

BOOK REVIEWS

Evidence-Based Dermatology, edited by Hywel Williams, Luigi Naldi, Michael Bigby, Andrew Herxheimer, Thomas Diepgen, Berthold Rzany, 2003, 760 pages. ISBN 0-7279-1442-1. Hardcover. Price: £99.00. BMJ Publishing Group.

Here it is at last – the first textbook on evidence-based dermatology (EBM)! Quite appropriately, already in the foreword of the book the many controversies about the usefulness of EBM are discussed. The authors conclude that EBM is probably the best way of linking good clinical research with clinical practice. According to Sackett, a well-known clinical epidemiologist and one of the founders of modern EBM, this approach is best defined as the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence about the care of individual patients. In a series of chapters the authors of this new textbook describe the methodology of EBM, including how to critically appraise systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

The main part of the nearly 650 pages of this volume describes EBM applied to several relatively common skin disorders, such as acne, psoriasis, atopic eczema, malignant melanoma, basalioma, urticaria, bullous pemphigoid and toxic epidermal necrolysis. Conditions like pyoderma gangrenosum and common genetic disorders such as ichthyosis, are missing, however, the therapeutic options are critically reviewed and prioritized. By and large, the book is easy to read, interesting and very well written. Hywel Williams and his co-editors have done an impressive job in raising the scientific level of dermatotherapy. For a specialist in dermatology this is surely a valuable supplement to more traditional textbooks. It is highly recommended for reading.

Anders Vahlquist
Editor-in-Chief

European Handbook of Dermatological Treatments, 2nd edn, by A. C. Katsambas and M. Lotti. ISBN 3-540-00878-0. Price: EUR99.95, US\$119. Hardcover: 804 pages and 63 figs. Springer-Verlag, 2003.

The book starts with a description of 105 skin and venereal diseases in alphabetical order on 586 pages, followed by 16 methods on 95 pages for special treatments and tests. It ends with 114 pages on drugs used. A total of 168 writers have contributed to the book. The handbook has been minimally revised and retains exactly the form of previous edition. Each chapter ends with references for further reading mainly up to the year 1999. There are no illustrations of the clinical disorders but the treatments are well described and the recommended therapies are as a rule important to read.

Professor Lennart Juhlin
Section Editor

Hair & Scalp Disorders: Common Presenting Signs, Differential Diagnosis & Treatment, 2nd edition, by Rodney Dawber and Dominique Van Neste. ISBN 1-84114-193-5. Price: £85. Taylor and Francis Books Ltd. Hardcover, 294 pages, 350 figures, 2004.

The excellent book from 1995 has maintained most of the beautiful illustrations described. The number of references has been increased with recent news. The most important features are pointed out in the text with grey squares. As before, the book is valuable when looking for diagnosis and treatment. In recent years our knowledge of female pattern hair loss, androgenic alopecia and chronic telogen effluvium has increased and improved our treatment arsenal considerably. The book is highly recommended to all doctors taking care of hair problems.

Professor Lennart Juhlin
Section Editor