

Lupus Erythematosus: Clinical Evaluation and Treatment

Edited by Peter H Schur
and Elena M Massarotti
Springer 2012

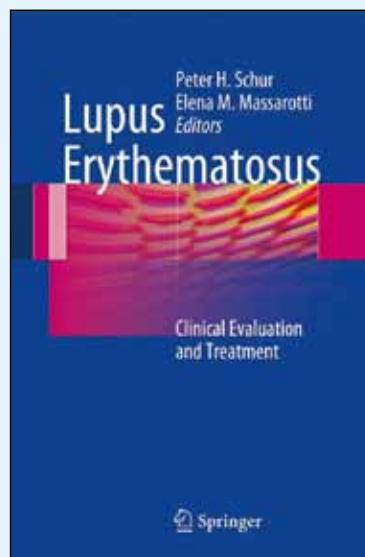
Price £135.00. Pp 260
ISBN 978 1 4614 1188 8

This new textbook aims to be a single source reference for physicians confronted with clinical problems in a patient with lupus. It appears to be aimed at the general physician rather than the specialist and perhaps suffers from falling between two stools. It is not as detailed as the standard large textbooks of lupus that are used by lupus specialists but may be too detailed and expensive for non-specialists who rarely see this disease.

The book starts with two chapters on epidemiology and immunopathology which are relatively brief as this is primarily a clinical textbook. One should look

elsewhere for a more comprehensive review of these complex issues.

Chapters 3 to 5 offer general advice about monitoring, diagnosis and management of patients with lupus whereas the subsequent chapters deal with lupus affecting specific organs. I found these organ-based chapters the most useful part of the book. The chapter on cutaneous manifestations is especially good as it contains plentiful illustrations. In contrast many other chapters lack figures and consist of long blocks of text. Nevertheless the chapters are well-referenced and up to date including details of the newest biologic drugs. The



chapter on pregnancy contains clear and helpful guidance on safe use of drugs in lupus patients who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Almost all the contributors are from the USA, and this leads to the text being rather slanted towards an American view of the disease, for example in the sections on epidemiology and monitoring.

This book would be a useful source to consult in a library especially if

preparing a talk or essay on lupus. However, it would be difficult to recommend it as a purchase for most rheumatologists or general physicians.

Anisur Rahman, UCL, London

Asthma (2nd edn)

Edited by Graeme P Currie
and John FW Baker
Oxford University Press 2012

Price £19.99. Pp 168
ISBN 978 0 19 963891 8

Asthma is the most common chronic respiratory condition worldwide, leading to symptoms that are distressing, debilitating and frequently fatal. The second edition of *Asthma*, edited by Currie and Baker, forms part of the Oxford Respiratory Medical Library series, and has been updated to include sections on paediatrics, new national treatment guidelines, the latest therapeutic strategies and management concepts.

The text provides a pocket-sized comprehensive and concise evidence-based review of asthma, covering epidemiology, basic sciences, diagnosis and management of asthma across the full spectrum of severity, age range, clinical settings and unique situations. With an increasing number of new molecules and drug delivery devices available, the chapter on inhalers provides a practical and helpful pictorial review, with carefully considered advantages and disadvantages of each device tabulated.

The use of clearly presented algorithms incorporating clinical treatment pathways

and troubleshooting make the book an invaluable guide for all those whom encounter patients with asthma, including the undergraduate, emergency room physician and community health-care provider.

David E Simcock, The London Chest Hospital, Barts & The London NHS Trust, London

Oxford Handbook of Sport and Exercise Medicine (2nd edn)

Edited by Domhnall MacAuley
Oxford University Press 2012
Price £34.99. Pp 784

ISBN 978 0 19 966015 5

This book is unrivalled when it comes to condensing the key facts and principles within the broad specialty of sport and exercise medicine into a concise yet comprehensive summary.

It succeeds in meeting its claim of covering the breadth of the sport and exercise medicine curriculum, from exercise physiology and performance to pitch-side medicine and sports injury care.

Common to the Oxford Handbook series, only the most pertinent information is laid out in a clear consistent format. It is outside its scope to go into depth or discussion and the use of such a book assumes a certain understanding of the

relevant scientific and clinical principles in sport and exercise medicine, for which alternative resources exist.

In comparison with the first edition, the chapters follow a more intuitive sequence. The provision of fewer blank pages partly accounts for this edition being 80 pages shorter than the previous one, trading space to add one's own notes for increased portability.

The growing evidence and guidelines within this specialty is generally well reflected, although this could have been highlighted better in parts. For example, there is a new chapter specifically on 'older people', but not one to similarly focus the reader on exercise and common problems in children and adolescents. The chapter summarizing the health benefits of exercise has evolved to become more generalized and less explicit for certain medical conditions.

Doctors, from undergraduates to senior registrars, GPs and allied health professionals working pitch-side or in relevant clinics, will find this book a most handy resource. It would also serve as a good revision aid for clinicians who are undertaking a postgraduate qualification in sport and exercise medicine.

Bhavesh Kumar, University College Hospital, London