V. Fuster, M. Verstraete

Thrombosis in Cardiovascular Disorders, vol. 1

Thrombosis is probably the single most frequent cause of death: arterial thrombosis plays a fundamental role in the development of myocardial and cerebral infarctions and pulmonary embolism is a major cause of death in numerous conditions, including cancers and traumas. Huge progress has recently been made in the understanding of thrombus formation and in the development of drugs able to interfere with this process. An American cardiologist (V. Fuster) and a European hematologist (M. Verstraete) have succeeded in editing a multiauthored book which is a remarkable synthesis of the present state of knowledge on thrombosis, with an excellent balance between fundamental and practical aspects. Although more than one third of the text is devoted to cardiac diseases, the book will be of immense interest to neurologists working in the stroke field. The chapters on atherosclerosis, thrombosis, fibrinolysis, and prethrombotic states apply equally to arterial ischemic stroke. Prevention of venous
thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, which is an everyday preoccupation for neurologists in charge of stroke patients, is dealt with in two excellent chapters and the only chapter specifically devoted to stroke is a short but remarkable summary of the role of thromboembolism in arterial stroke and of its treatment. One third of the book is devoted to antithrombotic treatment, with again a good balance between theoretical and practical aspects. Chapters on optimal therapeutic ranges for heparin and oral anticoagulation, on anticoagulants during pregnancy, on thrombolytic agents, on hemorrhagic complications of antithrombotic treatment will be found most helpful for the rational management of patients. The last chapter on novelties in antithrombotic and thrombolytic therapy is a fascinating one, showing how rapidly the field is moving and suggesting that many new agents will soon be available which might completely modify our management of patients with arterial or venous thrombosis.

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