Ileoscopy: technique, diagnosis and clinical applications

Antonello Trecca, © Springer, 2012

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This useful illustrated book of 100 pages addresses a new and important area of digestive endoscopy. It is well written and is divided into fifteen short chapters written by different authors. The whole range of ileoscopy is tackled concisely, didactically and effectively. The book is of Italian authorship but with guest contributions from Japan and the UK. It covers the different techniques of enteroscopy that have been developed recently including the capsule, double and single balloon and spiral enteroscopy in addition to the

more frequently performed terminal ileoscopy undertaken during colonoscopy. The new equipment is well described with helpful diagrams. There are, in addition, chapters on small bowel radiology, pathology and surgery. There is a section on the new optical technology that has been introduced into endoscopic practice in recent years. The book outlines the techniques used to perform ileoscopy ranging from methods of passing the ileocaecal valve to the way in which device assisted ileoscopy is performed. The book focusses on the indications for the use of enteroscopy in different pathologies, both for diagnosis and for therapy. There is a section on paediatric enteroscopy.

The book is easy and interesting to read and will appeal to readers who are seeking a comprehensive overview of the subject. It does not go into sufficient detail to enable a physician to undertake, for example, double balloon enteroscopy without further training, but it is a good starting point for those who are intending to delve into the subject with the intention of developing a service in this area. It will also appeal to general gastroenterologists and surgeons who want to be updated about these new techniques and to primary care doctors and general physicians with an interest in gastroenterology. The book is well referenced; many of the papers quoted were published during the last 3 years.

This is a helpful book that focusses on recently developed endoscopic techniques that have thrown light into a previously dark and unexplored section of the gastrointestinal tract; it is an overview, easy to read, and it will appeal to a wide range of those interested in gastroenterology. Dr. Trecca is to be congratulated on producing a publication that integrates a large number of different authors into a small volume in such a way that the story it tells is smooth, logical and educational.

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