

Book Reviews

Barrett's Esophagus – Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management. Edit. by Stuart Jon Spechler and Raj K. Goyal. Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc., New York, The Netherlands, England, 1985. 258 pp. US \$45.00.

In the last decade, our knowledge of Barrett's esophagus has burgeoned, as is attested by the large number of new publications by a diverse group of specialists, which indicates widespread interest in this disorder. There is increased awareness that the columnar cell-lined esophagus is far more prevalent than was previously supposed. It is clear that Barrett's esophagus affects children as well as adults. Barrett's esophagus is clinically important, both because it represents a severe complication of a very common disorder – reflux esophagitis – and because it is associated with the development of adenocarcinoma. Thus, the columnar cell-lined esophagus poses many diagnostic and therapeutic dilemmas for patients and physicians.

The editors of this fine book, Drs. Stuart Jon Spechler and Raj K. Goyal, two eminent gastroenterologists, are to be congratulated for judging correctly that the time is ripe for a book devoted entirely to Barrett's esophagus. Part of the material presented in the book consists of proceedings of a national symposium on columnar cell-lined (Barrett's) esophagus held at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center on January 30, 1984. The book is divided into 20 chapters, including a separate chapter containing excerpts from the discussion sessions that followed the presentations.

The opening chapter by Raj Goyal sets the tone by providing a detailed overview of the historical perspectives. It clarifies numerous misconceptions including those regarding terminology, muscular and mucosal esophago-gastric junction and normal/abnormal columnar cell-lined esophagus. The next five chapters deal with morphology and pathogenesis of columnar cell-lined esophagus, cell proliferation in Barrett's epithelium, acid pepsin production by Barrett's esophagus and endocrine cells in Barrett's epithelium. Separate chapters are devoted to clinical, endoscopic and radiologic features of Barrett's esophagus. The radiologic illustrations are of good quality. The chapter by Holloway and Dodds on motor dysfunction of the esophagus and the one by Roy Orlando on transmural electrical potential difference measurements in Barrett's esophagus are provocative and certainly open up new avenues for future investigations.

One excellent chapter deals with Barrett's esophagus in children. The cell biologists find Barrett's esophagus fascinating because it represents an "experiment of nature" in which columnar mucosa is acquired in an organ normally lined by squamous epithelium. Thus Barrett's esophagus provides an excellent model for the study of the broader subject of mucosal metaplasia, dysplasia and neoplasia. Dysplasia and the risk of developing adenocarcinoma, as well as the regression of colum-

nar epithelium after anti-reflux surgery, are well covered in 4 chapters. Spechler et al., by elaborating upon the concept of "prevalence versus incidence ratio" in absolute terms, eloquently discuss the risk of developing adenocarcinoma in Barrett's epithelium. I wholeheartedly agree with this approach and believe that this issue will not be solved until the results of some of the ongoing national studies on Barrett's esophagus become available.

Lastly, separate chapters deal with medical and surgical management of Barrett's esophagus. The closing chapter, with excerpts from the discussion session, clearly presents the controversial issues and areas of incomplete understanding, and sets forth new directions for future research.

The greatest merit of this book is that the editors have ingeniously managed to bring together a vast amount of current information from recognized authorities in a compact volume. This is an excellent book, very well written despite multiple authorship, and easily readable. It is an up-to-date review of the current state of our knowledge of Barrett's esophagus. I highly recommend it to all physicians interested in Barrett's esophagus and to investigators wishing to review in detail specific aspects of this fascinating disorder. It is a "must" for all reference libraries.

Farooq Agha, MD
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Experience and Controversy. Edit. by Burton I. Korelitz and Norman Sohn. Grune & Stratton, Inc., Florida, London, Ontario, Australia, Japan, 1985. 320 pp. 62 illust. US \$32.00.

Perhaps more accurately subtitled the *Upper East Side Experience and Controversy*, this book originated from the third post-graduate course on inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) held at the Lenox Hill Hospital. It gives a balanced, well integrated, and enjoyable update and review of current concepts concerning IBD. The editors are to be congratulated for compiling such a comprehensive yet succinct work on so vast a subject.

