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**Reasoning and Decision Making in Hematology.** Benjamin Djulbegovic (ed). New York, NY, Churchill Livingstone, 1992, 253 pages, \$44.95.

This soft-covered volume of only 253 pages contains an enormous amount of important information. The reason for the high information to page ratio is that the data are summarized and presented in a condensed algorithmic format. For example, on page 5 the author states that he has reduced a source containing 300 pages to a single page with three algorithms. The author has attempted to "apply decision theory and cognitive science concepts to hematologic problems." The author has achieved the two goals of his book, which are to identify the "reasoning strategies (that form the basis) of diagnostic and therapeutic problem solving" in patients with hematologic disorders, and to "provide clinicians with guidelines and explicit details about diagnostic and therapeutic decision actions." Included in these guidelines are what test should be ordered and when, and what treatment should be instituted for a particular disease, at what dose, for what period of time, and what the "most cost-effective strategy" might be.

The first chapter, entitled "Decision Making, Algorithms and Clinical Reason," must be carefully read and the information digested before progressing if one wishes to fully comprehend the thrust of this book. The book is divided into seven main topics, each of which is subdivided into more specific disorders, for a total of 51 chapters. The introduction is divided into (1) Decision Making, Algorithms and Clinical Reasoning and (2) Approach to Hematologic Problems. The next major headings include Red Blood Cell Problems, White Blood Cell Problems, Enlarged Lymph Nodes/Spleen or Bone Pain, Bleeding Disorders, Clotting Disorders, and Blood Transfusion. The final three pages of the book consist of a Test Sensitivity and Specificity Index, which is useful in quickly obtaining pertinent information. For example, in the index the entry "CD5 antigen in chronic lymphocytic leukemia" refers to page 121, where it is stated that ". . . if CD5 is not found on cells, a diagnosis of CLL should be questioned (sensitivity of test close to 100%)," or under the heading "iron deficiency anemia," one is referred to tables about common tests in iron

deficiency anemias with their sensitivity and specificity and, in addition, to a table illustrating the distinction between iron deficiency anemia and anemia of chronic disease. The following page is devoted to an algorithm for the treatment of iron deficiency anemia.

The chapters consist of concise and well-written text in which pertinent and up-to-date information about each disease entity is given, in addition to explanations of the principles behind the construction of the accompanying algorithms and tables. At the end of each chapter there are a number of sources listed as suggested reading, including many from 1991. One caveat to the reader might be that although therapy for many of the diseases appears to be that currently in use, it will undoubtedly change in the future, especially for leukemias and lymphomas.

In chapter 33, entitled "Lymphomas: Diagnostic Work-up," the Working Formulation is presented, including some of the newer subtypes of lymphoma, such as anaplastic (Ki) large cell lymphoma, monocytoid B-cell lymphoma, and mantle zone (diffuse intermediate) lymphomas, attesting to the up-to-date entities characteristic of this book. In this chapter the author states, quite accurately I believe, that an adequate surgical biopsy is of utmost importance. He also states that "although not a substitute for morphologic examination, use of immunohistochemistry is a useful supplement to accurate diagnosis." Although this text is not written specifically for pathologists, I was pleasantly surprised to read some passages containing such information that we pathologists always try to inculcate in our clinical colleagues.

I agree with the author's statement that the book is intended for everyone who deals with the hematologic patient, including students, residents, general internists, surgeons, and hematologists. Pathologists who are also involved in the care of the hematologic patient may find this book useful, despite the fact that a good portion of it relates to therapy. There is valuable information that pathologists will find helpful in their practice and also for teaching medical students and residents about the issue of test ordering, which has become critical in this era of practicing sound medicine and cost containment. Therefore, this useful small volume should also find a place on the bookshelf of those pathologists who deal with the hematologic patient.—BERTRAM SCHNITZER, MD, *Professor of Pathology, Director of Hematopathology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI*

## BOOKS RECEIVED

*Books for review or listing may be sent to Louis M. Fink, MD, Department of Pathology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Laboratory Service (113/LR), John L. McClellan Veterans Hospital, 4300 W 7th St, Little Rock, AR 72205. Books will be reviewed at the discretion of the Book Review Editor. The following books were received in June 1993.*

**Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology, vol 17: Genetic Metabolic Diseases.** H.S. Rosenberg and J. Bernstein (eds). Switzerland, Karger, 1993, 190 pages, \$192.

**Management and Biology of Carcinoma In Situ and Cancer of the Testis.** Proceedings of the 3rd Copenhagen Workshop. November 1992 (reprinted from *European Urology*, vol 23, no. 1, 1993). Niels E. Skakkebaek, Kenneth M. Grigor, Aleksander Giwercman, et al (eds). Switzerland, Karger, 1993, 256 pages, \$60.

**Guide to Clinical Aspiration Biopsy: Pediatrics.** Phillippe Vielh and Lydia P. Howell. New York, NY, Igaku-Shoin, 1993, 241 pages, \$95.

**Color Atlas/Text of Flow Cytometric Analysis of Hematologic Neoplasms.** Tsieh Sun. New York, NY, Igaku-Shoin, 1993, 221 pages, \$148.50.