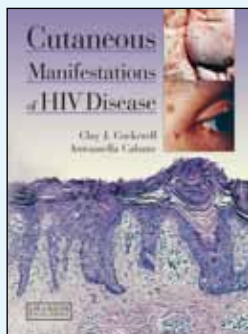


Cutaneous Manifestations of HIV Disease

Clay J Cockerell, Antoanella Calame
Manson Publishing 2012

Price £115.00. Pp 288
ISBN 978 1 84076 142 9

This book gives a comprehensive overview of the most common cutaneous manifestations associated with HIV infection. The chapters are set out in a logical and accessible format and are well structured. However, within the book several skin diseases are discussed and illustrated that to date have not been reported



in association with HIV infection, which seems slightly off target for the book's remit. Nonetheless for the non-skin specialist addition of material that may be relevant to the differential diagnosis of skin conditions actually seen in association with HIV may be useful.

Generally the quality of the clinical images is quite good, but a few are out of focus and some of the images are too small to really demonstrate detailed clinical signs, which is disappointing as globally most of these diseases would be diagnosed by clinical features alone.

There is a strong emphasis throughout the book on histology – in both descriptive terms and histopathology images, in addition to detailed accounts of pathogenesis and/or pathophysiology. I fear that for the clinician this prominence of pathogenesis and histopathology may not be the most helpful emphasis in the diagnosis and management of patients in the clinical setting. Bearing in mind that the majority of the global population of patients with HIV infection live in resource-poor settings this book may be less useful to medical practitioners managing the majority of HIV patients.

Rachael Morris-Jones, Kings College Hospital, London

Interventional Pain Control in Cancer Pain Management

Edited by Joan Hester, Nigel Sykes and Sue Peat

Oxford University Press 2011
Price £70.00. Pp 296

ISBN 978 0 19 921908 7

The stated aim of this book is to provide a guide to interventional pain control for several specialities involved with patients with cancer-related pain in primary and secondary care settings, as well as at home and in the hospice.

My own objectives as an interventional pain doctor wanting to add to and improve my practise are a bit narrower – which procedure for which patient? How do I do it? Which drugs do I use – doses and volumes? What complications or problems should I expect and how do I manage them?

Does this book achieve any of these objectives? To a great extent it does. The book is well written and easy to read. There are good overviews, assessment is discussed and appropriate interventions listed and practical techniques described. Case studies are used to illustrate the text and these were relevant, interesting and helpful.

Some sections are excellent – in particular cordotomy, celiac plexus block and TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation). There are good clear diagrams and photographs to illustrate the text in most chapters when relevant.

There are 90 pages devoted to epidural and intrathecal infusions including a chapter on nursing care. There is a well-written description of the theory, anatomy and the

kit currently available, but practical implant description of only the tunnelled epidural (without XR screening). I would have been interested to see more information on drug mixes and doses, troubleshooting and problem-solving.

The definitive manual for the pain interventionist it is not. This is probably more of a reflection of the different interventional practices of the different centres in the UK. For example, intrathecal neurolytic blocks are used in some centres in the management of brachialgia secondary to tumour infiltration of the brachial plexus and this is not mentioned as an option, whereas eight different brachial plexus block techniques are described in detail.

Overall a well-written and interesting book, which would be of value to any health professional with an interest in the care of patients with cancer-related pain.

Louise Lynch, Seacroft Hospital, Leeds

Oxford Higher Specialty Training: Revision Notes for the Respiratory Medicine Specialty Certificate Examination

Caroline Patterson and Meg Coleman

Oxford University Press 2012
Price £34.99. Pp 136

ISBN 978 0 19 969348 1

Respiratory specialty trainees who began their training in August 2007 or after must sit the Specialty Certificate Examination as part of their assessment in order to obtain their Certificate of Completion of Training. The Specialty Certificate Examination is a computer-based test con-

sisting of two 3-hour papers (100 questions) in a best of five format. *Revision Notes for the Respiratory Medicine Specialty Certificate Examination* is one of the first revision guides available for this exam, and has the advantage of having been written by two current specialty trainees.

The book contains bullet point summaries of common respiratory conditions as well as some best of five example questions and answers. While the questions only make up the initial chapter of the book, they provide a useful model of what to expect and include clinical scenarios as well as images and lung function test results.

The book is divided into sections covering topics ranging from major respiratory diseases such as lung cancer, infection, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to pulmonary function testing and commonly used respiratory scoring systems, with appropriate weighting given according to the frequency of questions in the exam. The authors have particularly tried to reiterate areas of knowledge weakness, highlighted from previous exams. The references and essential guidelines section at the back of the book provides a comprehensive resource list for further reading.

This book is by no means exhaustive in terms of the information provided, but that is not its role. It provides a valuable framework on which to base revision and will complement both further reading and on the job learning.

JK Quint, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London