

NCCP Textbook of Respiratory Medicine

Editor-in-Chief: D. Behera; Associate Editors: S.N. Gaur, S.K. Katiyar, Bharat Gopal and S.K. Luhadia; Published by: Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, New Delhi; 2011; Hard Cover; Pages: 980+XIV+18 pages of colour photographs; First Edition; ISBN: 978-93-5025-212-3

The textbook has been published under the aegis of National College of Chest Physicians and edited by D. Behera, an eminent chest physician of our country. He has been assisted by four associate editors in compiling this multi-authored textbook. It contains 41 chapters contributed by noted authors in the field, both from India and abroad. This single volume textbook sets out to provide comprehensive yet concise information on the ever expanding field of respiratory medicine, with special emphasis on the disease conditions commonly encountered in our country. One of the explicitly stated goals for the book is to address the needs of a gamut of audience, including undergraduates and postgraduates, the future of the speciality.

The selection of the topics for the chapters is judicious, covering all the diseases relevant in our setting, and overall the text is very lucid and well organised. The book begins with a brief review of respiratory system examination, the common symptomatology of chest diseases, and a chapter on physiology; which is beautifully illustrated, informative, and clear. The chapter on diagnostic methods gives an account of emerging modalities like positron emission tomography (PET) scan and endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), and a separate chapter is dedicated to electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy (ENB), intending to keep readers abreast with the latest advances in diagnostic technology. The inclusion of a discussion on pulmonary function test (PFT) as a tool of evaluation in pulmonary medicine would have been useful, particularly for the undergraduates and postgraduates. The text is well supported by figures and tables, as evident from chapters on fungal pneumonia, hydatid disease, pathogenesis of asthma, pulmonary embolism, and lung cancer diagnosis.

The chapters on tuberculosis, bronchial asthma and lung cancer have been covered extensively. The in-depth description of diagnostic methods, pathology and treatment strategies in tuberculosis is befitting for our setting. We would have welcomed a separate section for discussion on various recommendations of "Treatment of tuberculosis: guidelines" (4th edition) by The World Health

Organization, and its applicability in India in the light of the available evidence. The appendices following the chapter on tuberculosis present the *Revised National TB Control Programme* (RNTCP) guidelines, a must know for the undergraduates and postgraduates. The case based approach adapted in the chapter on treatment of tuberculosis in special conditions is appreciable, and another example of effort to connect with its readers in the medical school. Immunotherapy in bronchial asthma has been exhaustively covered including the relevant Indian data. Other major diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), pulmonary embolism, cor-pulmonale, interstitial lung disease (ILD), pleural diseases and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and respiratory diseases are discussed appropriately. Smoking and air pollution related respiratory disorders have been given the due importance consistent with their relevance in the clinical practice.

The textbook is an excellent compilation of relevant topics in the field of pulmonary medicine presented in a lucid and flowing language. The book cogently summarises the current knowledge in the field. The major strength of the book is being comprehensive yet concise. It should be useful to undergraduates and postgraduates students of pulmonary medicine and internal medicine, as well as serve as quick referral for the busy practitioners and respiratory physicians. We recommend this book as a valuable addition to any medical library.

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