

Preface

Goals of the Book

This book aims to provide concise and pragmatic guidelines to clinicians managing patients with uncommon diseases at the bedside. After a brief introduction, the book is divided into nine chapters including several questions. Each chapter is related to either a specific organ (heart and vessels, lungs, nervous system, skin, kidneys, liver) or a type of affection (infections, internal medicine diseases). The authors received specific guidelines: short introduction focusing on epidemiology and pathophysiology, detailed description of the diagnostic approach, and practical management recommendations. Illustrations and algorithms are requested in order to facilitate the understanding of the disease. A minimal number of references are needed, including an exhaustive review published in a major journal, if available.

In the chapter related to the cardiovascular system, the readers will find articles related to the Tako-Tsubo cardiomyopathy, Brugada syndrome, calcium channel disorders, pulmonary hypertension, and pheochromocytoma. The chapter related to infectious diseases includes descriptions of the Lemierre's syndrome, rickettsiosis, Strongyloides hyperinfection syndrome, dengue virus infection, and Chikungunya virus infection. The chapters "respiratory diseases," "renal disease," and "liver system" detail the pulmonary fibrosis, Gitelman and Bartter syndromes, and uncommon liver diseases. In the chapter on the nervous system, the reader will find responses on myasthenia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Parkinson disease. Immunological diseases, metabolic disease, and mitochondrial affection are presented in a chapter entitled "internal medicine diseases." In a chapter related to the hematological system, the reader will find details about the hemolytic anemia, retinoic acid syndrome, and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. The "skin diseases" chapter includes descriptions of the hereditary angioedema and toxic epidermal necrolysis.

Summary for Readers

Although uncommon diseases have a low prevalence in the general population, they can affect a large number of patients admitted to intensive care units. An uncommon disease can be diagnosed in the intensive care unit. Often, a complication of the disease by itself leads to the patient's admission to intensive care unit.

This book does not aim to provide an exhaustive description of those diseases. The goals were to focus on the major diseases that the intensivists can meet in their clinical practice. The most relevant features for the management in intensive care unit are reported.

The authors have promoted the practical characteristics of uncommon disease. After a brief introduction on the epidemiology and pathophysiology of each disease, the authors emphasize the aspects related to diagnosis and treatment. In this book, the residents and intensivists facing patients with uncommon diseases would appreciate to find concise and pragmatic responses.

Uncommon Diseases in the ICU

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