

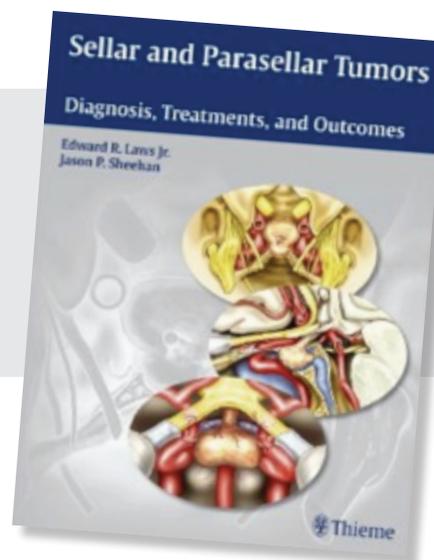
Review Sellar and parasellar tumors: diagnosis, treatment and outcomes

By Edward Laws (Editor) and Jason Sheehan (Editor)

Thieme Publishers, New York- Stuttgart, October 2011. 290 pp.

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This is a beautifully illustrated book written by two prominent neurosurgeons (Sheehan from Virginia and Laws from Harvard). The chapter in anatomy is excellent, covering almost one fourth of the book and worth every page – written by the brilliant Professor Rhoton, perhaps the best living neuratomist. Although it does not include the famous 3-D photos he is famous for, the colours and the clarity of the images render this chapter the highlight of the whole book.

Unfortunately, there is significant lack of consistency in the rest of the book: for example, the authors devote a meager 3 pages on “medical evaluation and management” while the chapter that follows, “opthamological evaluation and management” extends to more than 50 pages. Additionally, there is a glaringly obvious absence of any significant otolaryngological input, including reconstruction options and sinonasal anatomy and approaches. This is also reflected in the paucity of information on extended endonasal approaches, which are presented exclusively in an excellent but rather small chapter by Daniel Prevedello.

In summary: This is a nicely illustrated book, with some excellent chapters, which is however focused primarily on neurosurgeons although it could be useful to anyone who deals daily with such tumours. Its pros include the beautiful presentation and logical layout of the book, courtesy of Thieme and good editing, excellent anatomy and endoscopic chapter, while its functionality is significantly limited by the absence of significant otolaryngology or endocrinology input and the inconsistent quality of the chapters.

Conclusion: This could not be advocated as the primary reference book for an otolaryngologist dealing with sellar tumours, although it could complement some other textbooks.

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