Pediatric and Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Perspective and Consequences

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51 figures, 24 in color, and 14 tables, 2009
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Chronic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) encompasses Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis and indeterminate colitis. These disorders are induced by interactions between genetic, host, environmental and immune regulatory factors.

The etiology of IBD is still obscure; however, a growing body of evidence suggests a dysfunctional mucosal immune system overacting with constituents of the commensal flora.

The disease is not uncommon in the pediatric population. The clinical presentation and therapeutic considerations including nutritional support and disease complications – especially failure to gain weight and short stature – are more specific for pediatric and adolescent patients suffering from IBD.

Early-onset IBD has a distinct phenotype and the difference from adult IBD makes it a unique subgroup, with the possibility of a wide range of causes.

The aim of this book is to increase the knowledge and understanding of pediatricians and physicians on IBD in infants, toddlers, children, adolescents and young adults.

This book covers most of the relevant topics related to pediatric IBD. Experts and leaders in the field of pediatric IBD from the USA, various European countries and Israel have contributed to this volume.

Derek Jewell from the UK presented new data on the genetics of IBD. Koletzko from Germany discussed the epidemiology of IBD. Cucchiara from Italy reported on the evolving topic of the pathogenesis of IBD. The clinical aspects of pediatric IBD included the following: Bouvaros from the USA described an approach to the clinical diagnosis of IBD, and Lebenthal and Branski from Israel and Walker-Smith from the UK presented early-onset IBD as a distinct topic. The third clinical chapter by Sanderson from the UK was dedicated to an important issue in pediatric IBD, namely growth and puberty.
The fourth clinical chapter by Sands from the USA highlights an important and relevant topic, i.e. the transition of the pediatric patient to the care of the adult gastroenterologist.

The book then continues with some very informative chapters which deal with considerations that need to be taken when forming a diagnosis.

The first is by Laghi from Italy on radiological and imaging features, the second is by Thomson from the UK on endoscopic findings, and the third is by Harpaz from the USA on pathology in pediatric IBD.

The concluding part of the book includes disease management.

The first by Rufo from the USA concentrates on pharmacological therapy, the second by Heuschkel from the UK on the important therapeutic role of nutrition in IBD, and the third written by Coran’s group from the USA is on surgical considerations.

The editors wish to thank all the contributors to this book who are well-known authorities in the field and who invested their time and efforts into realizing this project.

The editors wish to express their appreciation to the professional team from Karger Publishing House who accompanied us all the way through the production of this book.

Last but not least, the editors wish to thank their wives Elizabeth Walker-Smith, Effie Branski and Chana Lebenthal for their patience and continuous support.

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