Book Reviews


While there are many comprehensive books on electroencephalography, this publication is aimed to provide a simple clinically oriented book at a low cost. This book has been subsidized by Government of India under the Core Books Project on Medical Sciences, through the National Book Trust, India.

The lay out of the chapters is comprehensive. In addition to clinical EEG in paediatric and adult epilepsy, EEG in commonly encountered clinical problems has been discussed. There is some emphasis on EEG features in infectious diseases of central nervous system. There are chapters on video-EEG and the role of EEG in the presurgical evaluation of patients with epilepsy.

However, addition of some more essential data to some of the chapters would have made the book more comprehensive. While discussing the basics of EEG, there should have been a discussion on the genesis of EEG (neurophysiology). Similarly there should have been a discussion on the ontogenicity of EEG and also more discussion on paediatric epilepsies and epilepsy syndromes, and neonatal seizures. Some of the EEG features are highly specific for some of the childhood epilepsies. There should have been more details on technical aspects of continuous EEG monitoring in the intensive care units. An introduction to intracranial EEG recording should have been included.

Some of the EEG recordings are not of high quality and also are not classical examples. Quite a few of the EEG recordings included were in the referential montage.

Overall, the book is a good introduction for students in neurology and epileptology and also for the EEG technologists.

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This book is a unique contribution to the field of obstetric care and maternal health in India. The book brings together historical perspective, policy and service delivery analysis as well as levels of obstetric risks and nature of obstetric care in central India. There are very few articles and almost no books which focus exclusively on obstetric care in India from the public health perspective. The area of central India has been rightly chosen for analysis as this area has the poorest health indicators in the country.

The book begins with historical perspective of obstetric care in India and analyses the policy situation as well as development of various health programmes focusing on safe motherhood and reproductive health. The first chapter shows that even though maternal mortality has been declining in India over the last fifty years, its pace of decline has been decreasing and in the last few years maternal mortality has been stagnant. The central Indian States
of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, and Jarkhand show much higher mortality than rest of India. This chapter also highlights the problems associated with measuring maternal mortality and gives an interesting overview of how the maternal health programmes are developed with assistance of external donors in India.

The next chapter discusses levels and determinants of obstetric risks in central India. It starts with definition of maternal mortality and methods of assessing obstetric risks and provides an overview of various methods with their advantages and disadvantages. It provides estimates of maternal mortality in various States in central India with detailed analysis of model based estimates for each district of Madhya Pradesh. Finally, causes of maternal deaths and determinants of obstetric risks are discussed. The maternal mortality rates for various States are given. The chapter also provides estimates of maternal mortality by various socio-economic characteristics showing high rates with low status of living, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in rural areas.

The third chapter reviews the situation of obstetric care in central India. It discusses the determinants of maternal health based on international literature, and focuses on levels of prenatal care, delivery care, and utilization of family planning services using national family health survey and rapid household survey under reproductive and child health programme for the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It is interesting to note that though the median levels of these indicators are low in each of the States, the range of the indicators is very wide and in most States there are a few districts, which have achieved better coverage as compared to the rest of the State. This shows inter-district variation. The chapter discusses the issue of inequity in the reach of obstetric services. A group discussion of issues and framework for improving maternal health services is provided at the end of the chapter. The authors showed through their analysis using various data sets that maternal health and health services are highly unsatisfactory in central India and there is considerable scope for improvement in the obstetric services especially in the rural areas. At the end detailed tables are provided on various indicators by State as well as by districts in Madhya Pradesh.

The fourth chapter focuses on inequality in antenatal care in rural Madhya Pradesh. Using National Family Health Survey (NFHS-II) data. The authors have analyzed the situation of antenatal care in central Indian States. The analyses show that most women in central India do not receive any antenatal care. Health workers are not systematically visiting homes and not providing care in central India. The authors have used sophisticated statistical techniques such as logistic regression to understand relationship between various background characteristics and use of antenatal care. This analysis showed that higher socio-economic status of women, exposure to media and higher educational status of the husband were associated with higher odds of receiving antenatal care. The authors conclude that health services in central India are not able to provide basic antenatal care and are unable to overcome socio-economic and cultural barriers to care.

