
Book Review

Older Women with Chronic Pain

Karen A. Roberto, PhD (Ed.). Harrington Park Press
1994. 119 pages \$14.95 (US). ISBN: 1-56023-061-4
(paper)

The increasing interest in treating chronic pain brings us new books concerning this large topic. This multi-authored book consists of eight chapters attempting to cover problems associated with chronic pain in later life ranging from the physiology and biomedical aspects through assessment of people with chronic pain, musculoskeletal pain, cancer pain, psychological aspects of chronic pain, interventions, and finally an agenda for research and practice. The fact that this book consists of only 117 pages makes it impossible for any of these topics to be explored in depth. What this book does well is provide an overview of the age and pain-related problems. Several statistics indicate the magnitude of the topics addressed, other demographic data point to the need for more research concerning old age and chronic pain. There is considerable stress on the social and psychological effects of suffering pain in later life.

I find the title of this book misleading. The authors talk about chronic pain in the older population in general. Only a short paragraph mentions the role of oestrogen in relation to pain. I would recommend this book as additional reading to gerontologists and all people involved in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic pain. The selected group of patients suffering from chronic pain could benefit from the information contained in this book as well.

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