

BOOK REVIEWS

***Adverse Cutaneous Drug Eruptions* by Lars French, ISBN: 978-3-8055-9970-2, XIV + 240 pages and 43 Figs, 30 in colour, 34 tables. S. Karger AG, Basel, 2012**

Adverse drug reactions are common causes of substantial morbidity and mortality and the skin is often affected. The information in this field is increasing and it is of great value for the clinician to have updated knowledge available in an easy to use format so the individual patient can be managed in the best way.

In the recently published *Adverse Cutaneous Drug Eruptions*, edited by L.E. French, at the Department of Dermatology, University Hospital Zürich, a necessary initiative in providing such source of knowledge is taken with a result reaching a long way.

The book consists of 16 sections covering epidemiology aetiology, pathogenesis including present knowledge on possibilities for prediction of cutaneous adverse drug reactions based on genetic analysis. There are also separate sections on the important clinical entities such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms as well as on uncomplicated drug-induced disseminated exanthemas. The challenges with skin reactions to the new oncological drugs and the increasing use of biologics are discussed in separated chapters.

There are few photos but most sections are directly useful in clinical situations such as during diagnostic

work-up by listing drug eruptions mimicking skin disorders or during management by short summaries of evidence-based therapeutic interventions.

Each chapter is conveniently short and clear with bullet points presenting essentials in a nutshell.

The book should be of value to dermatologists, especially those considering establishing dedicated clinics for patients with suspected adverse cutaneous drug reactions, since different diagnostic tests are reviewed and clearly presented also with listings of their limitations.

The volume also covers new potentially very useful interventions to desensitise patients with hypersensitivity reactions to medications for dermatological, infectious, autoimmune and neoplastic disorders so patients not are withheld medications they need.

In summary, this is an easy to use, well written update on today's knowledge on adverse drug reactions in the skin and is recommended for the dermatologist, allergologist or any doctor working with patients with suspected cutaneous adverse drug reactions.

It is also useful for those working in pharmacovigilance, i.e. with the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse drug reactions.

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