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Book Review

A. J. Zuckerman, J. E. Banatvala, J. R. Pattison
Principles and Practice of Clinical Virology
Second edition, 643 pages
John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1990
Price: £ 85.00

This book gives a detailed description of all clinically important viruses. Most of the chapters are very up-to-date and contain some information rarely found in other textbooks. The chapter length is usually dependent on the clinical importance of a virus and on present knowledge. The book is composed of 27 chapters, arranged on 643 pages. A small disadvantage is that not a single coloured picture is included of the many clinical symptoms of viral lesions presented. As a general rule, all chapters cover the description of the virus, its pathogenicity, epidemiology, clinical features, treatment (when available) and prevention and mostly vaccines.

The first 140 pages deal with herpes viruses, specifically their latency and reactivation. Cytomegalovirus perinatal infection and presentation in the immunocompromised host is discussed in depth. A clear statement is made on the importance of human herpes virus 6. Hepatitis viruses are reviewed in 30 pages. The A and B virus are thoroughly presented, unfortunately the C virus only as a short annex. Viruses associated with acute diarrhoeal disease like rota, adeno, astro, Norwalk, calici, small round (par-

vo- and adeno-associated) corona viruses, Breda-like agents, their diagnosis and possibilities of vaccination are explained in 45 pages. Since treatment is not indicated, this is omitted.

Respiratory tract viruses are presented in 100 pages: influenza, parainfluenza, respiratory syncytial virus, adeno, rhino and corona viruses are described, also economic factors and special presentation and management in childhood. Measles and complications (20 pages), rubella and congenital infection (35 pages) and mumps virus (12 pages) and their prevention via vaccination are precisely outlined. The validity of enteroviruses is mentioned in 20 pages, especially polio virus vaccination. Pox viruses span 20 pages; in accordance with the reduced importance of human pox, the focus is on monkey pox, cow pox and molluscum contagiosum.

Alpha, flavi and Bunya viruses are presented in 12 pages, the overlapping viral haemorrhagic fevers take up 24 pages, and their pathogenesis 15 separate pages. A chapter on rabies virus gives very thorough information on pathogenesis and post exposure vaccination protocols. Forty pages deal with management and treatment of papova, papilloma and polyoma viruses. Human parvoviruses span ten pages, human retroviruses the last 50 pages; here an extensive review on leukemia viruses and immunodeficiency viruses, treatment and prevention is given.

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