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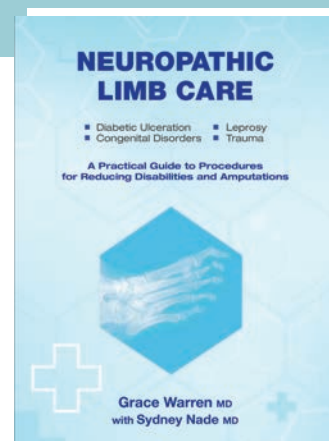
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Title NEUROPATHIC LIMB CARE
• Diabetic Ulceration -Leprosy-Congenital Disorders-Trauma
• A Practical Guide to procedures for Reducing Disabilities and Amputations

Author Grace Warren MD (with Sydney Nade MD)

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This book is a revision of Dr Grace Warren's *"The Care of Neuropathic Limbs, A Practical Manual"* and was first published by the Parthenon Publishing Group in 1999.

Introduction

Dr Warren saw that there was a need to provide a comprehensive manual on the management of neuropathic limbs. She felt it should focus on the long-term dedication required to manage this problem to prevent limb deformity and amputation. She explains the current literature is fragmented and mostly defines experiences in managing these conditions in economically rich countries. Her wide experience working in developing countries as a surgeon with a focus on prevention of amputation showed her there were many options to assist limb salvage that are overlooked that can be effective in managing neuropathy.

Content

The text begins by defining the challenge of managing neuropathic limbs which now is seen largely in patients with diabetes but Dr Warren covers case studies of patients with other neuropathies. She begins with the importance of patient centred care and how a dedicated multifaceted approach can result in limb salvage.

The book continues with a very comprehensive section on assessment and studies to assess and diagnose neuropathic limbs. These assessments are very low tech such as charting sensation and radiography. This could be easily and cheaply achieved in developing countries and remote locations.

A very extensive range of interventions and treatments are described and the emphasis is very much on patient education, intervention and self-management. I believe this is one aspect that is overlooked in developed countries. I suspect many of my podiatry colleagues would be very reluctant to teach our patients to debrided their own calluses but Dr Warren explains how she does and teaches this and notes it can be very effective. Even in Australia there are very few patients that get callus or wound debridement as regularly as they require it.

The book finishes with useful appendices from other health professionals and adds additional insights into the management of neuropathic limbs.

This text provides a clearly written and practical guide to the management of neuropathy. It would be useful to any practitioner or patient looking to improve their understanding of these challenging conditions and as a podiatrist working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people many with neuropathic diabetic foot ulcers I think this text successfully challenges us to do more and consider how we help our patients.

The real strength in this text is for those clinicians in developing countries without access to comprehensive expensive medical care, where the clinical care advocated in this book will really make a difference.

A criticism of this book is in the section on wound care. Whilst it is a comprehensive cover of traditional wound care treatments and dressings I think it overlooks the advances made. I do understand that wound therapies can be expensive and not applicable in all settings but I think an appreciation of the principles of wound care is another skill set useful in our tool box of therapies.

Conclusion

I believe this book provides a very practical guide to management of neuropathic limbs. I applaud Dr Warren, clearly her dedication and passion to practice quality patient care in many countries has paved the way for us today to continue to fight to save limbs and she provides the road map to do this.

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