

# Gut

Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology  
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of the different stages of rectal cancer have been well illustrated. The examples of hyperechoic and hypoechoic node enlargements are somewhat confusing, as it is difficult to distinguish between the two in the examples shown. Perhaps a few examples of tumour invasion into the sphincters could have been included to help the reader when assessing patients for sphincter saving surgery.

The book is very well written and makes easy reading. Any young surgeon who reads it from beginning to end will have a very good grasp of rectal endosonography.

D KUMAR

**A colour atlas of liver disease** (2nd ed). By S Sherlock and J A Summerfield (Pp 248; illustrated; £50.) London: Wolfe Publishing, 1991.

This book is a pleasure to look through. It contains 636 figures, mostly in colour, of liver biopsy specimens, x rays, ultrasound scans and computed tomograms, clinical and laposcopic photographs, as well as simple graphs and temperature charts. All have been well chosen from a wide variety of sources to illustrate almost every type of liver disease, including such topical subjects as transplantation, AIDS and hepatitis C. A few lines of explanatory text accompany each picture. The standard of colour printing is uniformly high.

This atlas was first published in 1979, and its success has led to a completely revised and updated second edition, with 150 new illustrations. There are 14 chapters, beginning with the clinical examination of the liver and biliary system and moving on through hepatitis, cirrhosis, cholestasis, and tumours to less common hepatic disorders such as vascular and storage diseases, infections and trauma. Anyone who proceeds through the atlas from cover to cover will glean a great deal of knowledge, but its real place is as a companion to the senior author's best seller, *Diseases of the liver and biliary system*, now in its 8th edition.

I suspect that its illustrations will provide the source for many a collection of hepatology teaching slides around the world's medical schools, despite the laws on copyright!

P M SMITH

**Irritable bowel syndrome.** Edited by N W Read. (Pp 226; illustrated; £35.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.

Two trends in modern thinking about irritable bowel syndrome are that it is best defined and classified in terms of its symptoms and that in many people it is the somatic expression of psychological distress. This book bucks both these trends, its emphasis being on somatic mechanisms and explanations. The opening chapter expounds the editor's conviction (which I share) that disordered sensitivity is more important than disordered motility in most patients. They have a neurotic or inappropriately aroused bowel. This is the main theme of the book.

The centrepiece is a big review by P L R Andrews, a physiologist, of the afferent mechanisms of the gut. His emphasis is on how understanding these mechanisms could lead to drugs which can modify them and relieve symptoms. I read this chapter with great interest but also mounting awe at the complexity of the area and the embryonic state of our knowledge. The idea of a magic bullet seems a

little naive. I wish Andrews had commented on the chapter after his which summarises the challenging findings of Whorwell's group that hypnotherapy relieves irritable bowel syndrome symptoms and reduces rectal sensitivity.

There are well written but, to me, unconvincing chapters on immune mechanisms and mastocytosis, and Hunter airs his ideas on altered colonic microflora and food intolerance.

All in all, this is an interesting collection of essays and there is much for the aficionado, but I fear the beginner might end up bewildered. Some chapters read like transcribed conference talks (though this is not admitted).

K W HEATON

**Ulcerative colitis.** Edited by C A O'Morain *et al.* (Pp 193; illustrated; £72.50.) Boca Raton: CRC Press, 1991.

So much has been, and is being, written on ulcerative colitis that the justification for yet another monograph seems hard to find. Indeed, it can only rest on whether it succeeds in giving new perspectives rather than providing yet another review.

This book, edited by Colm O'Morain, encompasses most aspects of the disease. The first eight chapters (of a total of 15) cover aetiological and pathogenetic mechanisms. Some of these are excellent contributions and I particularly enjoyed Rao and Read's chapter on motility disturbances and McCall and Boughton-Smith's review of animal models. Reviews of adhesive *Escherichia coli* (Burke and Axon) and colonic mucus (Cope, Heatley, Kelleher) are also useful.

