

BOOK REVIEWS

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Infektionskrankheiten

Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart – New York, 2004. XVI + 692 pages. Format 170 × 240 mm.
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The editors are affiliated with university teaching hospitals (Charité and Univ.-Klinikum R. Virchow) and with the Robert Koch-Institute at Berlin. The list of contributing authors includes 48 leading German experts in the fields of microbiology, infectious diseases, internal medicine, paediatrics and other relevant clinical lines. As pointed up in the preface, the infectiology is a complex specialty of medicine with many different facets. The “understanding” infectious diseases embraces epidemiologic aspects, pathophysiological regularity and preventive measures. The volume is arranged in accordance with presented conception. It is dedicated in memory of Professor Meta Alexander, MD and to Professor Hansjürgen Raettig, MD – most prominent specialists in infections and microbiology at Berlin.

The volume is composed of two parts. Part I (pages 2–94) incorporates 5 chapters introducing general principles of infections: epidemiology of infectious diseases, pathogenesis and diagnosis of infections, pharmacotherapy of infections, vaccination, and legal proceedings.

Part II provides account of special infectiology in 21 chapters. Chapters 6 through 17 (pages 96–442) give attention to affections of particular organs and systems: pleuropulmonary system, head, neckspaces and salivary glands, gastrointestinal tract, biliary tree and gallbladder, pancreas, liver, intraabdominal infections, renal and urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, cardiovascular system, nervous system, infections of the eye and orbit, skin and soft tissue, bones and joints. Each chapter follows a consistent format, nominally definition/classification, epidemiological and clinical significance, aetiology and pathogenesis, clinical picture, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, therapy and prevention.

The rest of chapters (pages 443–647) is devoted to special subjects and is arranged as follows: sepsis enclosing the SIRS

(systemic inflammatory response syndrome), systemic infections, immunodeficiency disorders (HIV, AIDS), fever of unexplained origin, infections associated with defective immunity (non-AIDS), infections associated with pregnancy and newborns, children's infections, elderly and infections, and nosocomial infections. The volume introduces 184 illustrations and 93 tabular reviews. In conclusion, in a form of supplement or appendix, provided are impressive pictorial presentations of miscellaneous clinical conditions and some radiologic images. Colour photographs feature abnormalities, pathological findings, endoscopic aspects and skin lesions in diverse body regions.

Infektionskrankheiten offer a multiauthored, readable and up-to-date textbook with special views to medical practice. Delineated are about 150 clinical pictures, organ manifestations and systemic infections. The chapter on systemic zoonotic infections encompasses detailed descriptions of 31 species/groups of causative organisms, including viruses (rabies, LCM-virus, hantaviruses, West Nile fever, etc.), bacteria (genera *Bacillus*, *Leptospira*, *Bartonella*, *Brucella*, *Francisella*, *Yersinia*, *Salmonella*, etc.), protozoans (genera *Toxoplasma*, *Leishmania*, *Plasmodium*, *Trypanosoma*) and helminths (*Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Schistosoma*, *Ancylostoma*, *Filaria*). Emphasis is placed to diagnostic approach and modalities, and therapy – beginning with the baseline approach to the patient and his symptoms, notably with diagnostic procedures and calculated therapy in the case of not yet identified pathogen. Listed are about 90 antibacterial, antiviral, antimycotic, antimycobacterial agents, antimalarials, and anthelmintics. Detailed data on dosage, duration time of treatment, and alternative management are given.

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