

The Pneumonias

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The Pneumonias

Foreword by John B. West

With 55 illustrations



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Dedications

The text is dedicated to all clinicians and scientists who have enhanced our understanding of the etiology, recognition and management of pneumonias.

M.K.

For Marie, Zachary, and Cheston—Thank you for your constant love, support, and encouragement. You mean everything to me.

B.A.C.

To God, my wife Deanne, children, family, colleagues, friends, and especially Dr. Martin Weiner, who have kept me alive with love and therapy to complete this book.

R.D.B.

Foreword

It is a pleasure to contribute a brief foreword to this new, comprehensive text on the pneumonias. The 1980s saw an explosion of knowledge in pulmonary science, and there is every reason to expect it to continue through the end of the century. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with all the important advances, even in a restricted area of interest. For this reason, books such as the present one that collate the latest findings on an important clinical topic in a convenient, readable form provide a valuable service.

This book is a salutary reminder that there is life beyond molecular and cell biology. Important though these disciplines are, some of us regret the lemming-like rush into these fashionable fields at the expense of more traditional pulmonary science. One result of this rush has been an increasingly large number of residents and fellows who are unable to interpret the results of blood gas assays or who are completely at sea when presented with a patient who requires mechanical ventilation. The present perception that research funding is available only in molecular and cell biology has produced some unfortunate distortion of training programs. I pity the poor medical student in some of our most prestigious medical schools who is taught by a molecular biologist or neurophysiologist how the lung works.

I wish the book well. The pneumonias have been with us since the beginning of medicine and look well able to survive into the twenty-first century. Indeed, with a little help from the human immunodeficiency virus, they seem to be more enterprising than ever. But then, the pneumonias have never been respecters of persons and traditionally have invaded the very young to the very old. If patients ultimately benefit from the knowledge presented here, the book will have served its purpose.

John B. West, M.D., Ph.D., DSc
La Jolla, California

Preface

There are few texts devoted to lower respiratory tract infections, and those available approach pneumonia principally from an infectious or pulmonary disease perspective. *The Pneumonias* is the first and only multidisciplinary book to address the scientific and clinical aspects of pneumonia. It is an integrated presentation of the pathophysiology and clinical basics of pneumonia, treating lower respiratory tract infections as a generic pathologic process. It attempts to strike a balance in the practice of science and the art of medicine. The book, however, does not suggest eliminating the need for consultants' services; indeed it focuses on the diagnostic and therapeutic indications for seeking their assistance. In some cases, it even encourages early consultation when their expertise would be most opportune at that time in the illness. The goal of this book is to enhance interaction between specialist and generalist, thereby ensuring a more favorable outcome for the patient.

The book is divided into chapters organized in chronologic order, so each topic provides a basis for the succeeding chapter. We have also written each chapter, however, so the incorporated material is independent from that in other chapters in the book. This approach is accomplished by discussing infectious pneumonias as clinical syndromes rather than as individual infections caused by specific organisms. We have also avoided the inclusion of exotic etiologic agents, which can readily be reviewed in standard texts.

We believe we have included a wealth of useful information concerning assessment of infectious lung diseases not available in this format elsewhere. For example, there are chapters on clues to the etiology of pneumonia and pulmonary disorders mimicking lung infection, and pitfalls to avoid when diagnosing infectious pneumonia. Finally we have included a novel chapter on hospital-discharge strategies for physicians managing patients with pneumonia. This book should be of practical use to all individuals treating patients with pneumonia.

Robert D. Brandstetter, M.D.
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Monroe S. Karetzky, M.D.

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It is with respect and admiration that I have had the pleasure of working with Eleanor Mangieri and Lucille Mellaci.

R.D.B.

Much thanks to the staff of Springer–Verlag for sticking with the three of us to the completion of this text.

M.K.

B.A.C.

R.D.B.

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