The Clinical Neuropsychiatry of Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the most common cause of neurological disability in young and middle-aged adults. This fully updated and revised new edition provides a detailed account of the many neuropsychiatric disorders associated with MS and is relevant to both the research and the clinical setting. Using the latest brain imaging findings and results from treatment trials, the symptoms, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of depression in MS are covered, as are psychosocial factors and the link between depression and magnetic resonance imaging abnormalities. Subsequent chapters focus on cognitive dysfunction in MS, including the natural history of cognitive change, the use of screening instruments and neuropsychological batteries, brain imaging correlations and management strategies. The book concludes with a survey of the behavioral benefits and risks associated with disease-modifying drugs. It will be valuable to all mental health professionals, neurologists and others caring for those affected by MS.

Anthony Feinstein is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

Reviews of the First Edition

“This is a clinically oriented volume, which is well researched, written and edited . . . Feinstein should be congratulated for his effort in reviewing and bringing together what is known of the psychiatry of MS . . .”

British Journal of Psychiatry

“This readable book is both a comprehensive overview, to be read cover-to-cover, and a reference volume, to be consulted as appropriate . . . Feinstein deserves particular commendation for his strong pragmatic and clinical bias . . . All in all, I recommend this book to complement any MS library.”

The International MS Journal

This volume illustrates the refreshing advantage of a single-authored work, which avoids the redundancy, inconsistency of approach, and lack of balance of multi-authored works. It is a pleasure to read. I recommend it not only for the long list of those who manage MS patients but for general neurologists and residents in neurology and psychiatry as well.

Annals of Neurology

This is a useful, well-written book that would be of interest to anyone concerned about cognitive dysfunction and the utility of neurological illnesses in illuminating the relationships between brain and behavior.

American Journal of Psychiatry
To my parents
The Clinical Neuropsychiatry of Multiple Sclerosis

Second edition

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## Contents

**Acknowledgement** ........................................ page vi

**Foreword** by Giancarlo Comi ............................. vii

1 Multiple sclerosis: diagnosis and definitions ........ 1

2 Depression: prevalence, symptoms, diagnosis and clinical correlates ........ 28

3 Depression: etiology and treatment .......................... 46

4 Multiple sclerosis, bipolar affective disorder and euphoria .................. 66

5 Multiple sclerosis and pseudobulbar affect ...................... 82

6 Multiple sclerosis and psychosis ................................ 99

7 Cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis .................... 115

8 The natural history of cognitive change in multiple sclerosis ............. 145

9 Cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis: detection, management and significance .................................................. 155

10 Neuroimaging correlates of cognitive dysfunction .................. 178

11 Multiple sclerosis, disease-modifying treatments and behavioral change ...... 214

12 Multiple sclerosis: a subcortical, white matter dementia? ................. 232

*Color plates are located between pages 140 & 141*

**Index** ............................................................. 257
Acknowledgement

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Foreword

Among neurological disorders, multiple sclerosis has the unfortunate honor of being the most frequent cause of disability in young individuals. With the evolution of the disease, the brain is progressively deprived of sensory inputs and largely loses the ability to produce adequate responses. A combination of inflammation and degeneration causes progressive brain and spinal cord atrophy, which starts very early in the disease course and increases during the disease process. In addition, widespread damage takes place in the surviving gray and white matter. Not surprisingly, the disease often impacts on higher brain functions with neuropsychiatric manifestations. These processes are all admirably reviewed in this book and, for each cognitive and psychiatric disorder, the physiopathological theories are extensively and critically examined, making the book very useful not only for physicians, but also for researchers. The exceptional experience of Anthony Feinstein in this area, demonstrated by many key papers produced in the last decade, emerges clearly, page after page: the analysis of the literature is always combined with the "personal" view and a very useful summary of the main findings.

There are many reasons why neuropsychiatric disorders assume a key role in the management of multiple sclerosis patients: they occur early and affect about half of the patients; they are the most frequent cause of unemployment and a major determinant of a reduced quality of life; moreover, they negatively affect the ability of the patients to adhere to therapeutic protocols and to benefit from the most recent advances in both etiologic and somatic treatment.

This book should be read by all multiple sclerosis physicians because it can contribute to better care for many patients.

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