BOOK REVIEW


The third edition of AIDS therapy provides a comprehensive review of HIV/AIDS medicine. The concise nature of each chapter and generous use of tables, figures, and illustrations make it an invaluable reference. It is divided into 10 sections covering the broad spectrum of HIV care.

Section one, 'Establishing the diagnosis of HIV infection', explores the microbiology of HIV and illustrates how HIV is diagnosed by various screening and confirmatory tests. It provides HIV diagnostic algorithms from both the UNAIDS WHO and US Public Health Service guidelines. This facilitates a better understanding of diagnosing HIV in developed and developing countries.

Section two, 'Primary care of HIV-infected individuals', tackles the routine management of persons living with HIV in developed and developing countries. There are many useful quick reference tables and figures addressing such issues as initial evaluation of a newly diagnosed person, routine immunizations, and prophylaxis for opportunistic infections.

Section three, 'Antiretroviral therapy' and section nine, 'Drug administration and interactions', address pharmacotherapy. The highlights of these sections include dedicated chapters to each antiretroviral medication detailing its mechanism of action, pharmacology, potential adverse reactions, drug interactions, and relevant clinical trials. The review of clinical trials is extremely useful for healthcare professionals new to HIV medicine who wish to expand on their knowledge of evidence-based HIV care.

Section four, 'Immune-based therapies', provides a basic overview of current research on the role of cytokines in HIV treatment. This section also reviews current studies on therapeutic HIV vaccines. Although this section is brief, it provides a glimpse into the future of potential treatment options.

Section five, 'Complementary and alternative therapies', provides a succinct review of current research on complementary treatments and potential interactions with antiretroviral therapies.

Section six, 'Management of patients in special clinical settings', covers important topics such as acute HIV infection, post-exposure prophylaxis management, and pregnancy in HIV-positive women. Although pediatric HIV issues can be found interspersed throughout the book, a dedicated chapter on this topic may be a useful addition to this section.

Section seven, 'Opportunistic processes', and section eight, 'Approach to specific syndromes', provide knowledge to aid in day-to-day clinical management. These sections are sure to be the most valuable for a busy clinician. Each chapter includes user-friendly medication tables, figures, and/or illustrations to help consolidate ones understanding of diagnosing and treating diseases or disorders.

Section ten, 'HIV/AIDS-related Internet resources', provides a list of useful HIV-related websites. In a world of rapidly changing knowledge and increasing access to Internet information, this list will help keep health professionals' knowledge current and direct people living with HIV to educational resources. Furthermore, this textbook endears to keep itself from becoming outdated by providing online access to critical updates.

In summary, AIDS therapy, third edition, is an excellent resource for a wide range of health professionals, from medical students and residents to busy practitioners.

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