

Therapy for Severe Psoriasis, 1st Edition, by Jashin Wu, Steven R. Feldman and Mark G. Lebwohl, 216 pages. ISBN: 9780323447973. Hardcover. Price: £58.49. Elsevier Health Sciences, 2017.

The book includes 16 chapters, the first chapter gives a well written short overview of psoriasis, epidemiology, cause and pathogenesis, subtypes and local treatments. Next are chapters on ultraviolet treatment (UVB and PUVA), systemically treatments, biological treatments, combination and new upcoming treatments. All authors are from US, which is reflected by the reference to FDA approvals and recommendations.

The aim of the book is to give a practical guide in treating patients with severe psoriasis, and as a reference book. The book gives a fine overview of the treatments available for patients with moderate to severe psoriasis. Each chapter is written as an independent section and the editors must have thought that the reader will read single chapters or use the book as a reference book. However, if you read more chapters consecutively or the entire book then there is a lot of repetition. An example is the case of re-UVB or re-PUVA which is discussed

in both the chapters with ultraviolet treatment and the chapter with acitretin. Another example is that in nearly all chapters with biological treatment the monitoring for tuberculosis and precautions in case of vaccinations is repeated. A suggestion for the next edition could be to collect the chapter on all anti-TNF biologicals and more focus on the effect and differences of the individual drugs. The book is thought as a practical book and a lot of suggestions on how to start and control the treatments are included. However for the old and well known drugs, more information could be included. For example about the need to control for skeletal calcification during acitretin treatment and about how to use liver test such as procollagen III peptide and fibroscan in monitoring methotrexate therapy.

In the end of each chapter is a short summary including which patients will benefit from the treatment, and important information about the treatment; this works well. An optional way to expand on this part could be a chapter on how to select treatment for the individual patient.

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