**Principles and Practice of Dialysis. Third Edition.**

The third edition of the *Textbook on Dialysis* edited by W. L. Henrich is divided into two parts. The first comprises 15 chapters on ‘Technical and Procedural Considerations in Dialysis Therapy’ among which some provide updated reviews on ‘classical topics’, such as haemodialysis (HD) vascular access, anticoagulation procedures, and dialysate compositions. Other chapters deal with on-going debated issues on the optimal use of dialysis procedures such as the respective advantages and shortcomings of HD and peritoneal dialysis (PD) for guidance aiming at the best choice for each patient, the best timing of dialysis initiation, or choices between dialysis membranes. Among newer dialysis/filtration techniques developed for patients with terminal renal failure, a chapter is devoted to daily home long-nocturnal dialysis pioneered by Canadian authors, but there is no mention of the alternative mode of daily short dialysis which is more popular in European countries. PD is not left aside, with two comprehensive chapters on the management and monitoring of PD patients and on the causes, diagnosis and treatment of PD membrane failure. Finally, the chapter on drug prescription for dialysis patients contains a wealth of clearly presented information which should be most useful to nephrologists in their daily practice.

Part 2 comprises 28 chapters which encompass a very wide spectrum of medical features and complications that may develop in adult and paediatric patients during the course of dialysis therapy, evaluation of patients’ quality of life and rehabilitation, and preparation for renal transplantation. The chapter on outcomes for dialysis patients refers, however, only to data from US and Canadian Registries; its interest could have been enriched by comparisons with reports from other parts of the world (Europe, Japan, Australia). With the aim of meeting completely with the title of the book, two chapters are devoted to the use of extra-corporeal dialysis methods in the treatment of poisoning and of acute renal failure in the intensive care setting.

Seventy four authors (67 from the USA and Canada) have contributed to this well organized and clearly presented book, which is completed by a very welcome 23 page subject index. Easy to handle and to consult, it contains about all the up-dated information which the nephrologist/dialysis practitioner may need for usefully answering most of his/her queries on technical or clinical problems related to extra-corporeal or peritoneal dialysis therapies. Many chapters are substantiated by comprehensive and well up-dated reference lists which will make this book an excellent tool for teaching purposes.

Claude Jacobs


This book is the second edition of an important book in the field of infectious problems that may occur in transplant recipients.

Most of the authors are internationally recognized experts either in organ or cell transplantation or in infectious diseases. The book deals with all major but also less frequent infections that can be observed after a transplantation procedure, whether it concerns haemato logical or solid organ transplant.

The design of the book is interesting in that it is very practical. After a short reminder of what is a haemopoietic or a solid organ transplantation, it reports the risks and epidemiology of infections according to the nature of the transplanted organs. It then describes the major specific sites of infections that can be observed regardless of the transplanted organ. For example, lungs, liver or the central nervous system can be infection sites in all types of transplantation. However, the nature of the transplant may modify the frequency or the characteristic of the infection in a given site, such as lung or liver infection in lung or liver transplantation, respectively. In the major part of the book, each type of infection (viral, bacterial, fungal and other) is considered whatever the transplanted organs. Finally, in the last part of the book the reader will find how to control infections and strategies for immune reconstitution.

This design leads to much less redundancy than when describing infectious problems for each type of transplantation and demonstrates perfectly well the transversal nature of the transplantation process.

In most chapters, the reader will be able to find data concerning epidemiology and pathogenesis, a clinical description of the diseases caused by the infectious agent and some indication for prophylaxis and treatment.

However, it is clear that despite a volume of more than 700 pages it is impossible to treat every question in its entirety. Therefore, the most important role of this book is to provide the reader with important reference lists that will help him to find more detailed data than that of the overview given in each chapter.

The last chapter on the management of central venous catheter related infection could be very helpful for clinicians working in intensive care units, by summarizing the present knowledge on the topic.

Finally, this book is specifically devoted to the transplant clinician but it may be very helpful to the infectious disease specialist who is not expert in the field of transplantation. It should be present in the library of all transplant centres.

Henri Kreis