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BOOK REVIEW

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## Mechanisms and Mediators of Neuropathic Pain

(Malmberg, A. B., and Chaplan, S. R. (eds.) Birkhauser, Basel-Boston-Berlin, 2002)

The book “Mechanisms and Mediators of Neuropathic Pain” published in 2002 in the series “Progress in Inflammation Research” was written by a team of authors—clinicians and experimental physiologists. It considers mechanisms of neuropathic pain—a pain syndrome accompanying peripheral neuropathies. The subject of the first and second chapters are morpho-functional changes of sensory axons and spinal cord after trans-sections of peripheral nerves: some peculiarities of axonal spontaneous activity, expression of sodium and other channel proteins, role of cytokines and neurotrophins in generation of nociceptive pain signals. In the third chapter, the mechanisms and features of neuropath-

ic pain are considered, which were found using experimental models and clinical observations of neuropathic pain. In the last chapter of the book, the results of clinical use of glutamate antagonists (ketamine, amantadine), anti-epileptic drugs (phenytoin, carbamazepine, and others), and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -blockers (nicardipine, verapamil) for arresting of neuropathic pain are discussed. A possible role of acetylcholine receptors and adenosine- and adreno-receptors in evaluation of chronic pain syndrome is discussed. Brief but substantial analysis of new data concerning the problem of neuropathic pain, brought together in the book, will be interesting for physiologists, pharmacologists, biochemists, clinicians, and many other readers.

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