possible but can be excluded with patch tests. Owing to the risk of systemic symptoms, latex allergic people should be advised to use gloves made from synthetic rubber or polyvinylchloride. However, at present such non-latex condoms are not available. The term “hypoallergenic” condoms or gloves used by some manufacturers and authors is confusing both for medical and lay people and should be abandoned. After special manufacturing processes these products may contain lower amounts of rubber chemicals but are not free of latex proteins. Therefore, these “hypoallergenic” gloves or condoms are still capable of causing severe IgE-mediated allergy in latex allergic people, although people with rubber contact dermatitis may remain symptomless.

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References


A well-thumbed copy of the first edition bears witness to how useful I have found this book to be over the years—and still do on occasions. The title of the second edition has been changed to keep pace with the times but the format is unaltered: a brief text with lots of illustrations covering the presentation, examination and investigation of an extensive range of genitourinary disorders. As before, treatment and other aspects of management have been left to more wordy tomes. Some parts of the text have required considerable updating; the section on non-gonococcal infection, for example, has been substantially re-written to take account of developments in the field of Chlamydia trachomatis research. Other topics, such as bacterial vaginosis, have been introduced for the first time and colposcopy is mentioned, albeit briefly. The test is not always as succinct as it could be and the new chapter on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) disease is not particularly well laid out, although to condense such a rapidly growing topic into so few pages must have been a difficult task.

Let me not nit-pick, however, about the text; what is required of a colour atlas is lots of good clinical pictures and these are here in abundance. Devotees of the latest edition will recognise many of the illustrations but it would be churlish to complain about the repetition as many, such as those showing the late stages of treponemal infections, are unlikely ever to be bettered. The extensive chapter covering dermatological disorders and the section on anatomical anomalies are particularly useful. The standard of reproduction of the clinical material is excellent and many conditions encountered only occasionally in clinical practice are clearly shown.

This book is a must for those new to the speciality of Genitourinary Medicine and essential reading for anyone who may ever be called upon to examine the genitalia in the hope of coming up with a diagnosis. Those who still have a copy of the first edition would do well to hang on to it and update the pictorial collection by acquiring a separate atlas covering HIV related disease.

ERICA ALLASON-JONES


This colour atlas of AIDS in the tropics illustrates dramatically the florid nature of HIV-associated infectious diseases and tumours. The atlas is of exceedingly high quality and comes from the University Teaching Hospital and Ministry of Health in Lusaka, Zambia. The Department of Medical Illustration deserve great credit for the quality of the photography and the colour photographs portray the chronicle of severe manifestations of HIV infection in AIDS in Africa. There are extensive collections of photographs illustrating sexually transmitted diseases in HIV infected and non-infected patients, and the range of skin manifestations in HIV infection, including a detailed demonstration of the clinical appearances of endemic Kaposi sarcoma compared with the more recently described aggressive African Kaposi sarcoma associated with HIV infection. Indeed, the first descriptions of African AIDS arose from the astute observations of this group in Zambia of the altered nature of Kaposi sarcoma amongst young adults. AIDS is changing the clinical appearances of many infectious diseases and this atlas illustrates for the first time the altered pattern in Africa. The text is short and didactic but covers the major areas describing the clinical aspects of AIDS with shorter sections on laboratory and epidemiological features of HIV infection and ending up with a section on prevention and health education.

It is difficult to put the book down once you have opened it and this colour atlas will undoubtedly be a reference for those learning about the clinical manifestations of AIDS, not only in the tropics but worldwide as this epidemic spreads to require the involvement of more and more health workers.

By representing the horrific complications of AIDS so graphically, this book is not for the squeamish but encourages us all to redouble efforts at preventing HIV infection, both by public health education in younger children and by increasing efforts at vaccine production.

KPWJ McAdam