

## HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSTIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

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This is an incredibly clear, handy, updated, comprehensive and instructive guide across the numerous and sophisticated exponentially expanding tools of contemporary diagnostics of subclinical and clinical endocrine disorders, about the interrelations between clinical signs and laboratory data, about the monitoring of treatment and interpretation the obtained levels of variables.

Written by selected authors and edited by well known experts, it brings chapters dealing with the disorders and some individual endocrine glands like the pituitary, thyroid and gonads. In addition to the disorders of endocrine glands, special attention is paid also to metabolic diseases with endocrine background such as diabetes and hypoglycemia, dyslipidemia and obesity, hyper- and hypocalcemia, disorders of water metabolism, endocrine hypertension and osteoporosis. Among gonadal disorders, menstrual dysfunction, male hypogonadism and erectile function as well as hyperandrogenism are discussed.

The introductory chapter brings very valuable overview of immunoassay methods including RIA, ELISA and radiometric assays including brief descriptions of automated systems. Not too much attention, however, has been paid to most recent technologies of electrochemiluminescent and other modification of chemiluminescent methods. However, the instructive explanations of such problems like sensitivity, specificity, precision and accuracy of the methods used which certainly is of fundamental importance for the clinicians who have to evaluate and interpret correctly the data supplied by the laboratory. Nevertheless, the laboratory methods and the data obtained by hormone assays are not the only objective of this monograph, since it also brings very helpful tables with lists of clinical symptoms and instructive schemes showing how to proceed step by step to clarify the final diagnosis and treatment

All available information on the up to date knowledge of laboratory and clinical diagnosis of major endocrine and metabolic diseases may be found on 330 pages of this middle sized handbook which seems to be essential not only for all endocrinologists, but also for all physicians, since the frequency of endocrine disorders is increasing not only via absolute increased frequency of new cases, but also via improved diagnostics.

Pavel Langer