Principles of Perinatal and Pediatric HIV/AIDS: Mamatha M Lala and Rashid H Merchant (eds)

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This multi author book is compilation of management of various aspects of HIV infection in children. The book provides comprehensive updated information on HIV infection starting from perinatal period to adolescents. The book is divided into six sections. Section one deals with basic sciences including virology, immunology, natural history and pharmacotherapy of HIV infection. Section two provides clinical manifestations of different organ systems in detail. Section three includes information on perinatal transmission and management of mothers and newborn infants with HIV infection. Section four deals with problems and management of HIV infection in adolescents. Section five includes management issues of HIV infection in children. Section six provides guidelines on various social and ethical issues.

The experienced editors have tried to provide information on HIV infection in children by including a total of 47 chapters written by 89 experts from different parts of world. Individual authors have provided information based on evidence in literature and provided references for most of the recommendations. Individual authors have used tables, flow charts and photographs to make the chapter comprehensive. The chapters provide information on all the aspects that a clinician faces in his practice.

Section on basic sciences include a crisp reading about history of HIV infection, adequate information for clinician about virology and immunology with updated applied pharmacotherapy that a pediatrician treating children with HIV infection must know. Section on clinical manifestation is very comprehensive describing most of the clinical manifestations that may occur in various organ systems. Use of good quality photographs to describe individual clinical manifestations is strength of this section. Another important strength of book is inclusion of case studies and key points at end of most of the chapters. Section on women and newborns provides important information for obstetricians and pediatricians regarding management of HIV infected pregnant ladies and care of HIV exposed newborns. Section on management issues covers important aspects of immunization, nutrition, prevention and management of opportunistic infections, monitoring, adherence and management of failing ART. With survival of HIV infected children, more and more children are reaching adolescent age group. They have specific problems and many pediatricians may find difficult to handle their problems. To assist them there is a section on problems of adolescents with HIV infection.

At the end of the book a list of non-governmental organization (along with address, contact numbers and email ID) that provides care to HIV infected individuals is given. Quality of paper, printing and pictures are excellent. The book may be very useful reference reading for all physicians, pediatricians, and post graduate students dealing with HIV infection in pregnant ladies, newborns, children and adolescents.

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