Drug Dosage

The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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Preface

Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections have been extensively studied since the 1960s, when various toxic metabolites were found and characterized. Since then, their roles in pathogenicity have been clarified one after the other, and the complex mechanisms of P. aeruginosa infections have gradually been determined. Immunotherapy using toxic metabolites and cell wall components has been effective, with decreased mortality due to sepsis in animal experiments, and prevention of sepsis from local infections by vaccination.

However, eradication of P. aeruginosa from areas of local inflammation in bronchiolitis or bronchitis, such as diffuse panbronchiolitis or cystic fibrosis has not yet been achieved. These patients have sufficient levels of antibodies against the toxic metabolites and cell wall components and do not die from sepsis. However, P. aeruginosa is not eradicated from the trachea, which indicates that there is a complicated host/pathogen relationship which remains to be clarified.

The present volume of Antibiotics and Chemotherapy consists of lectures and reviews on the role of virulence factor in pathogenesis, host defense in acute and chronic P. aeruginosa infections, immunotherapy and chemotherapy.

It is our hope that the current knowledge and new results presented in this book will enable laboratory scientists and clinicians to promote understanding, research and clinical practice in their own fields of science.

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