Sex Hormone Replacement Therapy

Edited by
Henry G. Burger

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Preface:

Henry G. Burger

This volume addresses important issues in contemporary endocrinology. Despite its title, it does not cover replacement therapy for overt pituitary-gonadal disease. Rather, its major emphasis is on the consequences of the menopause and on androgen deficiency in the absence of overt disease of the hypothalamus and/or pituitary in men. The use of hormone therapy for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in post-menopausal women has become an area of major debate and the pros and cons are examined in detail. Secondary prevention also remains controversial and is addressed.

The major consequence of post-menopausal bone loss are the development of osteoporosis and osteoporotic fracture and this volume discusses the various therapeutic options available to the practicing clinician. Of growing interest in recent years has been the possibility that long-term hormone therapy after the menopause, may substantially reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's dementia, and hormones have also been proposed as a treatment for established dementia. The evidence regarding these questions is carefully considered.

Another area causing great clinical anxiety is the matter of treatment of estrogen deficiency in women living with the diagnosis of breast cancer and this volume provides a scholarly review of the relevant considerations. There is a growing interest in the place of plant-derived estrogens or phytoestrogens as an alternative to classic estrogens for the treatment of menopausal symptoms. This difficult area is lucidly treated.

Finally the question of whether a state of true androgen deficiency occurs in a number of chronic illnesses, as well as in aging males, is a matter of contemporary debate and the issues of symptomatic androgen deficiency without overt pituitary gonadal disease are considered in detail.

This book should be of interest to a wide range of medical practitioners both general and specialist, the latter including endocrinologists, gynaecologists, rheumatologists and cardiologists.