

Clinical Gastroenterology

Series Editor:

George Y. Wu
Division of Gastroenterology-Hepatology
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Farmington, CT, USA

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Lisa M. Chirch • Jurate Ivanaviciene
Editors

HIV and GI Tract Complications

A Comprehensive Clinical Guide

 Humana Press

Editors

Lisa M. Church
Division of Infectious Diseases
University of Connecticut
School of Medicine
Farmington, CT
USA

Jurate Ivanaviciene
Division of Infectious Diseases
St. Vincent's Medical Center
Bridgeport, CT
USA

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Preface

The last three decades have witnessed dramatic strides in our ability to successfully treat and manage infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The ongoing development and availability of more effective and better-tolerated antiretroviral (ARV) medications have contributed to this, resulting in virologic suppression in a majority of patients taking ARVs. The rollout of certain ARVs for pre-exposure prophylaxis or “PrEP” represents an example of successful innovation to reduce the number of new infections. However, we continue to see new increasing numbers of new infections, particularly in certain patient populations, such as young men who have sex with men (MSM) and those of Hispanic or African descent. Coinfection with other viruses, such as hepatitis C virus (HCV), addressed later in this book, represents a significant ongoing challenge, especially as it relates to the opioid epidemic. End organ damage, such as liver cirrhosis and failure in this case, but also cardiovascular and renal disease, and malignancy, may now present more of an existential threat to individuals living with HIV, even those with well-controlled infection. To this end, this book will explore the entire gastrointestinal tract and describe its relationship with HIV, detailing the myriad potential manifestations related to opportunistic infections, medications, and HIV-related malignancy, among others. Chapters are organized by organ system within the GI tract, with liver diseases covered in two separate chapters, one focusing on viral hepatitis.

It is our hope that the information summarized in this work will help guide clinicians who care for this patient population in their continued efforts to improve quality and extend survival in those living with HIV infection.

Farmington, CT, USA

Lisa M. Chirch, MD, FIDSA

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Contributors

Nishaal Antony, MD Division of Infectious Diseases, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC, USA

Henry Anyimadu, MD, FACP, FIDSA, AAHIVS Division of Infectious Diseases, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, New Britain, CT, USA

Gayle P. Balba, MD Division of Infectious Diseases, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC, USA

Sarah Banks, MD Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Jack Fuhrer, MD Division of Infectious Diseases, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA

James H. Lewis, MD, FACP, FACG Division of Gastroenterology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC, USA

Rahul Mahapatra, DO SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, USA

Sidney Olefson, MD, MBA Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Ann Palmer, MD Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Alexander Perelman Division of Gastroenterology, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Kavita Prabhakar, MD Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Ramona Rajapakse, MD, FRCP Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA

Houman Rezaizadeh Division of Gastroenterology, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Isaiah P. Schuster, MD Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA

Mary Snayd Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Haleh Vaziri, MD Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

Ulysses Wu Division of Infectious Diseases, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford, CT, USA