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Infectious diseases

Third edition. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, a Wolters Kluwer Company: Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, London, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Sydney, Tokyo, 2004. XXVII + 2515 pages. Format 215 × 278 mm. Hardcover. Listprice USD 275.00. ISBN 0-7817-3371-5

All three editors are professors of medicine, affiliated with the Universities at Boston and Baltimore. The list of contributors includes nearly 400 selected authors with recognized expertise in their subjects. As declared in the preface, during the half past century, the frontiers of infection have undergone dramatic expansion. Public health measures, vaccines and development of new drugs have not removed infections from the register of human affections. Contemporary diagnosis and treatment of infection are no longer the domain of the solitary physician; they now require a cooperative approach that involves multiple specialties and utilizes a vast array of laboratory methods, imaging techniques, pharmacologic agents and surgical intervention. The field of infectious diseases has expanded at a rapid rate since the second edition of this book.

The volume is composed of 11 parts arranged into 289 chapters. Each chapter follows a consistent format, namely the history, characteristics of the pathogens, epidemiology, pathology, pathogenesis and immunity, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Each chapter is supplemented with a most comprehensive list of references covering up to about 100–200 or more citations.

Parts 1 through 4 (chapters 1 through 41) deal with general principles of infection, and with diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. Part 5 centres attention upon clinical infections classified according to affliction of human body regions or diverse organ systems: head and neck, pleura and lungs, cardiovascular system, gastrointestinal tract, liver and biliary tract, pancreas and spleen, urinary tract, gynaecology and obstetrics, skin and soft tissue infections, viral exanthems and localized skin infections, bones and joints, eye and paranasal sinuses, nervous system, lymph node syndromes. Moreover, explored are surgical infections, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and related infections, immunocompromised hosts, tuberculosis and leprosy, zoonoses, and other infections: infections in a prosthetic device, fever of unknown origin and toxic shock syndrome. Part 6 (chapters 182 through 227) is focused on microbial agents: gram-positive bacilli, gram-negative cocci, gram-negative bacilli, anaerobic bacteria, spirochaetes, miscellaneous microorganisms as are *Bartonella* spp., *Calymmatobacterium granulomatis, Nocardia* spp., agents of actinomycocis, Chlamydiae, mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas, and others, and *Rickettsia* spp.

Part 7 (chapters 228 through 263) is devoted to viruses. Nominally to virus classification, to DNA viruses (adenoviruses, herpesviruses, parvoviruses, papillomaviruses, etc), to RNA viruses (influenza, mumps, rubeola, coronaviruses, retroviruses, etc.). Part 8 examines unconventional agents causing slow infections including transmissible spongiform encephalopathies which present a group of infections of the nervous system whose nature remains controversial. At least five clinically distinct TSEs have been recognized in humans. TSEs affect also a variety of animals. Part 9 is concerned with the mycobacteria as agents of tuberculosis and infections associated with other mycobacteria species and with lepra. Part 10 embraces in 10 chapters miscellaneous fungal infections affecting various internal organs (genera as *Candida*, *Aspergillus*, *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*, *Blastomyces*, etc.), further on the dematiaceous fungi, Phycomycetes and other species. The concluding part 11 (chapters 277 through 289) ensures coverage of parasites: protozoans, nematodes, trematodes, cestodes and arthropods.

The volume is extensively illustrated by figures numbered by individual chapters. Featured are schematic line drawings, different diagrammatic representations and models, estimated numbers and distributions of infections, light and electron microphotographs, apppearance of specific aetiological agents and microorganisms in microscopic smears and in colonies, life cycles and modes of transmission, diagnostic tests, structural formulae of basic antimicrobial drugs, scanning techniques, endoscopic aspects, impressive pictorial presentations of miscellaneous clinical conditions, scanning techniques, pathomorphological changes and abnormalities, cutaneous abscesses, ulcers and other lesions, fungal infections of the skin and the nails, fundoscopic findings and lesions of ocular structures, and more. In addition, there are numerous global and summary-type tables.

Infectious Diseases offer an extraordinary exhaustive, attractive, voluminous (weighing more than 5 kg), and extremely multiauthored teamwork with special view to medical practice.

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