Book Review

‘The Textbook of Systemic Vasculitis

Professor : Anand N. Malaviya • Editor : Dr. Aman Sharma
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Systemic vasculitides are challenging multisystem disorders. The new book entitled ‘The Textbook of Systemic Vasculitis’, edited by Dr Aman Sharma, is the first textbook entirely devoted to systemic vasculitis edited in India. This is unique as it has contributions from the world leaders in the field admixed with extensive Indian Contributions. This book comprehensively covers almost all aspects of these diseases in great detail and is a significant contribution to this important and rapidly evolving field. This book has six sections and 46 chapters. The sections have been carefully divided into introduction of epidemiology, genetics and classification, basic sciences, imaging modalities including PET scanning, clinical manifestations according to organ involvement, principles of management including newer and future modalities and details of individual vasculitis syndromes.

This is a must read for all rheumatologist and a reference for specialists from various specialities involved in management of these disorders namely physicians, nephrologists, ENT specialists, dermatologists, neurologists and ophthalmologists. The understanding of vasculitis can never be complete without pathology and four chapters have been dedicated to pathology of skin, nerves and brain, kidney and lungs. These have detailed pathological description along with remarkable gross and photomicrographs. The chapter on renal pathology has been co-authored by Prof JC Jennette, the first author of Chapel Hill nomenclature system (CHCC and CHCC 2012). There are case vignettes, exquisite clinical photographs of the protean manifestations, flow diagrams and summary panels for management.

The questions whether a rare disease warrants a book has been answered forthrightly by Prof Paul Bacon, Professor Emeritus, Division of Immunology and Infection, College of Medicine, University of Birmingham, UK and an Icon in the field. He writes in his foreword of the book ‘The answer is yes for two reasons. Firstly, systemic vasculitis is a set of severe diseases which can be lethal. Thus, they need aggressive treatment which itself can have problems. Therapy is now directed at the severity of the individual case, as assessed by standardised technique, rather than at a diagnostic label. Thus a wider understanding of these syndromes is needed, then it is required, for example, to prescribe antibiotics for a classified example. The second problem is that the majority of the cases present first to the generalists—not to the rather small group of vasculitis specialists. The comprehensive coverage of the book will bring sufficient expertise within the range of all to recognize and manage the initial presentation—as well as learning when to refer on.’

Thus in the end I can say that book can not only help in early recognition and management but also stimulate the experts of the field to develop further into the field and forge collaborations into this important and often overlooked field.

Prof. Anand N. Malaviya, MD, FRCP (Lond.), ACR ‘Master’, FACP, FICP, FAMS, FNASc, (Ex-Head of the Department of Medicine, and Chief of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology Services, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi) Consultant Rheumatologist, ‘A&R Clinic’ and Visiting Sr. Consultant Rheumatologist ISIC Superspeciality Hospital, New Delhi.
Contact address: Flat 2015, Sector B-2, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110 070