Book Review

The BMT Data Book Including Cellular Therapy, 3rd edition


The BMT Data Book Including Cellular Therapy is a concise, 543-page paperback book that will be of great assistance to clinicians and fellows in the field of clinical hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). In contrast to the larger multiple-author textbooks concerning HSCT, the BMT Data Book uses a concise style with many tables, lists, and bullets rather than a narrative style. As such, it is a handy reference for many of the practical aspects of HSCT.

The major parts of the book focus on the clinical aspects of hematological malignancies (9 chapters), solid tumors (3 chapters), and nonmalignant diseases (5 chapters). The chapters contain many survival graphs from multiple studies, making it an excellent quick reference. The references that accompany each chapter are current for the most part.

A large chapter (96 pages) is a pharmacopoeia of HSCT drugs that is a quick reference source. Other chapters focus on clinical HSCT protocols, HLA typing, and complications. By their nature, the narrative portions dealing with the basic science of HSCT, graft-versus-host disease, cord blood, and so on are limited, and therefore the book is not a textbook for the understanding of the biology of HSCT. The chapter on cellular therapy focuses primarily on donor lymphocyte infusion, and because of its conciseness has little information on the newer cellular therapies. The editors have made contributions to multiple chapters, which results in a more consistent style than in many multiple-author texts.

Overall, the BMT Data Book is a good, concise reference for professionals involved in clinical HSCT.

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