

Lung transplantation

Eds: NR Banner, JM Polak, MH Yacoub

Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom

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Lung transplantation is the last resort in the treatment of many pulmonary vascular and parenchymal lung diseases, and it is refreshing to review a recently published book that approaches this subject matter from a multidisciplinary rather than a purely technical perspective. One of the authors, Julia Polak, indeed altered her original research direction to focus on this topic after she became a heart and lung transplant recipient herself in 1995. This book is just under 400 pages and is comprised of 29 chapters divided into three parts. The first part with its 10 chapters is dedicated to detailed descriptions of disease entities that contribute to indications for lung transplantation. In addition to the clinical descriptions, there are good discussions on basic science and pathogenesis. These features make this book a useful reference even to clinicians and scientists working in the field of pulmonary medicine unrelated to transplantation.

The second part with its 16 chapters on lung transplantation makes up the bulk of this book. By adopting a multidisciplinary perspective on this subspecialty, the authors,

all of whom are acknowledged experts in their respective fields of study, have provided a comprehensive update that will certainly serve as a useful source of reference for those involved in lung transplantation.

I personally enjoy the third part the most, which although consisting of only three chapters, points to the future direction of this field and leaves the reader thirsting for more knowledge. All three chapters on tissue engineering, xenotransplantation, and the artificial lung were comprehensively, yet concisely written.

Overall, I have found this book to be both educational and enjoyable to read. There could perhaps be a few more illustrations, but this is a very minor criticism compared to what it has already achieved. I would recommend this book with enthusiasm to all who are interested in this field.

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Neurology in practice, third edition

YL Yu, JKY Fong, SL Ho, RTF Cheung

Hong Kong University Press, 14/F Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

HK\$150 (US\$20), pp 280, ISBN 962 209 659 X

This book is aimed primarily at medical students, medical and neurological house officers in training, and attending physicians who are not neurologists. It is tailored to fit conveniently in a coat pocket or doctor's bag, and to be used as a ready quick reference in caring for patients with common neurological conditions.

The book begins by concisely sharing an approach to patients with neurological symptoms and signs. The next chapter considers the cranial nerves and their anatomy and associated clinical examination, symptoms, signs and the most common conditions that cause involvement of the various individual nerves. Referral to this chapter is an important memory stimulator since cranial nerve anatomy and pathology are complex and are not always readily recalled by young physicians and non-neurologists.

Subsequent chapters discuss sequentially the common neurological conditions encountered most often in the every day practice of medicine: headache, stroke and cerebrovascular disease, seizures and epilepsy, Parkinson's disease

and other movement disorders, multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, coma and brain death, nervous system infections, spinal cord conditions, peripheral neuropathies, myasthenia gravis, muscle disorders and brain tumours. The book concludes with useful concise chapters about rehabilitation and various common medicolegal issues.

The book is replete with lists and tables. Each chapter is constructed similar to an outline, attempting to orient readers to the usual causes, findings and management of each condition discussed. It is not meant to be a definitive text. Young physicians will find it very useful in formulating an approach to neurological problems. Even more experienced physicians who are not neurologists will find this little book to be a useful companion to review when they encounter neurological problems.

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