WYLLIE’S TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
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WYLLIE’S TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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DEDICATION

To the Cleveland Clinic, which brought me on board as a young doctor and provided me career opportunities beyond my wildest imagination.

To our Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Delos Cosgrove, whose visionary leadership has brought the Cleveland Clinic to where we are today, at the forefront of medical care throughout the world.

And to my husband, Dr. Robert Wyllie, Physician-in-Chief of the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital, who provides the environment for all of us who care for children to do our best work.

Dr. Elaine Wyllie, on campus at the Cleveland Clinic.
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When I started the first edition of this book as a newly minted epileptologist at the Cleveland Clinic, most of our current antiepileptic medications were still on the horizon and epilepsy surgery was in the early stages of development. Each successive edition of the book chronicled sea changes in the field, from the development of powerful neuroimaging techniques, through approval of many new antiepileptic medications, to the emergence of genetics as a force in epilepsy diagnosis. Today, with its own neurodiagnostic procedures and plethora of effective treatment modalities, epileptology is one of the most rewarding and complex fields in medicine. And in society, epilepsy is starting to emerge from the shadows as patients and families band together in support groups and gather information from the internet. Persons with epilepsy are demanding, expecting, state-of-the-art health care at the same time that our field is growing more complex every day.

That’s why we need this book now more than ever. Its reason for being is to provide health care professionals with the most up-to-date tools to care for persons with epilepsy, day in and day out. Thanks to the 144 world-renowned experts who shared their knowledge with us, this fifth edition is a ready reference for cutting-edge information about everything from complex drug–drug interactions to age-related EEG manifestations of focal epileptogenic lesions. It’s been an honor to craft this work for all of us to use in our clinical practice.

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FOREWORD

It is a privilege and honor to be asked to write the foreword of the 5th Edition of Wyllie's Treatment of Epilepsy. It is also an easy task since I know the book well. The 4th edition is frequently pulled from my bookshelf when I have a question about a patient with epilepsy, and I am looking forward to replacing it with the 5th. While the first edition, published in 1993, was outstanding, each edition has achieved new heights. Recognizing that it is very difficult to continuously improve a legendary text, the 5th edition will not disappoint.

Advances in the treatment of epilepsy continue to evolve at a rapid rate as there is increasing awareness among both healthcare workers and the public of the enormity of the condition. Epilepsy does not spare age, gender, race, or ethnic group and is one of the most common neurologic disorders encountered. Increased understanding of the etiology, pathophysiology, and genetic underpinnings coupled with advancements in the medical, dietary, and surgical management of patients makes this an ideal time to publish the 5th edition.

Elaine Wyllie, along with her associate editors Gregory Cascino, Barry Gidal, and Howard Goodkin, has recruited an outstanding group of authors who have provided a comprehensive, but not encyclopedic, review of the treatment of epilepsy. Each author is well known for their work in epilepsy.

The book is crafted in a logical and educationally sound manner. Starting with the pathologic substrates and mechanisms of epilepsy, important chapters cover epidemiology, natural history, genetics, and epileptogenesis (Part I). A key tool in the evaluation of patients with epilepsy is the electroencephalogram and Part II of the book covers the basic principles of electroencephalography. A wonderful bonus in this section is a remarkably complete atlas of epileptiform abnormalities.

Epileptic seizures and syndromes are detailed in Part III of the book. The gamut of seizures and syndromes from the neonate to the elderly are covered in considerable detail. Nonepileptic conditions that mimic epileptic seizures are reviewed and there is a heavy emphasis on seizures in special clinical settings, such as seizures in neurometabolic diseases, head trauma, and neurocutaneous disorders.

Antiepileptic medications are reviewed in Part IV and epilepsy surgery in Part V. As the book's title would indicate, these topics are covered in considerable depth, either of which would qualify as a stand-alone monograph. Dr. Wyllie and her colleagues understand that individuals with epilepsy frequently have more issues than just seizures, and have devoted Part VI to psychosocial aspects of epilepsy.

The authors have crafted a highly integrated text, not an easy task when dealing with multiple authors. As such, the book is easy to read and flows from one part to the other rather seamlessly. While few readers will read the book cover to cover, the interested student who wishes to review topics will find the process enjoyable as well as educationally rewarding.

While there are numerous textbooks dealing with epilepsy available, none do as much as Wyllie and colleagues in one volume. Beautifully illustrated and attractively designed, the 5th volume will undoubtedly retain its stature as the best book on epilepsy available. It is highly recommended for everyone interested in epilepsy, from the medical student to the seasoned epileptologist.

Books like Wyllie's Treatment of Epilepsy do not happen without a great deal of work from the editors and authors. Kudos to all.

Gregory L. Holmes, MD
Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics
Chair, Department of Neurology
Dartmouth Medical School
Lebanon, New Hampshire
The fifth edition’s terrific associate editors—Dr. Gregory Cascino, Dr. Barry Gidal, and Dr. Howard Goodkin—each brought their own prodigious expertise, dedication, and good humor to the project. Ms. Jennifer Kowalak provided impeccable editorial assistance, and Mr. Tom Gibbons at Lippincott shepherded the book smoothly through production. Mr. Dick Blake, master teacher of dance and etiquette, remains a constant inspiration and wellspring of creativity. And I owe everything to Dr. Robert Wyllie, Physician-in-Chief of the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital—my husband, dancing partner, and father to our sons, Mr. Robert Wyllie and Mr. James Wyllie, who make us proud.
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Kay Kyllonen

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