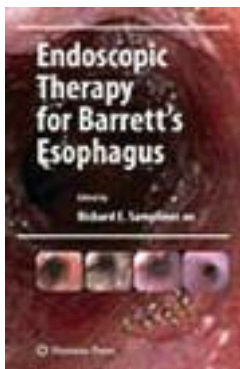


BOOK REVIEW

Endoscopic Therapy for Barrett's Esophagus (Clinical Gastroenterology Series). Richard E. SAMPLINER (ed.), Humana Press, 2009. 191 p., 62 illus., 29 in color. Hardcover. ISBN : 978-1-60327-444-9. 74,95 €. Online version available.



This book attempts to provide an overview of the current knowledge on endoscopic diagnosis and treatment of oesophageal Barrett's mucosa in its different stages, ranging from intestinal metaplasia, low and high grade dysplasia and early carcinoma.

New imaging techniques are briefly touched upon, and this chapter correctly concludes that nowadays diagnostic work-up consists of high resolution white light endoscopy in combination with the easily applicable narrow band imaging technique. The other chapters are dealing with different endoscopic therapies. Each chapter provides in depth theoretical background on the ablation techniques [argon plasma coagulation, radiofrequency ablation, multipolar electrocoagulation, endoscopic resection, photodynamic therapy, cryoablation (in this order)] and a clear overview of clinical trial results. It is suggested that a combination of endoscopic resection with another ablation technique should be per-

formed to obtain the best results. Endoscopic ablation techniques are still in development and clinical evaluation. However, this book lacks a general conclusion that summarizes the current guidelines for the diagnostic and therapeutic approach for oesophageal Barrett's mucosa, which is necessary for endoscopists dealing with Barrett's patients in daily practice. It is a missed opportunity that would have greatly increased the clinical value of this book. Moreover, each chapter is written by different authors and this is reflected in the lack of a general message for the reader. Sometimes the personal opinions of each of the authors on the different techniques may even be contradictory throughout the text.

Overall, this book gives a clear overview of the theoretical background and clinical results of current endoscopic methods to diagnose and treat oesophageal Barrett's mucosa in its different stages. However, since the book is a composition of chapters written by nearly twenty authors, it lacks a clear message for the reader searching for up-to-date guidelines ready to apply in daily endoscopy practice.

Tom G. Moreels
 Antwerp University Hospital
 Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology
 Wilrijkstraat 10
 B-2650 Antwerp – Belgium
 E-mail : tom.moreels@uza.be