

## BOOK REVIEW

**Neurotechnologist Reference Guide®**, by ORIMtec®, Second Edition, 2008, 2009, 138 pp. Price: \$49.95

With exposure to all manner of occupations over my perhaps dubious career, one thing generally stands out. When you are up to your backside in a pool of alligators, you really need a quick exit. This is where a good and handy reference guide can pay off. For those of us who find ourselves in “surprise” situations, last minute add-ons and, oh-by-the-way, they expected you there 20 minutes ago, clearly falls into this category. This is especially true when it’s a type of case you haven’t done in awhile.

The original version of this particular reference guide certainly covered most of the basics. By the way, make sure you picked up the version copyrighted 2008, 2009. The cover didn’t change so you’ll need to look inside. The Section breakdown hasn’t changed, except for the addition of a Reference Section.

I would like to draw your attention to Section 3 — Stimulation and Recording Sites. This section is where the improvements stand out. Although Section 3 is virtually identical to the original Reference Guide, the addition of art work is most helpful. Many times a photo, especially a black and white photo, just isn’t very helpful. It will get you into the general area, but not completely home. The use of art work allows for the display of landmarks, perhaps not easily seen (or shouldn’t be displayed for modesty reasons). For those of you who feel a touch insecure as to where we really should place those needles, this will clear up some of the confusion. Now there are some caveats here. Several suggested needle placement sites do not adequately tell you about overlying structures. So in some cases you might be getting two for the price of one, so beware. For example, the external obliques overlie the intercostals and have different innervations, but you would have to go through the external obliques in order to get to the intercostals.

ORIMtec® added a brief discussion about brainstem auditory evoked potentials.

Section 5 — Anesthesia Considerations is almost identical to the original. Still it is an important section. Every anesthesiologist I work with uses a different protocol. Some will use generic names, some will use trade names. So it’s important to realize that they may not be using a “new” drug of choice, but just a different name. For me, I hadn’t heard of Zemuron® until the past several weeks. I thought it was new. Turns out it is just rocuronium which I had known about for some time.

The “characteristic” block for the typical inhalation agents has been improved. It gives a more understandable version of what to expect.

Of course, the addition of a Reference Section adds some credibility to any Guide.

Overall **Neurotechnologist Reference Guide®** is a good addition to your backpack.

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