In 36 chapters, the etiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, radiology, course, and medical and surgical treatment of IBD are covered. Subjects range from IBD in the homosexual and elderly to surveillance and dysplasia to ones as controversial as the use of immunosuppressives and sphincter saving operations.

One chapter is devoted to radiology and contains a brief discussion of the role of air contrast studies, enteroclysis, CT, ultrasound and interventional radiology. Naturally, as a radiologist, I would prefer more extensive treatment of this topic, but the radiologic armamentarium is well presented. Unfortunately, the reproductions are only fair.

I have a disagreement with one of the statements in this book, namely, that Crohn's disease of the stomach and duodenum is uncommon. This statement is difficult to understand in light of the National Cooperative Crohn's Disease Study that puts the incidence of upper gastrointestinal tract abnormalities between 20 and 25%. Fortunately the editor, in a footnote, comments that this is a controversial subject and that many x-ray abnormalities of the duodenum are ignored or considered unimportant in the presence of significant ileal disease.

While the book was written primarily for the clinician, radiologists interested in IBD will find this affordable volume an excellent review of state-of-the-art knowledge concerning this complex subject.

Richard M. Gore, MD
Northwestern University Medical School
Chicago, Illinois

Hepatic Radiography. Edit. by Michael E. Bernardino, M.D. and Peter J. Sones, M.D. Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, 1984. 320 pp., illus. US \$65.00.

The intention of this book, as stated by the authors, is to present a practical, up-to-date, multimodality approach to the radiographic study of the liver for both radiologists and clinicians. It is structured so that each chapter either offers a description of the relevant anatomy, pathology, technical considerations, advantages and limitations of a given modality or addresses a specific clinical setting. For the physician seeking an overview of hepatic radiology this is an excellent source. It is succinct, informative, practical and quite readable. This book would be particularly useful for the radiology resident, imaging fellow or clinician seeking a comprehensive approach to the liver or to the practicing radiologist desiring an up-to-date review. It is not well suited as a reference source because it is structured modality by modality. Anyone wishing to find information about a given pathologic process or anatomic point would have to refer to each chapter as it pertains to the disease entity.

The book is organized into chapters dealing with plain film interpretation, scintigraphy, sonography, CT, MRI, trauma, biopsies and drainages, angiography evaluation of portal hypertension and vascular interventional techniques. The chapter on plain film interpretation offers an extensive and interesting discussion and collection of illustrations of some of the more unusual hepatic calcifications. This chapter offers a comprehensive discussion useful to anyone who looks at plain abdominal films.

Hepatic scintigraphy is particularly well addressed. The review of the various agents is concise and informative and includes an interesting discussion of various experimental radiopharmaceuticals. The description of specific findings and differential diagnosis is clear and the chapter presents a good overview of the uses and limitations of the modality.

The chapters on hepatic sonography, CT and MRI are well organized and complete. They are somewhat limited by the number and quality of the images, but the discussions would be quite instructive to anyone involved or interested in hepatic imaging. A second edition would benefit from newer scans and a discussion of dynamic scanning.

The chapter on trauma is particularly helpful as it provides a detailed, practical approach to CT technique in suspected hepatic trauma. The final four chapters deal with invasive approaches to diagnosis and treatment of hepatic disease. I found these chapters to be particularly interesting and well written. The discussion of hepatic hemodynamics and the various shunt procedures is especially well handled. It would provide stimulating reading for anyone interested in disease processes in the

liver. The descriptions of technique are sufficiently technical, but some focus on biliary procedures might have been helpful.

In all, I think the book offers an excellent overview of hepatic radiography and would be useful to anyone seeking a clear, concise approach to the subject. It helps to define the uses and limitations of the various modalities and does so in an interesting, readable manner.

Linda A. Harkavy, MD
SUNY School of Medicine
Stony Brook, New York

Interventional Radiology of the Abdomen. Second Edition. Edit. by J.T. Ferruci, J. Wittenberg, P.R. Mueller and J.F. Simeone. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore London, 1985. 484 pp. Hardcover. US \$79.95.

This volume is the second edition of a well received monograph on abdominal interventional radiology. It has twice as many editors and authors, and is twice as long, as the first edition.

