BOOK REVIEWS

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This very readable short book, published by Age Concern, aims to provide information for older people who are affected, either directly or indirectly, by HIV or AIDS. However, clinical aspects are dealt with too superficially to satisfy most readers with HIV/AIDS. Symptoms of HIV/AIDS receive only a few paragraphs in the entire book. The two occasions when thrush is mentioned do not explain that this is in the mouth. The statement that people (with AIDS) may live for many years is misleading. Research into drug treatments is mentioned but no drugs are named nor does the book actually let on that anti-retroviral drugs exist.

Much more emphasis is given to how to avoid contracting HIV and to the various modes of transmission. Here again there is a misleading statement in that one mechanism of vertical transmission is described as "possibly through breast feeding".

The book's strengths are its helpful discussion of psychological issues and also the chapter entitled Gaining Practical Help.

I suspect that this book's main appeal will be to the parents or older carers of people with HIV/AIDS.

CHRIS CARNE


A further addition to the list of recently published texts on the vulva, this Atlas of Vulvar Disease is aimed at specialist level, that is for the clinician who routinely manages a fair number of women with vulval problems. The authors are Edward Wilkinson, Professor of Pathology and Keith Stone, Associate Professor of Gynaecology at the University of Florida. The quality of photographs partly determines the success of a medical atlas and in this particular book the standard is excellent. Professor Wilkinson has written widely on vulval pathology and provides a very good account of the histological features of all vulval conditions. The accompanying photographs of histology are also well produced and would serve to make this text a useful addition to the bookshelf of all general pathologists who are required to report on vulval biopsies. There are twelve chapters entitled introduction, cysts, maculae, papillae, papules, plaques, tumours, ulcers, verrucae, vesicles, paediatrics and trauma. Some conditions do not sit happily in their chosen chapter, for example, lichen planus, lichen sclerosus and vestibulitis are considered "maculae" whereas eczema and lichen simples appear in the chapter on "plaques". A number of sections would be improved by more detail, for example, in the section on lichen planus, desquamative vaginitis is mentioned as an important differential diagnosis but no further information is provided. In addition, the information given, particularly for recommended treatments and "progressive therapeuetic options", are not always in keeping with clinical practice in the UK. It is suggested that all patients with genital warts should be observed closely on a long-term basis for evidence of dysplastic neoplastic growth is somewhat questionable as is the statement that significant disparity exists between the size of the partners erect penis and the patient's introitus in women with vulvar vestibulitis. There are other similar minor quibbles with other sections. The list of references at the end of the book is good but unfortunately no mention is made of these through the text.

In summary, this is a well produced atlas with very good sections on pathology. More detailed and accurate clinical information would make this an excellent text.

CHRIS SONNEX

NOTICES

Cellular and Molecular Biology. 2nd World Congress, Ottawa, Canada, 1–7 September 1996 For information, contact 2nd World Congress Secretariat, Tel: (613) 247-1344, Fax: (613) 247-2187, Email: mhamenla@ottawa.net.

International Congress of Sexually Transmitted Diseases 12th Meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTDR) held jointly with the International Union Against Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses (UVIDT) 19–22 October 1997, Sevilla, Spain. For further information contact: ICSTD Congress Secretariat, Apdo 6077, 41080-Sevilla, SPAIN. Fax: 95.4377413.

EUROGIN Conference: Herpes virus in Genital Pathology, 23–25 October 1996 EUROPEAN IPVDT CONGRESS ON STDs, 24–25 October 1996 Scientific Secretary: Dr Monsonego, 25 bvd Saint Jacques, 75014 Paris, France. Tel: (1) 40 78 26 71, Fax: (1) 45 89 74 05.

3rd International Congress on Home and Community Care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, 21–24 May 1997, RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Conference address: Bureau PAOG Amsterdam, Tafelweg 25, 1105 BC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Mr Clemens Walts/Ms Mariska Timmers.

DIARY OF EVENTS

11–14 Sept 1996 Third European Chlamydia Meeting, Vienna, Austria.


1–5 Dec 1996 International Papillomavirus Workshop, Queensland, Australia.