

HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSTIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

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352 pages, Hardcover US \$ 99.50*

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 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

TESTOSTERONE

Action, Deficiency, Substitution

Editors E. Nieschlag (Muenster) and H.M. Behre (Halle)

*Third Edition, Cambridge University Press 2004-10-15, ISBN 0 521 83380
(746 pages, price £ 75.00, US \$ 130.00)*

When I first opened this book, I was deeply impressed by the brilliance of selection and organization of topics, their authors, technical format and clear and instructive literary styles, which all result from the excellent editorial work. This comprehensive monograph covers all major topics related to testosterone and androgens including all steps of their metabolism, non-genomic actions, molecular biology and pathophysiology as treated in separate chapters. Also all aspects of androgen actions on specific target tissues are covered such as behaviour, spermatogenesis, hairs, bones, skeletal muscles, erythropoiesis and cardiovascular diseases. After that a special cluster of chapters follows which is devoted to the actions of androgens on male sexual functions (e.g. erection) and organs, on pharmacological aspects of the use of testosterone preparations, on clinical use of testosterone in hypogonadism, in non-gonadal diseases, in male senescence and also on clinical use of 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors. Also several topics covering recent aspects on some "non-traditional" problems like the pathophysiology of androgens in women, anti-aging effects of dehydroepiandrosterone, selective androgen receptor modulators, methodology of measuring androgens, synthesis of new steroidal androgens, hormonal male contraception and, finally, on illegal abuse of androgens in sports.

Excellent editorial work resulted in lovely and instructive organization of all chapters which, although written by several authors and including clinical and subclinical topics, were finally adjusted to unique adjustments which helps to the reader not only to digest those variable topics and to accumulate them into his memory, but also to find easily any requested answer to his question. The book certainly should be considered an important contribution to understand the contemporary knowledge about testosterone and about androgens in general.

Pavel Langer

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

A Practical Clinical Guide

*Edited by Salle Radovick (University of Chicago Children's Hospital,
Margaret H. Mac Gillivray (The Children's Hospital of Buffalo)*

*Published by Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey, USA. Price: US \$ 99.50
580 pages, hard cover US \$ 165.00*

Within recent few decades, pediatric endocrinology developed into more or less special branch of endocrinology. This appears to be quite reasonable and justified namely because of specific endocrine problems of growth disorders, puberty, various congenital disorders etc. It took few year to develop the outlines of this new branch and this valuable monograph of well known Contemporary Endocrinology series is apparently one of the first sources serving a compact information on the objectives of the present status. Although medium sized, it contains at least a great majority of up to date information about all major topics, including introductory discussions, review of clinical features, criteria needed to establish the diagnosis and therapeutic tools available.

Individual chapters cover, first, a cluster of growth related disorders including hypopituitarism, growth hormone insensitivity syndrome and treatment of children with idiopathic short stature and other growth failures such as Prader-Willi syndrome and Turner syndrome. This is followed by hypothalamic and pituitary disorders such as diabetes insipidus and anorexia nervosa as well as management of endocrine dysfunction following brain tumor treatment. Among adrenal disorders adrenal insufficiency, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, Cushing syndrome and mineralocorticoid disorders are discussed. Special pediatric chapters on thyroid disorders include congenital hypothyroidism with the description of thyroid hormone dysgenesis and neonatal screening strategies, autoimmune thyroid disorders, resistance to thyroid hormone and thyroid cancer in children. Calcium bone disorders and rickets represent the main topics of bone disorders sections. Since puberty is one of the major topic in pediatric endocrinology, a considerable part of the monograph is devoted to delayed and precocious puberty, problems of management infants with ambiguous genitalia. Reproductive disorders in adolescence including menstrual problems and hyperandrogenism and, not too surprisingly – contraception, are also included as well as endocrine responses to critical illness.

This handy book certainly offers a practical clinical guide not only to pediatricians and pediatric endocrinologists, but also to family physicians. Simply, it may be recommended to all dealing with childrens and their health problems to include this monograph into his personal library.

Pavel Langer