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Praktische Tropen und Reisemedizin. Patientenberatung und Empfehlungen zur Diagnose und Therapie von Tropenkrankheiten

Second thoroughly updated and extended edition. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart – New York, 2003. XI + 257 pages. Format 120 × 190 mm. Softcover. Listprice EUR (D) 24.95/CHF 42.00. ISBN 3-13-108342-5

First edition occurred in print in 1997. As stated in the introduction, the aim of this second edition is to give emphasis to mediation between print and electronic consultations, and more extensive literature on medicine in the tropics. The arrangement takes into consideration a practical course of a physician-patient interaction including pre-travel consultations and advice to travellers, further on prophylactic measures and evaluation after return. The volume is organized in five sections.

Section 1 is intended to give a general introduction to tropical and travel-related cosmopolitan infectious diseases, nominally to the pre-travel questions, to problems of persons after travel and migrants, to regional geomedical-epidemiological particularities, to particular tropical diseases, etc. *Section 2* focuses on pre-travel evaluation and on preparation for travel. Medical advice implicates climats and acclimatization, aptitude for the tropics, travel with children, travel in pregnancy, travel of elderly persons, long-term professional stay in tropical areas, motion sickness (kinetosis), hazard and prevention of travel thrombosis, aptitude for air travel, further on vaccinations and personal medical kits (supplies). *Section 3* is concerned with evaluation of returned travellers and with differential diagnosis of tropical diseases. Special attention is given to geographic and travel history (anamnesis), health problems of migrants from tropical areas, health hazard, incubation and prepatent periods, differential diagnostics, etc.

Section 4 embraces coverage of tropical diseases. Outlined here are arthropod-borne and oral acquired infectious diseases, nominally viral, bacterial, protozoal and helminthic infections,

sexually and parenteral transmitted diseases. In consequent chapters discussed are percutaneous and contact infections, rabies and other zoonoses, tropical venomous animals, and systemic tropical mycoses. *Section 5* encompasses the most frequent, travel-associated questions: aptitude, pregnancy, malaria, traveller's diarrhea, vaccines and immunoprophylaxis, rabies, blood donors, and other themes. Moreover, listed are notifiable diseases and addresses of institutes for tropical medicine in Switzerland, Austria and Germany, and miscellaneous information and recommendations related to tropical and travel medicine.

The volume is illuminated by figures featuring malarial plasmodia in blood films, schematic life cycles of malarial plasmodia and *Entamoeba histolytica*, skin lesions and maps of geographical distribution of selected viral, bacterial and parasitic infections. Furthermore, there are 68 tables summarizing routine vaccines for travellers, incubation periods, systematic overviews of viral, bacterial, protozoal and helminthic infections, diagnoses and differential diagnoses, occurrence of infections in specific endemic regions, tropical mycoses, envenomations by snakes, scorpions, spiders, by poisonous marine fish, and the like.

This practical, pocket-size volume presents an authoritative, balanced and up-to-day handbook related to increasingly significant geographic and tropical medicine. It provides a valuable overview for professionals taking health care of travellers, as well as an indispensable guide for travel agencies.

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