

January 29, 2017

Re: review of Clinical Reasoning In Spine Pain Volume II: Primary Management of Cervical Disorders Using the CRISP Protocols, Case Studies in Primary Spine Care by Donald R Murphy, DC

The field of spine care is replete with misuse, overuse, variation, rapidly escalating costs, both direct and indirect, and such a diverse choice of diagnostic and treatment interventions as to be referred to as the 'supermarket.' Almost without exception this is a global phenomenon. Perhaps nowhere else in health care is there such an urgent need for a standardized, patient centered, evidence influenced approach, and Dr Murphy provides this in his excellent text Clinical Reasoning in Spine Pain Volume II: Primary Management of Cervical Disorders Using the CRISP Protocols, Case Studies In Primary Spine Care. This is a very pragmatic text, translating best evidence into very useful and easily implementable clinical practice strategies and tools. Volume II is the follow up to Clinical Reasoning in Spine Pain Volume I: Primary Management of Low Back Disorders Using the CRISP Protocols, and includes a substantial section on Case Studies, allowing the reader to work through the clinical reasoning in spine pain protocols. The book is intended for any clinician who works in the field of spine care, but provides an especially practical framework of study and practice for those interested in Primary Spine Care, the front line, or first touch providers who are expected to evaluate, diagnose and most importantly manage the vast majority of patients with spine related disorders.

Clinical Reasoning In Spine Pain Volume I and Volume II present a whole-person, truly biopsychosocial approach to the evaluation and management of spine pain. The book should be read cover-to-cover as it presents the topic as a story, assisting the clinician in unraveling the spine pain experience of the patient. Strategies are adopted which aid both the clinician and patient in understanding the problem, and in developing successful strategies to help the patient 'overcome the problem.' Each chapter of Clinical Reasoning in Spine Pain is followed by a Recommended Reading list, provides resources to delve into specific topics in a much deeper fashion.

Cervical spine disorders, while not as prevalent as low back disorders, nevertheless present an enormous burden to society, both in cost and impairment. While the overall approach of Clinical Reasoning in Spine Pain is similar for low back and cervical spine disorders, the intricacies and nuances of the cervical spine present some unique challenges for both the evaluation and management. Dr Murphy succinctly deals with these challenges while not sacrificing a comprehensive approach to cervical spine disorders. The approach is framed within 3 fundamental questions: Do the presenting symptoms/signs reflect a visceral disorder, or a serious or potentially life threatening illness? Where is the pain coming from? What is happening with this person as a whole that would allow the pain experience to develop and persist? The book contains detailed information on both the evaluation and management of cervical spine disorders, concluding with an extensive section of clinical case studies.

Dr Murphy brings 30 years of clinical experience, as well as many years experience as both a clinical researcher and clinical instructor, in both medical and chiropractic institutions. This unique perspective, as well as a sincere commitment to helping patients 'overcome' spinal disorders, makes him a true leader among spine clinicians. I recommend this book, along with Volume I, with great enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

John M Ventura, DC

Spine Care Partners, LLC

University of Rochester School of Medicine, clinical instructor

United States Bone and Joint Initiative, board member

National Quality Forum, musculoskeletal committee

Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services, technical expert panel