
Book & New Media Reviews



Frontiers of Hormone Research. Pheochromocytoma. Pathophysiology and Clinical Management. Volume 31

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This issue in the series Frontiers of Hormone Research covers in a comprehensive approach the principles of catecholamine biosynthesis, metabolism and release, as well as the genetic basis of familial and sporadic pheochromocytoma. The book also provides an overview of the pathophysiology and clinical management of sporadic and familial chromaffin cell tumours.

The book describes up-to-date advances which impact on the biochemical tests and their appropriate implementation and interpretation. In addition, it reviews the diagnostic imaging by traditional techniques such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging, as well as by advanced techniques such as radionuclide imaging and scintigraphy including somatostatin receptor scintigraphy.

One of the chapters deals with the preoperative and surgical therapy in sporadic and familial pheochromocytoma, and compares the preoperative preparation of patients by phenoxybenzamine (an unselective α -adrenergic receptor antagonist) *vs* the selective α_1 -adrenergic receptor antagonists such as prazosin and doxazosin. One of the characteristics of endocrine tumours is the expression of a high density of somatostatin receptors; however, the currently available somatostatin analogues are not encouraging in the therapy of pheochromocytoma.

Surgical management by conventional open adrenalectomy and by minimal invasive endoscopic technique are discussed. The book reviews surgical considerations in special situations such as bilateral pheochromocytomas, extra-adrenal pheochromocytoma, and pheochromocytoma during pregnancy and in cardiac patients. A special chapter is devoted to the management of malignant pheochromocytoma, and an algorithm is prepared for therapeutic strategies.

The book is an essential reading, not only for endocrinologists and scientists in the fields of oncology and nuclear medicine, but also for anesthesiologists and surgeons who play a major role in the preopera-

tive preparation of pheochromocytoma patients, as well as in their intraoperative and postoperative management.

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