

Book Review

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Bhushan Kumar and Somesh Gupta (Editors)

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It's not terribly often that a major new textbook on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) appears on the market, particularly one as weighty as 'Sexually Transmitted Infections'. With a hundred chapters from a similar number of contributors, this book is weighty both figuratively and literally.

One of the distinctive features of this book is that over half of the contributors are from India, thus giving STIs and HIV in the developing setting due emphasis. This does not, however, diminish the relevance of the book to other settings. For instance, although much attention is paid to syndromic management, equal footing is given to the latest developments in laboratory testing. In the Appendix, treatment guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), Europe, and Australia are listed to allow direct comparison of recommendations according to region. These seamless juxtapositions give 'Sexually Transmitted Infections' a truly global perspective, reflecting the complexity and variation in STI management in the world today.

Some sections of the book come across as particularly novel, such as entire chapters dealing with condoms,

male circumcision and HIV transmission, and vaginal microbicides-just to name a few. HIV and AIDS are well covered. Specific chapters are dedicated to the renal and cardiac manifestations of HIV infection. If you haven't heard of Dhat syndrome, colourfully described as a 'culture-bound sex neurosis' of the Indian subcontinent, then you may find the contents illuminating.

'Sexually Transmitted Infections' is eminently readable and practical and unencumbered by some of the seemingly excessive scientific detail that can make some textbooks clinically unfriendly. It is richly illustrated, though the quality of some of the images could be improved. Nonetheless, both students and specialists alike will find this book interesting and informative. One could imagine the book being used anywhere from a busy tertiary HIV referral centre in the West to the most remote primary care facility in the Asia Pacific region.

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