The book is divided into 29 chapters, which provide easy access to the material. General instrumental and nursing aspects of the topic are covered and there are detailed discussions of the performance of percutaneous tumor biopsies, drainage of fluid collections and interventions to the biliary, urinary and alimentary tracts. The only aspect of interventional abdominal radiology that is left out of this account is the angiologic one.

Notwithstanding the great number of contributors there is an admirable similarity in the way the different procedures are discussed and demonstrated with the help of many illustrations. Browsing from one chapter to another the reader gets the impression that one anonymous editor must have given an imprimatur to each chapter only after extensively editing it for lucidity and informativeness.

Great attention is given to the discouraging experience of failures and complications. Many chapters are concluded with a concise "overview". I consider this volume the most sensible guide to abdominal interventional radiology that is available today.

Ad E. van Voorthuisen, MD
University Hospital
Leiden, The Netherlands

Frontiers in Gastrointestinal Cancer. Edit. by Bernard Levin and Robert E. Kiddell. Elsevier Science Publishers, The Netherlands, 1984. 328 pp. US \$44.95.

This book presents 21 essays on a wide variety of skirmishes in the arena of G.I. cancer. The editors in their short preface do not indicate their intended audience, and their goal, which is to present a "selection of important topics that convey some of the exciting scientific and clinical advances in this field," is vague. The topics are not arranged in groupings by organ, discipline, or interest level. In short, it is not clear why or for whom this book was written. It emerges as a sampler with some tidbits for clinicians but with many selections having only a narrow appeal to students or investigators in disciplines as disparate as epidemiology and cell cloning.

Notwithstanding the lack of a common score, the individual players, all active and accomplished investigators, are very good. The clinician will enjoy excellent summaries of the current state of knowledge in chapters entitled "The Role of Hepatitis B Virus in Primary Hepatocellular Carcinoma," by Arie Zuckerman; "Cost Effectiveness of Colorectal Cancer Screening," by David Eddy; and "Radiation Therapy in the Management of Gastrointestinal Cancer," by Leonard Gunderson and co-authors.

Other chapters, well done and with clinical news to impart, are "Diet and Environment in the Etiology of Gastric Cancer" and "Pathophysiology of Anorexia and Disturbances of Taste in Cancer Patients," by Joosens and Geboers and DeWys and Hoffman, respectively. Clinically focused chapters with perhaps fewer advances to report but creditably done nonetheless deal with adjuvant chemotherapy in gastric cancer; cancer in Barrett's esophagus and inflammatory bowel disease; hepatic arterial therapy and radiolabeled antibody as treatments for hepatocellular carcinoma; and venous invasion by colon cancers. In addition to their clinical merit, all of these chapters should serve as good starting points for those interested in clinical investigation in these particular areas.

The other chapters are more limited in their appeal, playing the role of literature summaries and introductions to current investigation spanning a wide range of G.I. oncologic research. Particularly well done are Pour and Lawson's "Pancreatic Cancer in the Hamster Model," Allfrey's "Control of Experimental Colon Cancer by Sodium Cyanate," and Dowlatshahi and Mobarhan's "Diet and Environment in the Etiology of Esophageal Carcinoma"; these essays are both full of information and very well presented. Relatively new technologies are explained and

put to work in chapters on lymphoid proliferation in the G.I. tract and lymphoid reactions in colon carcinoma, which are heavily immunological in their bent; indomethacin's anti-tumor properties in rats with autochthonous tumors and sodium cyanate's effects on experimental colon cancer; and the use of cell cloning techniques in choosing chemotherapeutic agents for G.I. tumors. More traditional approaches continue to bear fruit in studies of chromosomal changes in human colonic tumors and the mechanism of adenoma formation in the colon.

In summary, this book is a collection of review papers, most of them presenting some new data as well. Perhaps the basis for their selection was an editorial prediction of quality, for they are very good. However, the lack of a common discipline, organ, or specific goal suggests the absence of both a particular purpose and a target audience, and may seriously limit the book's success. The chapters might better have appeared as state of the art papers in oncology or gastroenterology periodicals.

Douglas L. Brand, MD
SUNY School of Medicine
Stony Brook, New York