An Atlas of Differential Diagnosis in HIV Disease, 2nd Edition

Edited by M. C. I. Lipman, R. W. Baker, and M. A. Johnson


The second edition of this volume is a compendium of images from numerous contributors from the Royal Free Hospital in London, United Kingdom. The volume begins with an introductory chapter titled “HIV: An Overview,” in which several aspects of HIV infection, including epidemiology, virology, testing, evaluation of the HIV-infected patient, and clinical classification, are reviewed. Discussion of acute seroconversion, fever, blood dyscrasias, and sexually transmitted diseases in men and women are also included in this chapter. The next 6 chapters are devoted to specific organ systems including the skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurological, and ocular systems and one chapter that includes the endocrine, metabolic, musculoskeletal, and renal manifestations of HIV disease. Malignant disease and complications of HAART are the topics of the final 2 chapters. In most cases, each chapter begins with a general overview of the HIV-associated conditions related to the particular organ system under discussion. This is followed by color photographs, radiographs, and histological images of a variety of pathologic processes. Each image is accompanied by a legend that may include clinical details, comments regarding the disease state, and other information.

As one would hope for in an atlas, the major strength of this volume is the visual images. With few exceptions, the quality of the photographs, histopathologic slides, and radiographs is excellent. The images clearly demonstrate the pathologic processes of interest and are enhanced by the narrative details included in the figure legends. A fairly broad range of HIV-related conditions are represented in this volume, though diseases that are not common in Europe and the United States are absent (e.g., cutaneous leishmaniasis and lymphogranuloma venereum).

Additional weaknesses are noted with this atlas as well. The vast majority of the photos are of white men. The material at the beginning of each chapter is uneven in depth, sometimes too detailed and at other times too diffuse. The sources of information are not specifically referenced in the accompanying text and instead are listed alphabetically by chapter at the end of the book. This method severely limits the ability of the reader to identify and obtain the relevant reference material. Some sections of the narrative, such as the section about specific evaluation and treatment of HIV infection, may be presented better by other sources (e.g., the table of antiretroviral drugs and adverse reactions), especially in view of the rapidly evolving nature of the treatment of HIV infection. In a few instances, the suggested treatment is counter to standard guidance (e.g., the continuation of trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole therapy in the presence of rash and desensitization of the same drug for Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia prophylaxis). Finally, the last chapter, which is about HAART-related complications, seems to be a convenience sample of images. The chapter would be enhanced by more attention to immune restoration inflammatory syndrome, which is particularly a problem in areas with limited resources.

Despite these limitations, this book is a valuable reference for many conditions that are now (fortunately) less common among HIV-infected persons in the developed world in the era of HAART. This volume would be useful for the teaching physician and should have a place in the libraries of infectious diseases and HIV medicine training programs and clinics.

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New Books Received


