

Book Review

Manual on Tuberculosis, HIV and Lung Diseases: A Practical Approach

Editor: V.K. Arora; Associate Editor: Raksha Arora; Published by: Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi; 2009; Paperback; Pages XV+793 [6 colour photograph pages]; Price: Rs.895.00; ISBN 978-81-8448-630-8.

Tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are overlapping epidemics. Modern treatment of TB in HIV infected patients is highly successful. This manual is a sincere effort to tackle this problem mainly.

The book contains 42 chapters written by various well known workers in the field of pulmonary medicine from India and abroad. It covers various aspects of TB including its epidemiology, microbiology, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), extensive drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), female-genital TB, geriatric TB, etc. Various chapters on HIV-TB co-infection have nicely described this problem. Chapters covering pulmonary diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, lung cancer, smoking, sleep apnoea, critical care in respiratory failure, etc have thoroughly covered these topics. Chapters on stem cell therapy, new TB drugs development and advances in laboratory diagnosis of TB, etc have nicely covered the latest advances in these fields. Though the topic coverage in the book is not exhaustive in covering all aspects of HIV-TB problem, all the authors have done full justice with the topics allotted to them.

A remarkable feature of this book is the reproduction of several annexures on TB, HIV and other lung diseases. The reader does not need to search different journals or manuals for this information any more. A CD containing information on anti-TB agents and HIV testing is an additional bonus. The quality of printing is very good and radiographs are exceptional in quality.

This being a multi-authored book, some degree of overlap in few topics like MDR-TB, female genital TB, smoking, COPD, etc is there, but is inevitable. It is expected that future editions will take care of this aspect. The use of brand names of different anti-TB drugs and their pharmaceutical companies (p 193-194) could have been avoided.

This book will be a useful asset for all the postgraduate students of medicine and chest diseases and for all those caring for patients with HIV-TB. This manual strongly deserves a place in the library of every medical college.

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The accurate diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) in children remains challenging. A myriad of common childhood diseases can present with similar symptoms and signs, and differentiating between exposure and infection, as well as infection and disease can be problematic. The paucibacillary nature of childhood TB complicates bacteriological confirmation and specimen collection is difficult. In most instances intrathoracic TB remains a clinical diagnosis. A systematic approach to the child with recent exposure to TB, or with clinical and radiological findings compatible with this diagnosis, should allow pragmatic classification as TB exposure, infection, or disease to facilitate timely and appropriate management.

