

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Interventional and therapeutic gastrointestinal endoscopy (Frontiers of Gastrointestinal Research series).** MÖNKEMÜLLER K., WILCOX C.M., MUÑOZ-NAVAS M. (editors). S. Karger AG, Basel, 2010. 548 pages, 386 fig., 270 in color, 88 tab., hard cover. ISBN 978-3-8055-9308-3. Price : CHF 248. Online version available.



*Interventional and therapeutic gastrointestinal endoscopy* is the 27<sup>th</sup> volume in the since 1975 founded project *Frontiers of Gastrointestinal Research*. Reading and reviewing this textbook on therapeutic digestive endoscopy has been a revelation. This is the 2010 endoscopy-book every gastroenterologist should have !

The first 2 chapters highlight in a very practical manner the use of anticoagulants and antibiotics. Readers are not overwhelmed by numerous data, but only relevant conclusions from the literature are highlighted and clear recommendations are given.

The next 48 chapters are dedicated to endoscopic procedures that belong to daily/weekly endoscopic practice ; e.g. peptic ulcer bleeding, esophageal varices, foreign bodies, dilatation of strictures, stenting, colonic polypectomy, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, biliary sphincterotomy, biliary stone extraction, biliary strictures, etc... Less frequently practiced procedures are covered too, e.g. Zenker's diverticulum, ablation therapy in Barrett's esophagus, stenting for postoperative leaks, endoscopic submucosal dissection, biliary complications after liver transplantation, endoscopic ultrasonographic drainage of pancreatic fluid collections, etc...

Apart from the very broad spectrum of procedures that are discussed is the homogeneous way in which every chapter has been written by international experts. The experts present data following evidence-based guidelines, but they do not inundate the reader with confusing facts and numbers. Furthermore, every author often adds his personal tips and tricks with regard to succeed in a given therapeutic endoscopic procedure. Finally, this book is abundantly illustrated with pictures, drawings and algorithms.

This book actually reads as a cookery book. If, for instance, you plan to do a colonic polypectomy, we advise you to read the night before (even in your lazy chair, enjoying a nice glass of wine...) the chapter on this topic. You will be astonished about the practical

information you get. The author takes you by the hand and explains step for step how to do this procedure. Every chapter obtains a high educational and practical level !

Another practical advantage of the book is its size : 3/19/25 cm, making it possible to put it into your daily suitcase, or laying it on your desk, even on the fancy table at home...

This textbook is strongly advised to gastroenterologists, residents and fellows interested in or practising therapeutic endoscopy.

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**Clinical Update on Inflammatory Disorders of the Gastrointestinal Tract.** MAYERLE J., TILG H. 2010 S. Karger AG, P.O. Box, CH-4009 Basel (Switzerland). www.karger.com. 216 pages, 25 figures, 3 in colour and 18 tables. ISBN : 978-3-8055-9294-9. Price : € 130.



Partim Hepatology

In a number of chapters, leading experts in the field cover specific topics in hepatology. The focus of the book is on inflammation. Inflammation, however, plays a role in almost every liver disease entity. Therefore, the selection of topics is somewhat surprising.

Fibrogenesis in general, viral hepatitis and NAFLD are discussed. The chapters on these topics give a concise, but comprehensive and complete overview of the current clinical knowledge on the subject. These chapters are well written and useful for clinicians and trainees and may serve as a good summary. In these chapters, some physiopathological aspects with emphasis on inflammation (in line with the expectancies created by the title of the book) are comprehensively discussed. The chapter on liver transplantation focussing on the problem of IBD in liver transplantation, and especially in relation with autoimmune hepatobiliary disease, even so gives a good

overview of the available knowledge and controversies, and is in line with the subject of the book.

The chapter on hepatocellular carcinoma, however, does not deal with pathophysiology and the role of inflammation, but is purely clinical and focusing on some aspects of treatment. It is not relevant to the title of the book, and, compared to the other chapters, is less complete. It does not offer clear guidelines. Therefore this chapter is of little use and adds little to the available reviews and summaries on HCC.

Finally, autoimmune liver and biliary disease, as an important type of inflammatory liver disease, is not covered (except for the problem of related IBD). Alcoholic hepatitis, another example of liver disease in which inflammatory processes play a major role, is even so not discussed. Therefore the selection of topics seems rather arbitrary.

#### Partim Gastroenterology

Specific inflammatory gastrointestinal diseases are touched upon in this book. An update is given either on novel pathophysiological mechanisms, either on new therapeutic options. It is however not a complete overview on gastrointestinal diseases. For example, celiac disease is covered concisely but complete from epidemiology to therapy, whereas only the role of epithelial cells and the anti-tumour-necrosis-factor-alpha therapy is reviewed for inflammatory bowel diseases. Gastrointestinal inflammatory disorders reviewed in this book encompass celiac disease, inflammatory bowel diseases, functional disorders, microscopic colitis, acute pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer (in this order). Therefore, other diseases like chronic pancreatitis and diverticulitis (except for 1 paragraph in a separated chapter on Probiotics) are not covered in this book. Moreover, most of the time only specific aspects of the reviewed diseases are highlighted.

In summary, some chapters give concise, but complete and useful overviews of some topics in gastroenterology and hepatology, relevant to the subject of inflammation. Some important disease entities are, however, lacking, and some chapters are poorly relevant to the subject of the book. The quality of the different contributions, in terms of completeness, conciseness and clinical usefulness, is overall rather variable. Although the book contains interesting information for the dedicated reader, it lacks a general format and a clear direction.

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**Paul Klee and His Illness.** Bowed but Not Broken by Suffering and Adversity. SUTER H. (Fahrni). Translated from German by G. McKay ; N. McKay. 272 p., 186 fig., 77 in color, 2 tab., hard cover, 2010. ISBN : 978-3-8055-9381-6. e-ISBN : 978-3-8055-9382-3. Price : € 85.5.



Review : This book is the result of decades of in-depth research on the 'mysterious' illness of the German-Swiss avant-garde painter Paul Klee (1879-1940). The last five years of his life, Paul Klee suffered from several symptoms progressively leading to his death at the age of 60. At that time, his illness had no name. The author Dr. Hans Suter is a dermatologist with special interest in art. Throughout the book he wonderfully managed to reconstruct Paul Klee's medical condition during the last five years of his life, based on scarcely remaining medical information, based on the letters from the painter's family and acquaintances and based on numerous interviews with medical colleagues. In the light of current medical knowledge, he concludes that Paul Klee probably suffered from rapidly progressive diffuse systemic sclerosis, and confirmed the hypothesis of scleroderma which emerged ten years after the painter's death. In the second part of the book, the author illustrates how Paul Klee's paintings and drawings were influenced by his illness. Overall, this book is a thorough but exciting investigation on Paul Klee's 'mysterious' illness, written as a journey, and both accessible to the layman, the historian, the art lover and the entire medical community. It is a successful combination of history, investigation, medicine and art, and it reads as a best-seller novel.

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