

Book Review

The Kidney in Liver Disease, 3rd Edn., by Epstein, M. (ed.). Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1988.

Renal dysfunction in liver disease, different from other renal failure, exhibits specific pathophysiological features, which have important bearings on therapeutic approach. It has been Murray Epstein's merit to provide a broad spectrum of basic and clinical knowledge on this subject by editing 'The Kidney in Liver Disease'. Since the first edition more than 10 years ago it has become a standard textbook for those interested in this scientifically puzzling and therapeutically complex field.

The third edition of this book offers an update on renal, neurohumoral and circulatory disorders, incorporating a large amount of recent information in 29 chapters with 650 pages. Experts with their own considerable contributions to the field have added new topics, such as hypo- and hypernatremia in liver disease, the pathology of acute renal failure, the influence of pharmacokinetics on diuretic therapy, the possible role of atrial natriuretic factor in the pathophysiology of ascites formation and — of practical importance — inclusion criteria and practical details of therapeutic paracentesis. The chapters that were contained in the previous edition have been revised, and mostly been updated with references up to 1987 or 1988. Since several topics are covered by various authors the reader is offered different points of view, e.g., the ongoing dispute 'underfilling' versus 'overflow' is addressed in different chapters by M. Epstein, M. Levy, R.W. Schrier, J. Bosch and colleagues from the Barcelona group as well

as by E.J. Zambraski and G.F. DiBona.

Some suggestions may be offered for the next edition, pertaining both the expert reader as well as to those with an interest in the field. Details with great practical impact should be added, such as how and up to which bilirubin level, serum creatinin can be determined reliably. The arrangement of the chapters could be modified: section 4 with the heading 'Experimental Models in Liver Disease' just covers the carbontetrachloride-phenobarbital model of experimental cirrhosis, whereas a thorough discussion of the bile-duct ligation model is hidden in section 6 'Hormonal and Neural Alterations other than Renin — Angiotensin — Aldosterone'. Finally, in a textbook of this style with many contributors, a very comprehensive and detailed index (e.g. bile duct ligation, overflow, underfilling) would be desirable.

The most recent edition of 'The Kidney in Liver Disease' is a must for those working on the renal, neurohumoral and circulatory aspects of liver disease. It can be highly recommended for gastroenterologists, hepatologists, nephrologists and endocrinologists. In addition it provides a vast amount of expert information for all those interested in the pathophysiology and therapy of this fascinating subject. Therefore, 'The Kidney in Liver Disease' should be available in every medical library.

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