

Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems—A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective (3rd ed)

edited by Richard Guan Yong-Choon, Kang Jin-Yong, Ng Han Seong, Ismail Merican

published by Havas MediMedia, Singapore 2000

313 pages, available from Havas MediMedia at S\$25

The third edition of this manual of gastroenterology by regional experts from Malaysia and Singapore consists of 27 short chapters packaged in 2 sections entitled “Luminal gastroenterology” and “Hepatobiliary & Pancreas.” In his preface, the editor, Dr Richard Guan, states that “our goal is to provide a resource for primary care physicians and non-gastroenterological specialists in the diagnosis and management of common gastroenterological problems.” Dr Guan points out that “all the chapters have been revised to reflect the advances in gastroenterology over the last 5 years.”

Three new chapters on abnormal liver function test, gallstone disease and gastroenterology in the East and West have been added. Also, most chapters have been extensively revised to reflect current thinking and describe new techniques.

How well does this book address its stated goal? It would be easy to criticise its “cook-book” approach, especially when there is an overlap on the management of jaundice or the approach to gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding. However, it is clearly stated in the Preface that this manual provides “a quick reference, to help local doctors to diagnose and treat patients more efficiently and confidently.” It does not pretend to be a comprehensive gastroenterology text.

The authors have adhered to a standard format that makes for easy reading. Indications, contraindications, preparation, algorithms are clearly laid out. This will appeal to busy medical students, housemen and other physicians in training, for whom time is precious. References and recommended reading lists are provided for those who require them. Thus, each chapter is comprehensive on its own.

As expected in a multi-author text, there is considerable variation in the quality of the chapters. Some are quite outstanding (e.g. chapter 15, Treatment of chronic hepatitis; and chapter 21, Drugs and the liver). The overall standard is good. Of course, one can take issue with technical points here and there. For example, the Tensilon test is seldom used to provoke non-cardiac chest pain (yield less than 20%) while colonic air insufflation to test irritable bowel is not conclusive. For variceal bleeding, balloon tamponade has largely been superseded by endoscopic intervention while T.I.P.S.S. is still not widely available.

There are 2 chapters on parasitology and gastroenteritis by Malaysian authors while the chapter on Cancers is written by a senior oncologist. There are also 2 excellent chapters by surgeons on the acute abdomen and laparoscopic surgery. The chapter on ERCP would benefit from some additional line drawings to explain the text.

The book ends with a very nice chapter entitled “Gastroenterology in the East and West”, a concise yet comprehensive overview of the major differences between the spectra of diseases experienced in the East and Britain.

Overall, this is a very useful book. It contains a wealth of information and common sense in a compact form. I believe that Dr Guan and his co-authors have achieved their goal. I was the author of one of the chapters.

Cheng Jun, *FRCPEd, FAMS*

OK REVIEW. Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems – A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective (3. rd. ed). The third edition of this manual of gastroenterology by regional experts from Malaysia and Singapore consists of 27 short chapters packaged in 2 sections entitled “Luminal gastroenterology and “Hepatobiliary & Pancreas.” In his preface, the editor, Dr Richard Guan, states that “our goal is to provide a resource for primary care physicians and non-gastroenterological specialists in the diagnosis and management of common gastroenterological problems.” Dr Guan points out that “all the chapters have been revised to reflect the advances in gastroenterology over the last 5 years.” If you want to avoid the ten most common problems in projects, the answer is simple - upskill yourself and gain the qualifications and knowledge necessary to see - and avoid - problems before they happen. That's what APMG PRINCE2 is all about. Both the Foundation and the more advanced Practitioner course are designed to give you the 'practical know how' across all facets of business management. “I searched for the right change management course for a long time; keen to find the right mix of practical and theoretical change tools. This course delivered on both fronts, and the trainer made certain that every bit of theory was translated into a practical example or discussion. I™d highly recommend this course for anyone that tackles change as part of their role. ” The bilateral ties between Singapore and Malaysia in 2002 were marked by high-profile disputes over many issues, in particular over water. Other issues included the reaction towards land reclamation in Singapore, the management of the lighthouse on Pulau Pisang by Singapore, the banning of the use of the tudung in Singapore schools, and Singapore's bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with other countries. These disputes demonstrate that the relations between Singapore and Malaysia continue to be driven by fundamentally competitive forces which show little sign of dissipating in the for Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems: A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective, 2nd Ed. 1995 pg 220 – 234 2. Robert Ding Pooi Huat. Drugs and The Liver. Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems: A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective, Third Edition 2000 pg 227-248. 3. Robert Ding Pooi Huat. Doctor, I Have Wind. 14. International American Gastroenterology Association / Singapore Gastroenterological Meeting held in Singapore from 6 - 9.9.95. 15. 4th United European Gastroenterology Week held in Berlin, Germany from 17 - 21.9.95. 16. 9th Triennial International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis & Liver Disease held in Rome, Italy from 21 - 25.4.96. In addition to managing the Cheng Jun Gastroenterology & Medical Clinic for more than two decades, he previously lent his expertise to SGH as a consultant gastroenterologist and hepatologist and is still a Visiting Consultant to date. He was a member of the medical advisory board of Mount Elizabeth Hospital. Over the course of his career, Dr Cheng has amassed a significant body of research, authoring book chapters in the texts Management of Malignant Biliary Strictures (Chapter 22) and Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems, a Malaysia and Singapore Perspective (Chapter 18).