



BOOK REVIEW

The comprehensive neurosurgery board preparation book: illustrated questions and answers, III edition, edited by Paul V. Biriny, Najib E. El Tecle and Eric Marvin, New York, Thieme Publishers, 2016, 448 pp., ISBN:9781626232808, 9781626232815.

Belgian neurosurgeons are submitted to a continuous evaluation during their residency. Examination of their theoretical knowledge and their practical expertise is performed by their seniors all through their residency. This is nevertheless not organised as in the US where board certification by the American Board of Neurological Surgery is considered the gold standard for neurosurgeons practising in the US.

The ABNS primary examination requires many months of preparation, and passing it is both a significant accomplishment and integral component of becoming board certified.

For Belgian neurosurgeons, continuous training is mandatory and reactivation of their knowledge through questionnaires such as used to prepare ABNS can be very efficient.

The book is organised in 20 chapters equally divided among questions followed by answers. There are more than 1300 questions. Moreover, the book is enhanced with more than 350 colour illustrations.

Starting with physiology and anatomy, each chapter methodically covers core topics including radiology, neurology, pathology/histology, ophthalmology, and more.

The major advantage of this book is linked to the fact that the authors provide brief explanations and pearls that accompany each question, which offers a solid springboard for delving deeper into any given topic. Explanations of correct and incorrect answers

facilitate learning and retaining vast amounts of material. The format is easy to follow and this enables the reader to start a long session of revising his knowledge or just to go from one or two questions. At the end of the book, in order to reflect the actual situation during an exam, full-length practice tests are suggested.

Even if it is devoted to US residents, this comprehensive board review book helps any Belgian neurosurgical residents of all levels to test the basis of their training and their progression in their residency. Moreover, it can be a good self-assessment tool for any neurosurgeon who is interested to test his knowledge and decide to revise some of its aspects.

ORCID

Didier Martin  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7325-4958>

Didier Martin 

Department of Neurosurgery

University Hospital of Liège

Chu Sart Tilman

B35, 4000 Liège, Belgium

 didier.martin@chu.ulg.ac.be