In the next chapter the authors present a good review of public private divide in institutional care and factors determining delivery care through an extensive review of global literature on this topic. NFHS-I and II data have been used and variables that were significant predictors of delivery locations were identified using regression techniques along with the extent of their influence. This chapter presents an interesting comparison between Madhya Pradesh and developed States such as Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and Karnataka on the use of public and private facility for delivery and cesarean section by income quintiles. It is surprising to note that there is rapid increase in cesarean section not only in urban areas but also in rural areas between 1993 and 1998. In some of the States such as Kerala and Karnataka, the rate of cesarean sections in urban areas have crossed the upper limit of 15 per cent indicating overuse of cesarean section. The authors point to the need to regulate the private sector and bring in accountability among the health care providers so that the medical technology is not misused.

The sixth chapter focuses on availability of emergency obstetric care in selected districts in
Madhya Pradesh. The primary data collected from five less developed districts of northern Madhya Pradesh showed that there were hardly any private sector facilities; 114 institutions reported 44,568 deliveries and only 538 cesarean sections in one year. The proportion of cesarean sections was very low. The authors have plotted a Lorenz curve of obstetric admissions showing that large majority of obstetric procedures only happen in very few of the hospitals. The analysis of complications treated showed severe infrastructural problems hampering delivery of emergency obstetric care. The availability of anaesthetists, obstetricians and surgeons was limited at the district as well as sub-district hospitals. Some of the tables presented at the end of the chapter highlight very minimal staffing and supply of drugs at the health facility survey.

In the next chapter the idea of universalizing availability of emergency obstetric care services is discussed. It is proposed to divide the levels of emergency care into four levels instead of the usual two. The authors argued that by doing this the emergency services would be more accessible to the community nearer to the homes where majority of deliveries are happening. This argument sounds convincing in theory but its implementation may not be easy.

The last chapter focuses on the role of obstetric care practitioner in the management of obstetric emergencies, highlights the policy barrier wherein most critical functions are restricted to highly trained and qualified specialists who are less in number and located in the urban areas thus having very little access to care in rural areas, and discusses alternatives where skills and authorities are increased at lower levels so that more life saving care can be provided by midwives and general duty doctors. The authors describe various positive steps taken by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to improve training and availability of midwifery care in rural areas.

Overall the book is well written with a lot of data, in depth analysis using statistical techniques and well discussed information, and the key issues related to maternal mortality and obstetric care in central India. Each chapter carries useful references at the end. The quality of the book could have been improved through a more thorough editing as at many places there are minor errors and inconsistencies. The quality of tables, charts and graphs could have been improved as in some of the graphs, labeling of the access is hardly readable. This is a comprehensive and useful book focusing on a very neglected subject of obstetric care in central India. The book will be useful for teachers and students of obstetrics and community medicine.

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**Modelling lymphatic filariasis transmission and control,** S. Swaminathan (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands) 2004  
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The publication deals with an important health issue that is quite pertinent to developing countries including India. It aimed to contribute to knowledge through quantification of population dynamics of *Wuchereria bancrofti* (WB) both in human and in vector, to the development and application of integrated transmission models for lymphatic filariasis (LF) that could aid in making policy decisions about control programmes. It also intended to demonstrate that the model could be used for studying the dynamics of recrudescence of infection after cessation of control.

In all, there are five chapters. The first chapter deals with the general introduction including magnitude of the problem of filariasis in developing countries including India. Considering the disease burden it has been referred to as the public health problem. Life cycle of the parasite has been nicely elaborated both with mathematical and biological background. Having described the vector control, parasite control and morbidity control, control approaches in Indian scenario have been discussed.
Referring to the magnitude of the disease in Pondicherry, the time trend of the disease over the years has been discussed.

Over time, LF has been studied to observe the prevalence, trends and the intensity of the disease. The statistical treatment for such diseases has been different as compared to non communicable diseases. In such scenario, an analytical review of the statistical modeling provided here is very much desirable. It has not only provided an exhaustive review giving the recent developments but also discussed the idea of collaborative programmes and the simulation models intended to be worked out.

