



the book advises the use of legal consultation. Thus, armed with the background knowledge the book provides, the physician can quickly understand what he or she needs and can explain this to a lawyer.

The book serves as a good reference, since it also answers questions affecting daily practice, when physicians cannot consult a lawyer immediately. It addresses such questions as, How and when can one legally fire one's secretary? Can a physician inform the spouse of a patient who is infected with HIV? What is the hospital administrator's duty to the physician in questions concerning hospital privileges? Who bears the liability for errors in hospital practice? When does one call the coroner?

The manual gives a list of up-to-date references at the end of each chapter and also lists supporting documents and reference material available from professional associations such as the CMA and the Canadian Medical Protective Association.

Although some of the points in the manual require further explanation, this guide is indispensable to practising physicians in Canada.

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### The Canadian Family Guide to Stroke: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. 302 pp. Illust. Random House of Canada Ltd., Toronto. 1996. \$22. ISBN 0-394-22480-9. Also available through the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

**Overall rating:** Excellent  
**Strengths:** Illustrations, case examples and simple terms  
**Weaknesses:** Photos of patients in real sit-

uations would have strengthened the book  
**Audience:** Patients who have had a stroke and their families

The editors should be congratulated on bringing out a concise but informative book on stroke. This is an important guide for all patients who have had a stroke and their families, since it touches on all aspects of stroke, including its complications.

The first chapter, on warning signs, gives a brief introduction to the central nervous system in a palatable way, without many technical terms. The terms used in discussing stroke are clearly explained, and brief illustrations are provided. Preventive aspects are also discussed very clearly, with practical suggestions.

In the next chapter, the risk factors are listed, with examples and suggestions for mitigating risk. This chapter would be very useful for patients who have experienced stroke for the first time. As well, the families of patients with stroke often wonder about the type and variety of investigations conducted in the hospital. In the third chapter, these are explained, with particular discussion of the invasive and noninvasive investigations. I liked the fact that the book mentioned the complications of these procedures, such as warning family members about what to expect when a patient undergoes a cerebral angiogram.

The next chapter deals with treatment, including the medical and surgical aspects as well as new therapies for stroke. The usual complications of stroke are listed, with some preventive suggestions.

The best part of the book is the chapter on rehabilitation. It touches on the role of individuals, including the family and the rehabilitation team. The rehabilitation goal is explained methodically, with illustrations and case examples. The discussion of coping with stroke after leaving the hospital in the sixth chap-

ter is excellent. The book gives examples of many special tools available for patients' daily use. This chapter also touches on the emotional aspects of stroke.

The eighth chapter deals mainly with lifestyle and stroke prevention. These topics are also emphasized in the appendix, which includes several tables such as a food guide. At the end are the addresses of various support groups, which add to the usefulness of this book.

This book is an excellent aid in coping with a disease that is often devastating to patients and traumatic for their families.

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### Neuromuscular Transmission

Edited by Leo H.D.J. Booij. *Fundamentals of Anaesthesia and Acute Medicine series*. Series editors Ronald M. Jones, Alan R. Aitkenhead and Pierre Foëx. 196 pp. Illust. BMJ Publishing Group, London. 1996. Distributed in Canada by the Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa. \$80.95 (\$67.95 CMA members). ISBN 0-7279-0929-0

**Overall rating:** Excellent  
**Strengths:** Readable, concise, provides an excellent review of neuromuscular physiology and up-to-date references  
**Weaknesses:** Not encyclopedic, especially in coverage of clinical use of neuromuscular blocking agents  
**Audience:** Anesthetists, residents, intensive care physicians and pharmacologists

This book, the first in the series *Fundamentals of Anaesthesia and Acute Medicine*, boasts an impressive