**Book review**

Laligam N Sekhar, Richard G Fessler  
*Atlas of Neurosurgical techniques. Brain – Volume 1 & 2*  
Volume 1: pages 1-665; illustrations: 1538; (on-line access): 97 videos  
Volume 2: Page: 1-803; illustrations: 1653; operative videos (on-line access): 100 videos  

Richard G Fessler, Laligam N Sekhar  
*Atlas of Neurosurgical techniques. Spine and Peripheral nerves*  
Pages: 938; illustrations: 1155  
Operative videos (on-line access): 22  

Whether be it resident or faculty, what every neurosurgeon would wish to have is ready access to a compendium on neurosurgical operations, from expert neurosurgeons, that is readable, understandable and, leaves the readers with confidence that they can emulate what they have just studied. The *Atlas of Neurosurgical techniques* is reality of any such fancyful thinking. The book is edited by Professors Laligam Sekhar and Richard Fessler, two neurosurgeons who need no introduction to any neurosurgical audience.

The first edition was in two books: cranial and spinal. The new edition comes as two books, as well. However, the ‘cranial’ book is now in two volumes to accommodate the increased material including chapters on extended endoscopic approaches. The second book is on spine and peripheral nerve surgery. The first edition was excellent. To improve on excellence is no mean feat. However, the current edition surpasses even high expectations; these books set new standards on every aspect of academic book publishing.

The books are not just atlases; chapters take the reader through the surgical thinking-process from anatomy, indications, patient selection, investigations, operations, post-op care and complications. The exact structure of each chapter is tailored to the topic.

The chapters are very readable. Despite the book being multi-authored, the chapters are all beautifully written and with a uniform style. The chapters are not just descriptive steps of operations but also rich in insightful, intelligent and relevant operative nuances from experienced surgeons.

The atlas aspect of the books, is a stunning gallery of excellent illustrations and photographs - in each chapter. In these books, you can see the best of recent digital advances in graphics making its fullest impact. These pictures indeed speak for thousand words. The books are replete with illustrations. The combined illustration-count is 4346!

Then, there is the operative video collection that is accessible to the readers. These are professionally edited videos that supports the text; proof of the text.

The hardcover version is beautiful and elegant. The typography is excellent on high quality paper. The illustrations are appealing and illuminative. The books are bound handsomely.

The electronic version of the books is viewed with Thieme’s ‘Bookshelf’ app. The ebooks render beautifully in this app. Queries regarding the electronic version are promptly responded to by the Thieme team. The hardcover and the electronic versions are sold separately.
The *Atlas of Neurosurgical techniques* is a masterpiece, a dynamic book for the 21st century neurosurgery. The editors, authors, illustrators and publishers should be congratulated on the *Atlas of Neurosurgical techniques*. These are books that one will be proud to own, hold and study from; they showcase of the vastness and intricacies of operative neurosurgery in all it glories through words, pictures and videos to educate and inspire!

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