Antiemetic Therapy
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Editor

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Preface

Prevention and treatment of nausea and emesis are very important issues for the patient’s well-being under different clinical as well as outpatient situations. This multidisciplinary book on this topic should bridge the gap between basic research and clinical practice, and we hope that many scientists will be able to benefit from it. In this context I am very grateful to everybody who was involved in the preparation and completion of this book.

Various and partly still unresolved pathomechanisms play roles in nausea and emesis in humans, and appropriate animal models are not always available for preclinical research on antiemetic drugs. Therefore, only the results from studies in the clinical setting can decide a new compound’s utility. Basically, we have a rather small number of drugs in the established treatment regimens, however some new interesting compounds are being studied in clinical trials.

The aim of this book on the one hand is to lead to a better understanding of the pathophysiology of nausea and emesis under different conditions, and on the other to provide an update of the treatment regimens. Specifically, the increasing use of emetogenic anti-cancer chemotherapy needs the best prevention and treatment strategies to control its nausea- and emesis-provoking side effects. Vomiting might also be a complicating factor in radiation therapy and surgery. On the other hand, in women affected by nausea and vomiting in early pregnancy, the question of drug treatment versus non-treatment has to be answered.

Essentially, this book should serve the clinician. In collecting the articles we aimed at providing a ‘state-of-the-art’ overview of the selection of antiemetic drugs available and their dosages and routes of administration under
specific clinical conditions. After a few decades of intense research, we are in
the fortunate situation that in almost every relevant clinical condition of nausea
and emesis, a collection of investigations has put forward clear conclusions for
the best treatment modalities.

Whereas the main task of collecting these papers was to serve the clinician
when making the right choice for every patient’s needs, the book also pays
significant attention to the interests of scientists in basic research as well as
academic teachers.

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