

# Preface

No matter how depressing it sounds, obesity is here to stay! Despite a significant increase in the awareness of causes of obesity, extensive media campaign from public health organizations and government bodies, and availability of modern medical interventions, the global incidence of obesity is rising exponentially. The official product information for medications is based on the data derived from normal weight individuals and therefore, cannot be applied to obese patients. As such, clinicians are struggling to make dosing decisions for obese patients on a daily basis. Antimicrobials are one of the most frequently used medications, and limited information is available about antimicrobials in obese patients. Like any other situation in the practice of medicine where limited information is available, clinical decisions are often guided by the best use of available data and expert advice on the matter. In a nutshell, this is all what the first clinical reference on “Drug Dosing in Obesity-Volume I: Antimicrobials” is all about.

Three years ago when I made a transition from full-time clinical pharmacist role to an academic, I contemplated the idea of having a clinical drug reference for dosing medication in obesity. Springer publishers were kind enough to accept the idea, and I started contacting doctors, pharmacists, and academics to gauge the support for this idea. The response was overwhelming, and many individuals volunteered to write chapters for the antimicrobials section of the book. The response for the non-antimicrobials chapters was less encouraging. Springer was once again kind enough to allow breaking the book into two volumes; the first one for the antimicrobials and the second one for the rest of medications.

Dosing antimicrobials in any patient population requires thoughtful considerations of patients, diseases, and drug factors; therefore, this book is not meant to replace clinical judgment. The aim of this book is to assist clinicians by providing an up-to-date summary of the literature coupled with the expert advice on dosing antimicrobials in obesity. Each chapter represents a summary of the relevant pharmacokinetic changes in obese patients followed by a discussion of the available literature on the use of a particular antimicrobial in obese patients. Dosing recommendations are provided based on the available literature and expert advice

considering important patient-related factors, where applicable. Selected cases have been presented as an appendix to the book to demonstrate clinical decision-making in the dosing of antimicrobials for obese patients. To the best of our knowledge, there is no reference book available on the dosing of antimicrobials in obesity and we believe that this book will serve as a useful reference source for clinicians, academics, and researchers.

I would like to thank all the authors for their time and efforts in making this book a reality. Special thanks to the Division of Pharmacy, School of Medicine at the University of Tasmania for allowing me to complete this important piece of scientific literature. Thanks to Sarah Germans and Thijs van Vlijmen at the Springer office. Last but not least, thanks to Prof. Jason Roberts for providing two chapters for the book and accepting my invitation to become a co-editor of this book. There is an urgent need to conduct pharmacokinetics and clinical studies on many routinely used antimicrobials in obese patients where the literature is simply nonexistent. I will encourage all clinicians involved in providing care for obese patients to collaborate with the universities in conducting the necessary research.

Best wishes,

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Volume I: Antimicrobials

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