Book Review
Raymond F. Zambito, Dennis J. Cleri
Immunology and Infectious Diseases of the Mouth, Head and Neck
Mosby Year Book, St. Louis 1991 XIX + 426 pp
ISBN 0-8151-1719-1
This book presents an excellent summary on the importance of the immune system in infectious
diseases of the head and neck. The book is separated into five sections.
The first section gives a short and concise description of the basic essentials of the human
immune system, information that is indispensable for the rational diagnosis and therapy of
infectious disease. The function and build-up of the cellular and humoral immune systems as
well as the immunological defect syndrome are described in separate chapters.
The second section presents the specific host-parasite relationships in infections of the head and
neck regions. Special problems such as infectious endocarditis, osteomyelitis or HIV infection
are also assigned a chapter of their own. In addition to the understanding of important general
principles of infection, a very detailed treatment guide for clinicians is given, e.g. for the
prophylactic treatment of endocarditis in oral surgery.
The third section summarizes the mechanisms of action and spectrum of activity, side effects,
and pharmacokinetics of all the clinically important antimicrobial substances, thus enabling this
chapter to be used as a reference at any time to solve special problems concerning antibiotic
treatment. Specific clinical problems such as bacterial resistance or specimen taking and
sensitivity testing of bac-
teria in the head and neck region are also dealt with here in a chapter of their own.
The fourth section gives a short and concise overview of oral and orofacial infections.
In the fifth section the essential epidemiological principles are presented in a short but sufficient
manner.
The aim of this book is to help the clinician treating diseases of the head and neck, and manages
to do so very successfully. On the one hand, the book conveys the necessary understanding for
basics in immunology, pharmacology and microbiology, and on the other hand also provides the
clinician with, when necessary, detailed recommendations for therapy.
The only drawback of the book is that frequent and typical ENT diseases such as sinusitis and
tonsillitis are not depicted or discussed in enough detail. On looking at the constellation of
authors, one can see that the main audience of this book will be dental surgeons and
orthodontists.
In summary, this book provides the reader with an overall picture of the current state of the art in
immunology and infectious diseases of the head and neck region in a very clear and, until now,
available manner, and can be highly recommended.
V. Bonkowsky, München