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### **Electrophysiologic Evaluation in Otolaryngology**

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In the past decade, the field of electrophysiologic evaluation of patients with balance and hearing disorders has matured considerably. Many electrophysiologic measurement techniques are by now widely used and considered standard procedures, while other, newer methods are still being improved. In this situation, a book on electrophysiologic evaluation in otolaryngology is more than welcome. The book contains eight contributions on such different topics as electrocochleography, recording and interpretation of auditory brainstem responses, electroneurography, testing of the vestibular system, the use of electrophysiologic methods in the management of cochlear-implant patients, and otoacoustic emissions. While most chapters are reviews of the state of the art and of recent developments, the two contributions concerning electrocochleography and vestibular evoked potentials present predominantly original data from the laboratories of the authors.

The articles are of uneven quality, with the majority of the contributions being carefully written, instructive and easily understandable for people from neighboring fields and carefully structured and referenced. One of the gems of the book is the accurate and easy-to-read review of auditory brainstem response by Hall and Rupp. Another

highlight is the contribution on otoacoustic emissions by Probst and Harris. In this contribution the authors not only provide a clear and comprehensive view on the state of the art as well as a structured list of recommended reading but also convincingly explain why a chapter on otoacoustic emissions – a method which in principle is clearly outside of the range of electrophysiologic evaluation techniques – nevertheless must be included in this book. Some of the information presented in the excellent chapter on objective measurements in cochlear implant patients was already dated at the time of printing, a fact which is almost unavoidable in a rapidly evolving field of research.

On the negative side, one could criticize the missing labels and/or units in several diagrams throughout the book, which makes them more difficult to interpret than necessary, especially for readers unfamiliar with the topic. The chapter on vestibular evoked potentials starts with a figure showing the relations between velocity, acceleration and its derivative incorrectly. Furthermore, one would wish that terms such as ‘coriolis acceleration’ and ‘information loading’ were explained when used for the first time.

In general, however, the contributions are accurate and well written. While the reader should keep in mind that critical reading is recommended, the volume is undoubtedly useful for anyone who either looks for an up-to-date introduction to specific electrophysiologic methods in otolaryngology, or who wants to keep up with recent developments in this area.

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