David J. Goldberg, Alexander L. Berlin: *Acne and rosacea—epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment*

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Anja Thielitz

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This book published in 2012 covers the medical and therapeutic aspects of acne and rosacea with a balanced delineation of classical standard therapies and physical treatment options aiming primarily at cosmetic improvement of these disfiguring diseases. The American authors David J. Goldberg and Alexander L. Berlin bring in their profound clinical expertise in laser/light treatments, which is reflected by the fact that four of eight chapters are dedicated in large part to these therapies.

The first two chapters provide an overview of epidemiology, current pathophysiology, and classical medical therapy of acne vulgaris. The introduction in the field of acne includes also latest pathophysiological theories and is condensed enough to serve also non-dermatologists to gain a quick overview of current knowledge in this field. However, the reader seeking an overall understanding of this complex disease will rather find a diversity of hypotheses than a conclusive disease concept, which is reflected by the authors' frequent use of subjunctive and the allusion to the need of future studies.

The therapeutic part presents the relevant topical and systemic acne treatments in a comprehensive way and includes also detailed descriptions of side effects and applicability during pregnancy. A potential drawback for the practical use is that medications are presented in an enumerative text style without summaries/algorithms or tabular severity-adjusted recommendations allowing the reader to use it as a quick reference manual. A link to

recently published international acne guidelines would be desirable.

A separate chapter is dedicated to the clinical types and therapy of acne scars including surgical, physical, chemical, laser treatments, and injectables. Practical tips and photographic illustrations are focused on surgical methods and laser treatments, reflecting the authors' personal expertise.

The second part of the book dealing with rosacea is structured similar to the first one and provides a comprehensive overview of recent advances in pathophysiology, clinical subtypes, medical treatment options, and laser therapy. A further chapter addresses the potential treatment options of sebaceous hyperplasia.

The clinical part is adequately depicted with photographs, and the laser chapters additionally provide tables summarizing available products and manufacturers. For readers interested in other cosmetic techniques than laser therapy, a more detailed practical and better illustrated handling instruction would have been favorable.

In conclusion, this clearly structured book is useful for dermatologists in practice and training as well as for plastic surgeons, general physicians, and all health care personnel applying laser/light treatments for acne and rosacea. The size of the book is easy-to-handle and allows acquiring a broad insight in pathophysiology of both diseases and a balanced overview of medical and cosmetic therapies with a reasonable expenditure of time and money.

A. Thielitz (✉)
Universitätsklinik für Dermatologie und Venerologie,
Otto-von-Guericke Universität Magdeburg,
Leipziger Str. 44, 39120 Magdeburg, Germany
e-mail: Anja.Thielitz@med.ovgu.de