MD, the senior author, has published extensively on vestibular disorders and has written numerous texts. His forte is the translation of basic physiology science into clinical settings, and this text is a monument to his considerable talent and experience.

The text is divided into 4 sections. The first section deals with anatomy and physiology and is heavy in the basic sciences. It is a hard read but well worth it. Mastery of the anatomy and physiology of the vestibular system is paramount to understanding the pathology and treatment. The second section covers evaluation of dizziness and is very well written and organized. All aspects of vestibular evaluation from the history and physical to evoked vestibular potentials are covered. This section is aided by a series of videos available online that demonstrates the findings discussed. These videos are a very important adjunct to this book and are poorly promoted within the text. They are mentioned only parenthetically, and one must search the appendices to find the Web link to access these very useful learning tools.

The third section covers the diagnosis and treatment of common neurotologic disorders. The chapter on benign paroxysmal positional vertigo is particularly well written (although both Epley and Semont are misspelled in the figures). As one would expect from a textbook written by and for neurologists, the surgical options for vertigo treatment in Ménière disease receive little coverage (including the increasingly popular intratympanic therapies). The chapters on migraine, vascular disorders, toxic/metabolic disorders, and immune disorders, however, are the best I have ever read on the subjects. Superior canal dehiscence syndrome is covered briefly in the chapter on trauma but probably deserves its own chapter.

The last section covers the symptomatic treatment of vertigo and has just 2 chapters: 1 covering medical therapy and 1 covering vestibular rehabilitation. The chapter on medications covers most of the commonly prescribed antiemetic and anti-vertigo medications but again neglects intratympanic therapy and steroids. The vestibular rehabilitation chapter is a mere 10 pages, which is in contrast to the increasing importance of this mode of therapy. It would have been helped by illustrations and should have mentioned tests used to monitor the progress of rehabilitation such as posturography, dynamic visual acuity, and timed up-and-go.

Overall, this book is a valuable addition to the vestibular library and should be considered for purchase by anyone treating these challenging patients.