Obesity: Basic Concepts and Clinical Aspects

Frontiers in Diabetes

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Obesity: Basic Concepts and Clinical Aspects

Volume Editors
F. Belfiore, Catania
B. Jeanrenaud, Geneva
D. Papalia, Catania

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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
This book, which is published as the 11th volume of Frontiers in Diabetes, represents the edited version of the papers presented by the invited speakers at the 11th Congress of the Italian Union Against Obesity (UICO), held in Catania on March 28-31, 1990. This Congress, although organized by an Italian Scientific Society, was conceived as an international meeting in which experts from various parts of the world could present data and exchange opinions on most of the facets of obesity. Indeed, the meeting included 23 lectures delivered by scientists from 7 countries (Canada, England, Israel, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, USA), and was focused on several important aspects of the current research on obesity. The rich scientific contents of the meeting, recorded in this book, covers a wide range of topics related to the pathogenesis and clinical manifestations of obesity and its complications. After an introduction on the basic aspects related to adipose tissue and adipocyte differentiation, a group of contributions analyse the genetics of obesity and the possible defects in the thermogenetic mechanisms, as well as the neuroendocrine and metabolic alterations that are often associated with obesity. This is followed by an analysis of the metabolic relationship between obesity and diabetes and the phenomenon of insulin resistance. The association between obesity and hypertension is also considered. Finally, some space is devoted to the problems related to the treatment of obesity.

In spite of the growing interest and the large research effort in both the basic and clinical aspects of obesity, this disorder is still poorly understood and the treatment is often unsuccessful or produces small and/or transient effects followed by relapse. Obesity, therefore, still represents an unsolved medical problem, which has social and economical repercussions as well. For these reasons, any contribution which may improve our knowledge on this widespread disease should raise great interest. We hope that this book, which presents a clear and comprehensive survey on the latest view of both basic and clinical aspects of obesity, may be appreciated by physicians and scientists involved in the study and treatment of this disorder.

F. Belfiore
B. Jeanrenaud
D. Papalia