
Preface

I usually say to my residents that when I was a resident myself, I was much more confident at diagnosing and treating Cushing's syndrome than I am today! This statement aims at pointing out that the deeper you go in dealing with clinical, laboratorial, and image aspects of the differential diagnosis of the many etiologies of the syndrome, as well as the various treatment modalities, the more you will encounter cases that are exceptions to the rules, leading to diagnosis and treatment pitfalls. However, notwithstanding that, only insights provided by experts will help physicians dealing with Cushing's syndrome to provide better care to their patients, avoiding the above-mentioned pitfalls.

This medical text, which Humana Press kindly invited me to edit, was initially intended to be a handbook on Cushing's syndrome, giving insights on the various aspects of its diagnosis and treatment to trainee endocrinologists, internists, pediatricians, neurosurgeons, and urologists. Pursuing that task, I invited basic and clinical researchers with great experience in their respective areas, and I was gratified by their agreement to cooperate with the book. However, their chapters were so comprehensive and profound that I ended up with a true textbook on Cushing's syndrome, from the bench to bedside, encompassing molecular, physiological, clinical, and therapeutic aspects of all the many causes of hypercortisolism. As many chapters overlapped on some issues, duplication was inevitable. Nevertheless, I tried to keep the originality of each manuscript as much as possible, also aiming to stress important data for the reader by repeating the arguments under different perspectives.

I am indebted to Humana Press for the opportunity to edit a book with so distinguished a team of collaborators, and extremely grateful to all the colleagues who gave their outstanding knowledge and their time to enrich this work.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-1-60327-448-7>

Cushing's Syndrome

Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Treatment

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2011, XII, 304 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-60327-448-7

A product of Humana Press