

LEON DANAILA – NORMAL AND PATHOLOGICAL VENOUS SYSTEM OF THE BRAIN

The Publishing House of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, 2016

This new textbook is another important achievement of the Patriarch of the Romanian Neurosurgery, Acad. Leon Danaila.

For neurologists and neurosurgeons the importance of the venous diseases of the brain is more than obvious. That is the reason why this textbook is strongly recommended to every specialist in the brain diseases, no matter if it is just starting the medical carrier or it is already an accomplished specialist.

The book presents in an exhaustive but also attractive manner the most important aspects of venous diseases of the brain.

The first two chapters are devoted to the embryology and the anatomy of the venous system of the brain.

These two chapters have more than 100 pages and are of an invaluable aid for the reader to a solid understanding of the brain venous diseases.

The third chapter is dedicated to surgery of the superficial cerebral venous system, of the deep cerebral venous system, of the posterior fossa and of dural sinuses. The surgical techniques are thoroughly described and cases from the author's personal experience are used in order to illustrate the techniques.

The next 14 chapters (4–17) are actually approaching two main types of cerebrovascular diseases:

- cerebral venous thrombosis, its various locations and treatment,
- cerebral venous malformations.

Every chapter starts with a historical perspective, and the description of every disease is made in a detailed manner.

From “classical” clinical signs to modern investigations and therapeutic procedures, we have in front a complete picture of every venous disease of the brain.

The value of computed tomography, magnetic resonance, computed tomography venography, magnetic resonance venography, conventional angio-

graphy and direct cerebral venography, transcranial Doppler, etc., are emphasized. But the author concludes that the final decision belongs to the clinician, who must know “whom to test, when to test and what to test”!

Medical treatment which is very important, particularly in thrombotic disease is carefully analyzed.

Then, the modern methods of treatment are presented.

Interventional radiology has become the standard today in many situations where surgery was routinely used in the past.

The stereotactic radiosurgery has its special place in the treatment of these diseases and is presented in Chapter 17.

Every chapter is followed by an extensive bibliography.

The book is illustrated in a very rich manner with cases from the author's personal experience.

And this experience is really impressive: 42 aneurisms of the vein of Galen (of which 8 cases are presented in detail), 104 carotid cavernous fistulas, 67 arteriovenous fistulas (11 are presented in detail), 367 arteriovenous malformations (the cerebellar, the interhemispheric and the temporal lobe are presented in detail).

I want to remind that Acad. Leon Danaila is the one that introduced microsurgery in neurosurgery in Romania in 1978 which resulted in a significant reduction in the immediate postoperative mortality.

He is the most experienced Romanian neurosurgeon, whose results got national and international recognition.

But, Acad. Leon Danaila had significant contributions to the basic science of the brain also. Probably, his most important contribution is the discovery of cordocytes, protective cells of the brain, thoroughly described in an excellent chapter on “cerebral vasculogenesis and angiogenesis”.

For the last 40 years, Acad. Leon Danaila became, in fact, the living history of the Romanian

neurosurgery, many of the most modern procedures being introduced by him of by the Institute where he works (Institute for Cerebrovascular Diseases).

The whole book is the effort of the single author who proves to be, once again, a remarkable clinician, a brilliant surgeon, an accomplished scientist and teacher and, finally, an original writer, whose personality raises above the scientific content of the text.

At a venerable age today, Acad. Leon Danaila is an excellent example of a creative personality, honoring the Romanian Academy and the Romanian medicine.

Prof. dr. Irinel Popescu

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