Neuourology

Theory and Practice
Dear Colleagues,
For some 60 years doctors have been addressing in depth the effects of Neurogenic Bladder Dysfunction on the life expectancy and quality of life of those affected. The decisive factor was not least the desolate and mostly deleterious course of this complication which emerged increasingly through injuries to the spinal cord in the two World Wars. In the following years numerous further illnesses were discovered, the complications of which are similar. The causes are manifold.

Apart from traumatic disorders, inflammatory malignant or hereditary diseases frequently lead to dysfunction of the bladder with the aforementioned consequences.

The therapy for one cause is—as, for example, with paraplegia—seldom or not at all possible for others.

Due to the clinical and scientific efforts of doctors such as Guttmann, Bors and Comarr, Rossier, Scott, Lapides, McGuire, Brindley and others it became possible in the second half of the last century to achieve decisive improvements in the quality of life and life expectancy of these patients.

International scientific societies involved, such as ISCOS, ICS, EAU, AUA—along with many national societies—supported this research with dedication and success.

Also colleagues from the industry’s research facilities have contributed important impulses towards the improvement of the clinical situation.

The book/e-book edited by Liao and Madersbacher shows the latest standing of development with all its facets. It represents impressively the current state of development and is a comprehensive complete work of almost all the scientists working in this area.

The current form of an e-book should contribute to spreading the comprehensive contents quickly and globally. I am convinced that it makes extensive information possible for all interested medical specialties.

Our scientific endeavour has led to an enormous wealth of data and therapy options. I would be delighted if these findings lead to an improvement in the quality of life of our patients.

Manfred Stoehrer
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Preface

The reader of this book/e-book may welcome a statement from the editors on the principles underlying the book and a few additional words of explanation. First, the term “neurogenic bladder,” includes all disturbances of function and diseases of the bladder due to disorders arising in the central nervous system, peripheral nerves, or intrinsic nerves and ganglia. The term neurogenic bladder is therefore incorrect and misleading. Neurogenic bladder should be replaced by neurogenic lower urinary tract dysfunction, but the term neurogenic bladder is still used worldwide for these diseases.

Neuro-Urology is regarded as a sub-specialty of urology dealing with urinary tract dysfunction caused by acknowledged neurologic diseases or nerve lesions, thus comprising a wide spectrum of different etiologies, pathophysiologies and subsequent functional and secondary structural consequences for the lower and upper urinary tract, then including the diagnosis and treatment for these dysfunctions and complications.

Neuro-urology is a fast-growing sub-specialty. Therefore, an e-book format was chosen, and Springer kindly agreed that the authors could update the chapters every 2 years. Thus, the content of the e-book will more or less parallel developments in the field of neuro-urology.

The aims of this book/e-book are to give an update on neuro-physiology and neuro-pathophysiology of the lower urinary tract, present the principles of the diagnostic evaluation, describe the clinical problems, and inform the reader about the current therapeutic options.

To achieve this purpose, we have invited an impressive number of renowned contributors, including 87 of the most distinguished international experts in this field from 24 countries in Europe, Asia, North America, and South America. The book/e-book is truly an international effort and collaboration. The invited authors are a mixture of older, experienced and younger, very active neuro-urologists. The editors would like to thank all of the authors for their excellent work.

The first part of this book focuses on the basic anatomy of the urinary tract, which will facilitate an understanding of the basic scientific knowledge of innervations and neural control of the lower urinary tract (LUT), clarify the pathophysiologic changes of the upper and lower urinary tracts caused by various nervous system diseases, present the epidemiologic data and risk factors, and describe the classification criteria of neurogenic upper and lower urinary tract dysfunction.

The second part of the book will comprehensively and systematically elaborate the diagnosis and evaluation of neurogenic bladder disorders from the beginning of symptom assessment to the endoscopic examination, focusing on the urodynamic and electrophysiologic examinations of the LUT.

The third part of the book describes the various methods of treatment for neurogenic bladders, including the classic traditional and new controversial methods. With respect to the latter, we have asked the authors to provide evidence-based, objective, scientific, and fair descriptions of the current status, advantages, disadvantages, and future prospects of new therapies.

The fourth part of the book gives a comprehensive account of urinary tract infections, pain, and other complications caused by neurogenic bladders, as well as associated bowel, sexual, and reproductive dysfunction, with an emphasis on the importance of follow-up evaluations.
The last part of this book describes the specificity of neurogenic bladders, as caused by ten neurologic diseases, including pediatric neurodevelopmental abnormalities and spinal cord injuries in adults.

Neuro-urology has not yet received sufficient attention, although in the clinical setting we have a large and increasing number of patients with neurogenic bladders who do not receive quality medical care, as well as timely and accurate diagnosis and treatment.

