



Book Reviews

Oral Health Care for Those With HIV Infection and Other Special Needs. S. Porter and C. Scully

This book represents a compilation of individual papers from participants in a British council course completed in 1993. The book is organised into chapters according to the topics presented at this meeting. The first ten chapters review HIV associated disease and infection control. The remaining chapters in the book deal with haematologic disease, endocarditis, organ transplantation, diabetes, renal disease, hepatic disease, neurologic psychiatric disease or a malignancy, care of the elderly, oral care of visually impaired, and aspects of conscious.

As would be expected, materials that represent a compilation of multiple presenters at a course and their written submission varies in quality.

Some chapters of the book are extremely well written and well referenced, while others present little in the way of referenced comments. Overall, the book would be well served in developing specific formats for each chapter such as aetiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and clinical management. Only one section describes in any detail histopathology and the remainder fulfils a clinical mandate. The book would also benefit from a subject index at the end that would allow easy referencing, particularly between chapters.

While the book takes primarily a clinical approach, some chapters, such as oral health care for HIV positive individuals, would have benefited from a general discussion of approach to management and a discussion that the therapy is affected by the prognosis of the individual and management of HIV disease. The chapter on viral hepatitis would benefit from a table contrasting the various viruses. Better documentation of the section on infection control would be valuable, for example, the theoretical risk of patient infection associated with contamination of water lines should be discussed as theoretical only as evidence of transmission of disease via this route has not been demonstrated. However, discussion of this concern is appropriate. The chapter on leukaemias focuses only on paediatrics and therefore limits the reference sources and the generalisation to the adult population. This chapter would be of increased utility if the scope was broadened to include discussion of management in adults. While some controversial subjects are identified they are not fully referenced, such as in the discussion on the use of chlorhexidine.

Particularly useful material is presented in the discussion of HIV in epidemiology, oral fungal and bacterial infections, viral infections, gingival and periodontal aspects, and oral neoplasms. The chapter on oral bleeding disorders and hepatic disease is particularly useful. Therefore, the section that reviewed HIV associated disease and its manifestations is the principal strength of this book in addition to specific chapters on bleeding disorders and endocarditis, and diagnosis of oral malignancy.

This book would be useful for individuals active in hospital departments with an interest in medically compromised patients and has the areas of strength as noted above and cursory review of other areas.

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Pathology Illustrated, 4th Edition, 1995. D.T. Govan, P.S. Macfarlane and R. Callender. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 843 pp. £30.

Pathology Illustrated is deservedly a well-established book. The authors have taken immense effort to explain every important aspect of pathology in terms of diagrams with the minimum of text. The fact that this text has had to be revised every 5 years shows how well the authors have succeeded in capturing a substantial readership. It might almost appear that the authors have succeeded too well, in that revision has become such a monumental task that inevitably a few things have slipped past them. A granular cell tumour is still a "myoblastoma", hepatitis B is still "syringe-serum hepatitis" on one page but described fully on others, malignant tumours of blood vessels are described as being "extremely rare" but Kaposi's sarcoma is included among them, disseminated intravascular coagulation is listed among systemic causes of renal damage but its complicated nature is not explained. One can only feel sympathy for those facing such a Herculean task. However, it is a pity that authors with good Scottish educations condone the American inability to distinguish verbs from adjectives and allow the use of the term "alternate" rather than "alternative" pathway of complement activation. One can only hope that this does not encourage students to commit similar acts of illiteracy.

These trifling comments should not be allowed to mislead anyone about the real qualities of this book. An enormous amount of information is covered and areas that students must still find difficult are exceptionally clearly described. Neoplasia, including carcinogenesis and immunological aspects is given a chapter of 41 pages of its own while tumours of individual organs are discussed in later chapters. Renal diseases, to take another example, fills 51 pages of diagrams, tables and interspersed text. Students should surely feel grateful for the work that has been done to make things easy for them.

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