

## BOOK NOTES

Structured abstracts of information on newly published books, computer programs, selected Web sites, and other material are provided in this portion of Medical Writings. Not all items submitted by publishers are abstracted, but a listing of almost all material received can be found in the advertising pages of each issue. "Order phone" numbers can be used to place orders directly with publishers.

### Management of Antimicrobials in Infectious Diseases: Impact of Antibiotic Resistance

Mainous AG 3rd, Pomeroy C, eds. 368 pages. Totowa, NJ: Humana Pr; 2001. \$99.50. ISBN 0896038211. Order phone 973-256-1699.

**Field of medicine:** Infectious diseases.

**Format:** Hardcover book.

**Audience:** Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, generalists, and infectious disease specialists.

**Purpose:** To help clinicians manage common infectious diseases by using an evidence-based approach to antibiotic selection.

**Content:** The first of 19 chapters discusses antibiotic resistance. Six chapters cover various etiologic agents, and 11 chapters focus on selected infectious disease problems. The final chapter discusses future trends in antimicrobial use and resistance.

**Highlights:** The book provides a concise review of selected topics in the field. Each chapter concludes with a list of key points. The chapter on management of urinary tract infections is especially well written and includes an assessment of the quality of the evidence cited.

**Limitations:** The title of the book does not match up with the content; the book does not fulfill its stated mission to provide guidance on selection of antibiotic therapy to minimize resistance. Antibiotic dosing is not consistent across chapters, and some therapy recommendations are unusual, such as treatment of penicillin-sensitive enterococcal endocarditis for 8 to 12 weeks. Such important topics as Lyme disease, infectious mononucleosis, cytomegalovirus, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and the toxic shock syndrome are omitted. The index is sparse, and spelling and copyediting errors mar the presentation. The book is expensive for its length and content.

**Related reading:** Mandell and colleagues' *Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* (Churchill Livingstone, 2000) is the standard reference. Schlossberg's *Current Therapy of Infectious Disease* (WB Saunders, 2000) provides the latest recommendations for therapy. Yu and associates' *Antimicrobial Therapy and Vaccines* (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1999) is a valuable and unique source of guidance for therapy. Other useful books are Reese and Betts' *A Practical Approach to Infectious Diseases* (Little, Brown, 1996), Bartlett's *2000 Pocket Book of Infectious Disease Therapy* (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2000), and Sanford and col-

leagues' *The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy* (Antimicrobial Therapy, 2000).

**Reviewer:** Nelson M. Gantz, MD, Pinnacle Health System, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

### Menopause: Biology and Pathobiology

Lobo RA, Kelsey J, Marcus R, eds. 672 pages. San Diego, CA: Academic Pr; 2000. \$159.95. ISBN 0124537901. Order phone 800-321-5068.

**Field of medicine:** Women's health.

**Format:** Hardcover book.

**Audience:** Basic scientists, clinical researchers, fellows, residents, and students.

**Purpose:** To provide a multidisciplinary review of the biology and clinical manifestations of menopause.

**Content:** The 46 chapters are organized into four parts. The first section covers menopause from the basic science perspective and describes the effects of estrogen at the cellular and organ system levels. The next two sections describe symptoms, diagnostic tests, and medical conditions related to menopause. The final section addresses the evidence for treating perimenopausal and postmenopausal women with hormone replacement.

**Highlights:** The text offers a comprehensive review of all aspects of menopause by experts in gynecology, epidemiology, and reproductive endocrinology. Common medical conditions and problems in menopause receive thorough coverage, and information on ongoing studies and groundbreaking research on estrogen receptors and hormonal assessments of fertility and menopause is provided. Several chapters are particularly helpful in the clinical setting, such as those on herbal therapies for climacteric symptoms and the risks and benefits of androgens. One chapter discusses the role of androgens in male aging.

**Limitations:** As with any multiauthored text, there is some redundancy; however, the overlapping information often serves to reinforce key points. Although the selection of topics related to menopause is comprehensive, some chapters cover the material in less detail than others.

**Related reading:** Seifer and Kennard's *Menopause: Endocrinology and Management* (Humana Pr, 1999) provides an extensive review of menopause but is more condensed than the book under review. Badawy's *Clinical Management of the Perimenopause* (Arnold, 1999) includes practical clinical material on the care of perimenopausal women but is less comprehensive than Lobo and colleagues' text.

**Reviewer:** Lori A. Bastian, MD, MPH, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina.