Neurosurgery for Spasticity
Neurosurgery for Spasticity
A Practical Guide for Treating Children and Adults
Preface

Spasticity is a common sequelar condition frequently encountered after a variety of pathologies that affect the upper motor neuron system. Spasticity can be useful by compensating for lost motor strength, but may also become harmful leading to further functional losses and irreducible contractures.

When spasticity fails to be controlled by relaxant medications and physical therapy and special rehabilitation programs, functional neurosurgery can be a recourse. By aiming at diminishing the excess of tone and re-equilibrating the tonic balances, neurosurgical procedures, that often need to be supplemented with orthopedic operations, may help improve function and limit irreversible deformities.

The book is devoted to the neurosurgical management of spasticity. The matter is based on an overall surgical experience of more than a thousand patients, both adults and children. The book reports in a synthetic way the lessons from own clinical observations and main literature data. The authors have attempted to organize the whole in a didactic and practical manner.

Overall, emphasis is placed on the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, including neurologists, pediatricians and rehabilitation specialists. Close collaboration with other surgical disciplines, namely, orthopedic surgery, neuro-urology, among many other specialties, are also outlined.

We hope that the book will be a useful aid for all physicians and professionals directly or indirectly involved in caring these severely affected and disabled patients.

Lyon, France

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Patrick Mertens
First of all, we want to express our deep indebtedness to those patients who have to endure their harmful disease, to their family and their caregivers, for their courage to face so often severe handicaps.

We wish then to manifest our gratitude to the neurosurgical team whom we are daily working with, namely doctors Gustavo Polo, Emile Simon, Afif Afif, Andrei Brinzeu, and also the physical therapists, the nurses, the secretaries and all the staff members, so intensively devoted to the task of treating these disabled patients.

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We do hope the book will be useful.

Lyon, France

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