If this book/e-book inspires more medical personnel, especially young colleagues, to develop an interest in neuro-urology, and if it provides senior researchers and clinical practitioners in the field with a valuable cutting-edge reference book, then we will be satisfied as editors.

We are delighted and honored, that Professor Manfred Stöhrer, the former Chief of the Department of Neuro-urology at the Trauma Hospital in Murnau (Bavaria/Germany) and Lecturer on Neuro-urology at the University of Essen, has written the foreword to this book/e-book. Not everybody is aware that it was Manfred Stöhrer who reported for the first time the beneficial effects of botulinum toxin injection into neurogenic overactive bladder at the 1999 International Continence Society (ICS) meeting in Denver.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr. Bing Hu of Springer for his most valuable support of this book/e-book, and the International Neuro-urology Society (INUS) for help during the organization and writing of this book. We also want to thank Drs. Zhao Haitao, Fan Zhang, and Xing Li, as well as Ms. Mag. Irina Anich for help in editing this book. Last, many thanks go to our families for unconditional support.

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Contents

Part I  Anatomical Basis

1  Anatomy of the Upper and Lower Urinary Tract   3
Erich Brenner

Part II  The Innervation and Neural Control of the Lower Urinary Tract

2  Sensor and Transducer Function of the Urothelium   19
Changhao Wu

3  Peripheral Neural Control of the Lower Urinary Tract   27
Yasuhiko Igawa

4  Spinal Cord   37
Mitsuharu Yoshiyama and Hidehiro Kakizaki

5  Central Pathways That Control the Urinary Bladder   55
Bertil Blok

6  Overview of Neural Control of Bladder Storage and Voiding   59
Jalesh N. Panicker

Part III  Physiology and Pharmacology

7  The Integrated Physiology of the Lower Urinary Tract   65
Chris Fry and Rita Jabr

8  Pharmacology of the Lower Urinary Tract   79
Naoki Yoshimura, Eiichiro Takaoka, Takahisa Suzuki, and Joonbeom Kwon

Part IV  Pathology and Pathophysiology

9  Pathology and Pathophysiology of the Lower Urinary Tract   115
Jean Jacques Wyndaele

Part V  Epidemiology

10  Epidemiology of Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction   127
Marcio A. Averbeck, Ulrich Mehnert, Riyad Al Mousa, and Thomas M. Kessler

Part VI  Classification

11  Classification and Terminology of Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction   133
Helmut Madersbacher and Jerzy B. Gajewski
Part VII  Diagnosis and Evaluation

12  Patient History  143
   Helmut Madersbacher

13  Physical Examination  147
   Helmut Madersbacher

14  General Laboratory Tests  151
   Nuno Grilo and Brigitte Schurch

15  Conventional Urodynamics  155
   Marcio A. Averbeck and Thomas M. Kessler

16  Ambulatory Urodynamics  165
   Stefan De Wachter

17  Provocative Tests During Urodynamics  167
   Stefan De Wachter

18  Urodynamic Findings of Neurogenic Bladder  169
   Siobhan M. Hartigan, Joshua A. Cohn, Casey G. Kowalik,
   Melissa R. Kaufman, W. Stuart Reynolds, Douglas F. Milam,
   Alan J. Wein, and Roger R. Dmochowski

19  Uro-neurophysiological Evaluation of the Neurogenic Bladder  177
   Magdy M. Hassouna, Abdullah A. Ghazi, and Ali J. Alabbad

20  Imaging Techniques in the Evaluation of the Neurogenic
    Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction (NLUTD)  183
   Jerzy B. Gajewski and Ashley R. Cox

21  Renal Function Evaluation  195
   Nuno Grilo and Brigitte Schurch

22  Endoscopic Evaluation of Neurogenic Bladder  199
   Jürgen Pannek

Part VIII  Treatment

23  An Overview of Treatment  203
   Julian Shah

Part IX  Non-invasive Conservative Treatment

24  Assisted Bladder Emptying  211
   Jan Krhut

25  Lower Urinary Tract Rehabilitation  215
   Marianne de Sèze and Alexia Even

26  Repetitive Magnetic Stimulation  221
   Somrot Phonglamai and Sintip Pattanakuhar

27  Drug Treatment  231
   Karl-Erik Andersson, Helmut Madersbacher, Waleed Altaweel,
   Pawan Vasudeva, and Yasuhiko Igawa

