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Atlas of liver, pancreas, and kidney transplantation

Stuttgart: Georg Thieme 1994. 172 pp., 307 figs. (ISBN 3 13 127201 5) DM 300.00.

This book is a very detailed review of organ donation and transplantation. The authors give a step-by-step pictorial account of the surgical technique of organ donation and transplantation. Besides the very nice, sharp intraoperative color photographs, there are a lot of carefully constructed diagrams to better explain and demonstrate the fine details that are clearly visible in the operative photographs. Each chapter has been written by an expert in the field, so that the reader can be guided through each procedure safely.

The first chapter is dedicated to organ donation. After summarizing donation criteria, D. Henne-Brunns describes the tech-

nique of abdominal organ donation with preservation and organ recovery. A detailed account is given of the different combinations of organs as well as of the special aspects of multiple organ donation.

The second chapter deals with the different aspects of liver transplantation. The standard technique in orthotopic liver transplantation is written by B. Kremer and that of liver segment transplantation by D. M. Lloyd and C. E. Broelsch. This part includes the technique of recipient liver resection. Heterotopic liver transplantation is described by O. T. Terpsta.

Pancreas transplantation (chapter 3) is presented by D. M. Lloyd. This chapter includes the indication, the technique of whole versus segmental graft transplantation, and the special aspects of donation, including donation from living donors.

G. Kootstra has written chapter 4 over kidney transplantation. It deals with the indication, graft preparation, recipient operation, living kidney donation, and transplantation.

The combined technique is discussed by R. Margreiter in the fifth chapter. He provides details of combined liver-kidney

transplantation with its indication as well as combined kidney-pancreas transplantation.

The book clearly explains all details of surgical technique and anatomy. The authors have restricted the text to a minimum so that the reader can gain a clearer understanding of the anatomy as each procedure develops. This book is very useful and beneficial not only for the transplant surgeon but also for the general surgeon. With the increasing number of organ transplants and the restricted number of surgeons dealing directly with the transplantation, more and more general surgeons have to be involved in organ donation. The atlas is therefore very useful for them too. It is also useful for graduate and postgraduate education and for those surgeons who just start with a transplant program. This atlas is recommended for all transplant surgeons and should be available to all general units where organ donation can occur.

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I. J. Klompmaker

Clinical aspects of immunosuppression in liver transplantation

Assen: Van Gorcum 1995. 104 pp., figs. (ISBN 90 232 3038 8) Paperback Hfl. 50.00.

The book comes from a very active European liver transplant center and reflects the experience of this center with immunosuppressive treatment after liver transplantation over the last 15 years. In detail, the book consists of four papers that were published in different journals between 1989 and 1995 and of one manuscript that has been submitted for publication.

The first chapter compares the effects and side effects of conventional (azathioprine and prednisolone) versus cyclosporin-based immunosuppression in liver-grafted patients. The second chapter questions the need for treatment of "subclinical" or mild clinical rejection early after liver transplantation. The third chapter focuses on the pharmacokinetics of cyclosporin after intravenous and oral administration. The nephrotoxic side effects of cyclosporin and the beneficial effects of its withdrawal on renal function in long-term liver-transplanted patients are the topics of the fourth and fifth chapters. The final chapter then sums up the current concepts of immunosuppressive protocols based on cyclosporin. It discusses new immunosuppressive drugs that have come into clinical use recently or that are currently under clinical study.

In conclusion, the book focuses on a number of clinically important aspects of

cyclosporin-based immunosuppression and gives an outlook on new drugs that may become relevant in the near future. Apart from chapter two, however, in which the treatment requirements for mild rejection are discussed, the book does not contain really new aspects. Moreover, monoclonal antibodies and polyclonal antisera available for immunosuppression are not mentioned in this book. Thus, it leaves out one important group of agents that are included in immunosuppressive regimens after liver transplantation in many centers. Nevertheless, the book gives a good overview on many clinically relevant details and aspects of cyclosporin-based immunosuppression and is, therefore, of interest for transplant physicians and surgeons as well as for transplant immunologists.

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