Drug Therapy in Renal Failure and Dialysis -A Critical Evaluation of the Necessities

Uremic patients prior to, and particularly during maintenance hemodialysis, are often multimorbid patients who require a variety of treatments. Such drug treatment, however, is frequently rendered difficult by abnormalities of drug elimination (pharmacokinetics) or drug action (pharmacodynamics). Furthermore, risk/benefit considerations in uremic patients must be handled with clinical common sense.

We felt that there was a need for a comprehensive view at some critical areas of drug treatment of uremic patients where either no consensus has yet emerged or where major clinical problems may arise. We are aware of a recently published article of Bennett et al. [1] and the recent textbook of Suki and Massry [2] on 'Therapy of Renal Diseases and Related Disorders'. We do not want to compete with these excellent contributions but strive to complement them by putting emphasis specifically on dialysis-related problems.

It has been the aim of this special issue to give not only information on how to prescribe drugs. Rather, we have asked various experts in the field of nephrology to give a balanced view on indications, results and dangers of treatment modalities in the light of their respective experiences. We did not

strive to be encyclopedic. It was our aim to discuss the necessity of treatment, or lack thereof, for some of the more interesting therapeutic dilemmas in nephrology. We hope that the contributions presented in this issue will provide helpful guidelines for colleagues engaged in the care of patients suffering from renal failure or being treated by dialysis. This strategy will also be pursued in other forthcoming issues of Blood Purification.

References

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