28  External Appliances  261
   Veronika Geng, Hanny Cobussen-Boekhorst, Hanneke Lurvink, Ian Pearce,
   Susanne Vahr, and Dora Mair
### Part X Minimal Invasive Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Intermittent Catheterization (IC)</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Todd Purves and Jessica C. Lloyd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Intravesical Drug Therapy</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Todd Purves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Intravesical Electrostimulation (IVES)</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helmut Madersbacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Percutaneous/Transcutaneous Tibial Nerve Stimulation</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grigory Krivoborodov</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Botulinum Toxin Injections in the Bladder and Urethral Sphincter</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>João Silva and Francisco Cruz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Botulinum Toxin and the Bladder: Future Research Directions</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apostolos Apostolidis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Balloon Dilatation</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Manuel Castro-Diaz and Barbara Padilla-Fernandez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part XI Electrical Stimulation and Neuromodulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Sacral Deafferentation and Anterior Root Stimulation: The Brindley Procedure</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juan Carlos Castaño and Phillip Van Kerrebroeck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Sacral Neuromodulation</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stefan De Wachter, Giulio del Popolo, and Michele Spinelli</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Pudendal Neuromodulation</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michele Spinelli, Giulio del Popolo, Julien Renard, and Stefan De Wachter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Implantable Chronic Tibial Nerve Modulation (CTNM)</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karl-Dietrich Sievert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part XII Detrusor Myoplasty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Bladder Covering by Striated Muscle</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karl-Dietrich Sievert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part XIII Bladder Augmentation/Augmentation Cystoplasty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>An Overview of Bladder Augmentation</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limin Liao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Bladder Autoaugmentation</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pawan Vasudeva</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Augmentation Cystoplasty</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homero Bruschini, Pawan Vasudeva, and Limin Liao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Ureterocystoplasty</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limin Liao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Tissue-Engineering Bladder Augmentation</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limin Liao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Part XIV  Substitution/Diversion

46 Bladder Substitution in Neuropathy ........................................ 373  
  Julian Shah  
47 Urinary Diversion in Neurological Disease ............................ 377  
  Julian Shah  

### Part XV  Surgery for Bladder Outflow

48 Surgery for Bladder Neck/Urethra  .................................... 383  
  David Manuel Castro-Diaz and Barbara Padilla-Fernandez  

### Part XVI  Other New Procedures

49 Bladder Re-innervation Procedures .................................... 395  
  Karl-Dietrich Sievert  
50 Other New Developments: Use of Stem Cells and Gene Therapy .... 401  
  Karl-Dietrich Sievert, M. Renninger, and C. Füllhase  

### Part XVII  Management for Complications

51 Urinary Tract Infections Among Patients with Neurogenic Bladder ........ 411  
  Aurélien Dinh, Jérôme Salomon, and Pierre Denys  
52 Vesico-ureteral Reflux ............................................. 423  
  Jürgen Pannek  
53 Upper Urinary Tract Dilation ........................................... 425  
  Limin Liao  
54 Bladder/Pelvic Pain and Neurogenic Inflammation ..................... 433  
  Lori Ann Birder  
55 Neurogenic Bowel Dysfunction ......................................... 447  
  Gianna Rodriguez and Anne P. Cameron  
56 Sexual Dysfunction and Fertility in Neurogenic Lower  
  Urinary Tract Dysfunction ........................................... 457  
  Waleed Altaweel and Raouf Seyam  
57 Other Uncommon Complications in Neurogenic Bladder Patients  
  When Neuro-Urology Is Not Part of the Health Care System ........ 479  
  Emmanuel J. Braschi  

### Part XVIII  Follow-Up

58 Follow-Up ............................................................ 489  
  Peter Zvara  

### Part XIX  Specificities of Neurogenic Bladder from Some Nervous System Diseases

59 Cerebrovascular Accidents ............................................... 495  
  Bryan J. Hill, Casey G. Kowalik, Joshua A. Cohn, and Roger R. Dmochowski
Contents

60 Parkinson’s Disease ................................................................. 499
   Ryuji Sakakibara

61 Dementia ................................................................. 511
   Marcio A. Averbeck and Helmut Madersbacher

62 Multiple Sclerosis ................................................................. 517
   Ryuji Sakakibara, Fuyuki Tateno, Tatsuya Yamamoto,
   and Tomoyuki Uchiyama

63 Spinal Cord Injury ................................................................. 525
   Hazel Ecclestone and Rizwan Hamid

64 Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction in Children ................. 533
   Stuart B. Bauer

65 Multiple System Atrophy ................................................................. 549
   Ryuji Sakakibara

66 Disc Disease ................................................................. 563
   Casey G. Kowalik, Joshua A. Cohn, and Roger R. Dmochowski

67 Diabetes ................................................................. 569
   Abdulrahman Almuhrij and Riyad Al Mousa

68 Radical Pelvic Surgery ................................................................. 577
   Paul D. Slocum Jr, Casey G. Kowalik, Joshua A. Cohn,
   and Roger R. Dmochowski
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