

Book Review

Büchler, M.W., Uhl, W., Malferteiner, P.: Pankreaserkrankungen. Akute Pankreatitis, Chronische Pankreatitis, Tumore des Pankreas. 2., vollst. überarb. Aufl. XII, 218 S.; 87 Tab.; 168 Abb. Karger, Basel, 2003. Geb. EUR <D> 55.50, sFr 78.–.

Title also available in English:

M. W. Büchler, W. Uhl, P. Malferteiner, M. G. Sarr: Diseases of the Pancreas (Acute Pancreatitis, Chronic Pancreatitis, Neoplasms of the Pancreas). ISBN 3-8055-7613-7

The first edition of the book "Pankreaserkrankungen" published in 1996 was a considerable success in German speaking countries. Now a fully revised second edition is available in which the successful concept remained the same.

The present edition encompasses a little more than 200 pages and is divided into 3 chapters and an appendix.

The chapters cover the topics "Acute pancreatitis", "Chronic pancreatitis" and "Tumours of the pancreas", the appendix includes 3 small chapters on pancreatic surgery, congenital pancreatic diseases and abnormalities and pancreatic trauma.

Each chapter starts with a series of three characteristic cases and a special case, then uniformly definition, epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical features, complications, diagnostic issues and therapy of the particular disease follow.

The book is easy to read and covers all relevant questions in a very competent way. Its stringent structure makes it easy to follow the authors' explanations and to gain a thorough overview of the central topics of pancreatic disease and therapy.

Tables, graphics and figures on every odd page accompany the clear text as an excellent completion. Such, apart from figures illustrating the pathophysiology and clinic, every chapter includes a clear algorithm for both diagnosis and therapy of the respective disease which is very helpful for the management of patients with pancreatic disorders in daily clinical life.

As stated in the foreword, the authors have intentionally left out references from the text to facilitate the reading, instead an extensive structured bibliography is included at the end of the book. Although the references certainly cover the essential writing on pancreatic diseases, this is one of the very few shortcomings of the book. The lack of the references linked to the text makes it at times difficult for a reader not specialised in pancreatology to differentiate chapters of the text based on evidence from those based on experience. Nevertheless the reported experience of all authors is certainly extensive and valuable.

In summary this book offers in a comprehensive manner an excellent overview of today's knowledge and state of the art diagnosis and therapy of pancreatic disease. It will serve students, physicians and surgeons the same.

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