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Sommario/riassunto	An estimated 11,000 spinal cord injuries occur each year in the United

States and more than 200,000 Americans are currently living with a spinal cord injury. A spinal cord injury affects many systems and functions of the body that are vital to health and well-being and can result in paralysis, bowel and bladder dysfunction, sexual dysfunction, respiratory impairment, temperature regulation problems, and chronic pain. During the last two decades, long-standing beliefs about the inability of the adult nervous system to heal itself have been eroded by the flood of new information from research in the neurosciences and related fields. However, there are still no cures and the challenge of restoring function in the wake of spinal cord injuries remains extremely complex. Spinal Cord Injury examines the future directions for research with the goal of accelerating the development of cures for spinal cord injuries. The Institute of Medicine's panel of experts examines research needs and priorities and provides a set of recommendations for future research directions. Further recommendations are made for strengthening and coordinating the research infrastructure. The report was sponsored by the New York Spinal Cord Injury Research Board. Funders at federal and state agencies, academic organizations, pharmaceutical and device companies, and nonprofit organizations will all find this book an essential resource as they examine their opportunities.