The second chapter deals with the epidemiological evaluation of the effect of the vector control programme. Details about the city and the control approaches have only been referred. The approach of the study should have formed the part of the material and method section. The results have been presented effectively through tables and figures. The issue of non availability of the treatment facilities to the referrals should have been forwarded as the monitoring tool for the public health management as well as for good practices in clinical trials. Although the changes in the density and the prevalence over time have been presented with the details of the entomological and parasitological aspects, but the sample design of the survey has not been elaborated for easy understanding.

The third chapter deals with the dynamics of infection in the vector. It is composed of four sections drawing contents from four different papers published by the author. The section describes the uptake and development of *W. bancrofti* microfilariae by *Culex quinquefasciatus* based on the results from experimental field stations. The study has provided a good amalgamation of appropriate experimental and statistical designs. The hyperbolic function and distribution have been appropriately described. The comparison of periodicity in vector biting and microfilaria appearance in the blood of human in relation to the hour of the night is appropriately described with graphic presentation. The next section discusses the analysis of frequency distribution of *W. bancrofti* infection in the vector host *vis-a-vis* human host. It has considered the assumption of the distribution of microfilaria (Mf) and concluded that distribution in vector was similar to that in humans. Such application forms an important hypothesis and can be tested in the future research. In the third section, the author has dealt with the rate acquisition and loss of *W. bancrofti* infection in *C. quinquefasciatus*. Looking into the contents and material and methods, it is felt that this could have formed an independent chapter. Also, the approach described therein should have been mentioned in the introductory chapter. Similarly, the contents of fourth section, which are also drawn from a published paper by the author, could have formed an independent chapter. It is one of the important applications of survival analysis dealing with some methodological issues under the experimental methods. It has been concluded that the development of WB larvae is density dependent under the natural settings, which has a strong bearing on the control of filariasis in our country.

The contents of the fourth chapter are drawn from four papers of the author related to model development. The detailed expression of LYMFA SIM as a stochastic micro-simulation model has been given in the first section as an opening to the future modeling work. In the present scenario of vector control, assessment of its effectiveness is quite relevant. The issue of immune response has also been described. In the next section, statistical and mathematical modeling approaches relating to epidemiology, transmission and control of lymphatic filariasis have been reviewed. The section contains reference of the recent advancements, which have taken place in the modeling theory related with LF. It has discussed modeling theory and statistical computing in the transmission dynamics including human infection. The applications of LYMFA SIM in the typical endemic situation has been discussed particularly for testing of hypothesis and prediction. The third section presents the use of the longitudinal data generated at Pondicherry through the modeling approaches to study the impact of integrated vector management of intensity of *W. bancrofti*. The section provides an in depth analysis of the dynamics of infection. The
schematic LYMFA SIM model under consideration has been extensively dealt with. The fourth section deals with the scope of elimination of bancrofti filariasis by mass drug treatment. Although the modeling approaches have been discussed, but the messages which have been documented are general in nature and obvious.

There are seven sections in the fifth chapter dealing with different issues of the modeling approaches. Though the questions that have been augmented as the hypotheses have been tested and validated, they need elaboration on the part of epidemiological discussion. The discussion contains many issues that could have formed part of the introduction. The results could have been better compared with the other similar studies carried out in India and abroad. The modeling of the infection has been dealt well for the worm load and worm life span. Mass treatment is an important component of the discussion as it targets elimination of the disease.

The scope of the work has been discussed with due consideration of limitations of the present research work which is important to give precise lead to the future researchers. The applications of the LYMFA SIM in the other areas and for decision support in clinical and epidemiological research could have been dealt in with more details for the benefit of young researchers. The sixth section answers the nine questions, which were raised as hypothesis initially. The seventh section gives the conclusions and the recommendations. The entire work is well presented. It gives an important insight into the problem in Indian scenario and future lead to the control activities. The work would interest biostatisticans epidemiologists and public health specialists.

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in Asian Pacific Islander and American Indian children followed by African American and Hispanic children and those with higher glycylated hemoglobin A1c levels. An office-based study in Australia found much higher rates (16%) and a positive correlation with BMI. BP >130/90 mm Hg has been associated with a more-than-fourfold increase in the relative. Cardiometabolic risks and severity of obesity in children and young adults. N Engl J Med. 2015;373(14):1307–1317. pmid:26422721. OpenUrl CrossRef PubMed.