

Motivational interviewing in health care

Helping patients change behavior

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OVERALL RATING Good

STRENGTHS Presents both theoretical and pragmatic strategies of motivational interviewing

WEAKNESSES None

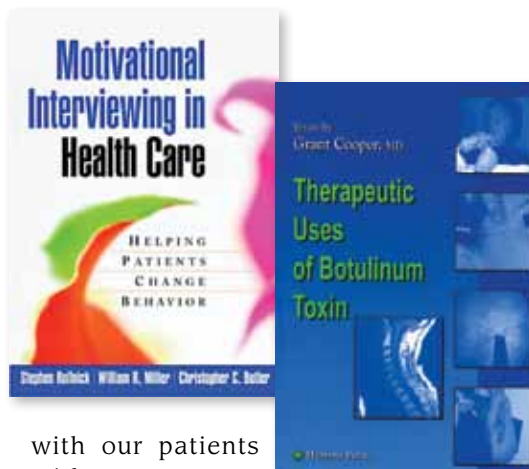
AUDIENCE Academic family physicians, physicians with interest in behavioural change

I'll admit that I'm a champion of motivational interviewing (MI); as such, an opportunity to read how MI might assist me in both my practice and my teaching of family medicine residents and medical students piques my interest.

This book is helpful and practical in guiding readers through the concept of MI and how it changes the ways we interact with our patients about the most difficult of issues, especially behavioural (and lifestyle) change.

The authors call the principles of MI (eg, honouring patient autonomy, collaborative interaction, and the evocativeness of patients' strengths and abilities) the overarching "spirit" of MI. This seems to fit right in with the philosophy of family medicine.

Using a mnemonic (RULE), the authors describe the important rules of MI, highlighting the great paradox of how what we are trying to achieve



with our patients with our present strategies mostly backfires. The RULE mnemonic is easy to remember: Resist the righting reflex. (Correcting or offering alternatives rather than providing guidance to patients is a common flaw that I'm certainly guilty of.) Understand the patient's motivations. Listen to your patient. Empower your patient.

If these principles and rules of engagement with patients fit your frame of reference, then you will find this book to be useful and challenging. The bulk of the book helps you use the RULEs by explaining how interviews can help you engage with patients differently than you do now; however, this is more challenging than it seems.

I tried this in my daily practice and it hurt. Why? Perhaps because my ways of working have substantial inertia and are difficult to change. I found it easier to coach my residents in using these techniques, as I could provide the insight on how to motivate by using this model when conducting interviews.

What are the results of my own experiment of incorporating these MI strategies into my day-to-day work? I have less frustration with those who aren't planning to change; more frustration with those who are contemplating change but are still full of ambivalence; and lots of new insights about my role as a "coach" rather than an expert advisor in my work with my patients.

I presented the concept of this book to a panel discussion with physicians and nurses on motivating obese patients. The book's concept enabled me to provide the forum with a practical and honest perspective about both the struggles and opportunities that MI presents as we search for effective strategies to motivate our patients toward healthier lifestyles.

—Cheri Bethune MD MClSc CCFP

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Therapeutic uses of botulinum toxin

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OVERALL RATING Good

STRENGTHS Provides a broad reference for a wide scope of medical problems

WEAKNESSES Attempts to expose the botulinum toxin as a panacea; terminology and abbreviations are used inconsistently throughout the book, creating confusion

AUDIENCE Medical specialists, including orthopedists, urologists, cosmetologists, sports physicians, otolaryngologists, and neurologists

The preface to *Therapeutic Uses of Botulinum Toxin* is very interesting and clearly explains the book's purpose, which is to create a reference text for the various applications of botulinum toxin from numerous points of view. The book appears to be intended for a broad spectrum of medical specialties; however, the chapters vary in scope and depth. It seems that given the fact that the editor is a physical medicine and rehabilitation provider, such aspects are more carefully detailed in the chapters devoted to musculoskeletal disorders. The book is generally well written and easy to follow. Because the book attempts to do so much in such a relatively small volume, some topics get minimal coverage.

The book is divided into 15 chapters, including an initial chapter dedicated to the history and mechanism of action of botulinum toxin. Unfortunately, some chapters repeat that general topic in their introductions, which is unnecessary and often not useful for readers. There are some well-illustrated chapters. The last chapter deals with another interesting general topic on the economics, immunity, and future of botulinum toxin. The chapters related to musculoskeletal disorders are particularly well written—botulinum toxin is presented as an additional therapeutic tool in the management of these problems. I found this book well organized; each chapter includes detailed references, and further readings are sometimes recommended.

Overall, this book introduces large amounts of general information in relatively small pieces, given the limited space, and rarely goes into great depth. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting a reference for the range of uses of botulinum toxin, but not to those who wish in-depth discussion on any one of its individual uses, particularly those practising in a specialized area. The book is, in general, easy to read and understand.

—Alfonso J. Rodriguez-Morales MD MSc FRSTMH

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