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CONTROVERSIES IN BREAST DISEASE: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Edited by Sharon Grundfest-Broniatowski and Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr.
Marcel Dekker

More than another review of the standard topics in breast disease, this book presents new and valuable perspectives in a number of ways. First, certain topics are covered by "outsiders," such as a surgeon's discussion of adjuvant chemotherapy. In addition, there are numerous authors from outside the U.S., whose chapters are excellent presentations on benign breast disease, management of breast pain, chemotherapy trials stressing the European experience, and subcutaneous mastectomy. These chapters are well written and provide new insights for American readers. The American authors break new ground as well; a chapter by Edwin Fisher forces us to rethink the value of early detection. The medical establishment may have oversold the value of early detection, and Dr. Fisher deserves credit for a careful reassessment of the facts.

Similarly, C. Barber Mueller casts a critical eye on clinical trials dealing with surgical treatment of early breast cancer and especially the way in which results are reported. The information presented here will enable the reader to more accurately evaluate such trials in the future. Unfortunately, this excellent chapter is missing a portion of its selected bibliography.

The book also has valuable chapters on epidemiology, methylxanthines in breast disease, as well as updated breast preservation results from Milan, the Institute Curie, and the Cleveland Clinic. The chapters from Cleveland deserve careful attention since there are no other major centers reporting on breast preservation *without* radiation.

A final section details the experimental successes of immunotherapy (called "biologics" by the authors) in breast cancer screening and treatment, but its optimistic note is hard for me to justify, given the long history of unfulfilled promises in this field.

Controversies in Breast Disease is not a reference book nor is it necessary to read or appreciate every chapter.

However, it will certainly provide new and valuable information to all physicians interested in breast disease.

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MANUAL OF CARDIAC DRUG THERAPY

By M. Gabriel Khan
W.B. Saunders

This second edition concisely reviews drugs used in cardiovascular medicine today. Individual chapters deal with calcium antagonists, beta blockers, and diuretics. These drugs are reviewed with specific attention to their mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics, and approved indications. There is also a section on experimental agents undergoing study.

The section on beta blockers does a more than adequate job in reviewing all but esmolol and labetalol. The chapter on diuretics could have expanded more on lipids. Definite strengths are the sections dealing with hypertension, angina pectoris, acute myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, and arrhythmias. Other chapters pertaining to agents used for antiplatelet and thrombolytic therapies, as well as treatment of hyperlipidemias and endocarditis, suffer from a lack of attention to fine details.

Each section begins with a brief description of the diagnosis and clinical presentation of a disorder, and then proposes a treatment scheme. The treatment scheme incorporates a rather involved review of each therapeutic agent, indications and contraindications, side effects and, most importantly, interactions with other therapeutic agents. The chapter on cardiac arrest reviews concepts of basic and advanced cardiac life support and the drug therapy involved.

In general, the *Manual of Cardiac Drug Therapy* is a worthwhile book. It would be helpful to senior medical students, medical or surgical residents in training, and possibly for noncardiovascular subspecialty staff and fellows in training. The book does provide certain therapeutic pearls for the cardiovascular specialist, especially