

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Co-Morbidities and Systemic Consequences

Edited by Linda Nici and Richard ZuWallack

Humana Press 2012

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Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide and it is increasingly recognized that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is not just a disease of the lungs (or airflow limitation), but that exacerbations and comorbidities contribute to the overall severity in individual patients.

This book eloquently highlights the importance of comorbidities that commonly co-exist with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and covers important extrapulmonary aspects of the disease. Topics are covered in a thorough and concise manner and there are good illustrations throughout the book.

The first few chapters provide an overview of the basis for systemic inflammation, which is thought to drive the

extrapulmonary disease aspects. The comorbidities covered are broad and include both physical (cardiovascular, osteoporosis, thoracic malignancies) and psychological (anxiety, depression, cognitive function).

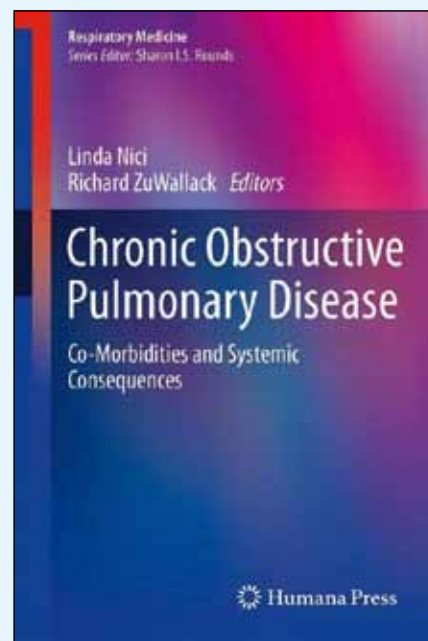
Not only are aspects surrounding the importance of diagnosing comorbidities covered, there is thorough discussion surrounding their management, which is sometimes specifically applicable to patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and includes both pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies.

There is a chapter dedicated to body composition abnormalities which links various body composition phenotypes (including weight loss, obesity and accelerated sarcopenia) with morbidity and mortality. There is also a chapter dedicated to integrated care, which is an increasingly important approach to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease management in light of cost and service sustainability.

This book will provide a valuable reference for both primary and secondary

care clinicians who are looking for succinct, up to date information to help them holistically manage their patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

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Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (6th edn)

Roger Finch, Peter Davey, Mark Wilcox, William Irving

Oxford University Press 2012

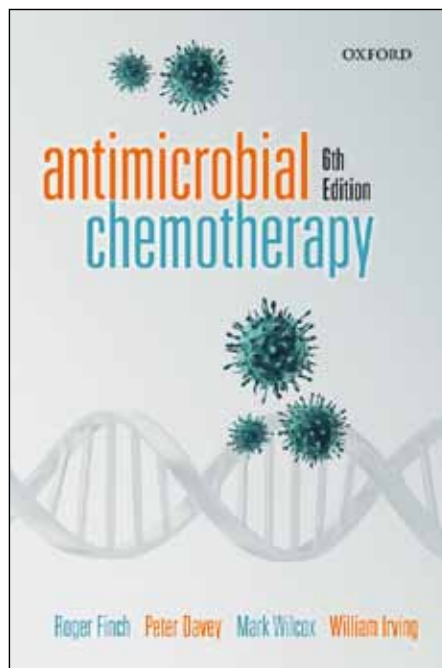
Price £39.99. Pp 399

ISBN 978 0 19 969765 6

Rational antimicrobial prescribing is of vital importance to clinicians for the optimal management of patients with infections. This book has been written against a background of increasing antimicrobial resistance, particularly among Gram negative bacteria, and a widespread recognition of the importance of health-care-associated infections.

The introductory chapter reflects on interesting historical aspects about the discovery of various antimicrobials including heavy metals and arsenicals. The first half of the book describes recent information about the place of different groups of antimicrobial agents in treating infections. It also includes new agents such as fidaxomicin which is now licensed for use in the treatment of *Clostridium difficile* colitis.

There is a chapter devoted to mechanisms of antimicrobial drug resistance and the authors highlight the lack of new antibacterial agents to treat Gram-negative bacteria and the reemergence of



older antibiotics like colistin. Useful references for further reading are included at the end of each chapter.

An important aspect of this new edition is the inclusion of a chapter on antimicrobial stewardship which discusses rational prescribing, policy writing and legal requirements within Britain. New chapters on outpatient therapy and an update on the management of *Clostridium difficile* infections make the book a valuable resource for 'infection' doctors.

The second half of the book describes the management of various community- and hospital-acquired infections, although this information is readily available in greater detail in recent editions of other infectious disease textbooks. Overall, however, the book provides an excellent update on antimicrobial agents and is a useful guide for management of infection by health-care professionals.

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