The remaining seven chapters deal with clinical and therapeutic aspects and are disappointing. Histopathology is included but there are no chapters on radiological or colonoscopic aspects. This is perhaps surprising, especially as a very 'undergraduate' chapter on clinical symptoms and signs is included. This latter chapter also covers complications and extra-intestinal manifestations but is incomplete and uncritically persists in discussing pericholangitis, chronic active hepatitis, and primary sclerosing cholangitis as distinct entities occurring in association with ulcerative colitis. Possible mechanisms linking colonic inflammation with skin, joint, eye, and liver disorders are not discussed. The chapter on medical treatment contains statements that many of us would disagree with and rearrangement of the text by editorial processing has led to some anomalies. The chapter on surgery for colitis (O'Connell and Keane) is a useful précis of restorative procedures and their problems. However, pouchitis is covered in only a few lines, which will be frustrating for those seeking guidance on the clinical management of difficult cases, and neglects the potential for using pouchitis as an *in vivo* model of ulcerative colitis itself.

At £72.50 for 193 pages, this book is not cheap. Is it worth it? Certainly it contains much useful information but very little in a form that cannot easily be found elsewhere. There is some repetition between chapters and some chapters are remarkably turgid in style with few headings. It is a pity that many of the areas of current interest, whether in pathogenesis or treatment, are not covered. Nevertheless, I am glad to have the book on my shelves and will undoubtedly use it as a source of references.

D P JEWELL

**Normal and abnormal swallowing. Imaging in diagnosis and therapy.** Edited by Bronwyn Jones and Martin W Donner. (Pp 235; illustrated; DM 220.00.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1991.

This book describes the role of imaging procedures in deciphering the mechanisms of normal and abnormal swallowing, including ultrasound, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance as well as conventional spot films, 16 mm cine, and videotaping. Anatomy, physiology, mechanisms of pharyngeal and oesophageal propulsion, and interpretation of the dynamic radiological study are usefully summarised and well illustrated. Special consideration is given to the increasing prevalence of swallowing problems in children, neurological disease, the elderly, and as a consequence of surgery.

The value of time spent taking a history is emphasised but the table of 'important history data' is naive and inadequate. The authors stress the importance of tailoring the mechanisms of the examination - for example position of the patient and type of bolus - to the problem the patient describes. They also stress the importance of examining the whole of the pharynx and oesophagus because both the localisation of a site sensation and the interpretation of the mechanism of production of a sensation by the patient are unreliable, so that oesophageal lesions commonly present with what seem to be pharyngeal symptoms. The 'Tailored examination' is a valuable contribution, although the authors do not specify techniques for paraesthesiae such as 'boiled sweet syndrome' or 'tender oesophagus', or the use of radio-opaque tablets of various sizes to measure the length and bore of obstructions and to locate them.

Differences in beliefs will persist across the Atlantic for many years yet, but this is a thoughtful book which succeeds in its aim of improving understanding of a difficult and still mysterious section of the gastrointestinal tract. It continues the long tradition of the Johns Hopkins Radiology School and bears the thumb print of its current doyen, Martin Donner. A book for clinicians as well as radiologists.

D A W EDWARDS

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## NOTES

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### Clifford Hawkins Memorial Fund

Dr Clifford Hawkins (1915-91) made a wide range of contributions to clinical medicine,

gastroenterology, rheumatology, clinical research, and the art of writing and speaking: contributions that were made with great good humour and style.

In appreciation of his work it has been decided to name the medical library in the postgraduate medical centre of his old teaching hospital after him and to establish the Clifford Hawkins Memorial Fund to provide for library activities and postgraduate education.

Contributions would be gratefully received by Dr J Michael, Chairman, Queen Elizabeth Postgraduate Medical Centre, Metchley Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TH. Cheques should be made out to the Clifford Hawkins Memorial Fund.

### Digestive Diseases

The 5a Settimana Italiana delle Malattie Digestive SIMAD (5th Italian Week of Digestive Diseases) will take place in Bologna from 31 May to 6 June 1992. Further details from: Prof R Corinaldesi, Istituto di Clinica Medica e Gastroenterologia, Policlinico S Orsola, via Massarenti 9, Bologna, Italy. Tel: 051 63 63 260 or 34 20 38; fax: 051 39 25 38 or 30 74 44.

### European *Helicobacter pylori* Study Group

The Fifth Workshop on Gastroduodenal Pathology and *Helicobacter pylori* will be held at Trinity College, Dublin on 6-7 July 1992. Further details from: Conference Secretariat, CRUINNIU, 3 St Kevins Park, Dartry, Dublin 6, Ireland. Tel: 353-1-971710; fax no: 353-1-965983.

### Liver disease

The XVII International Update on Liver Disease will be held in London from 16-18 July 1992. Further details from: Professor Neil McIntyre, University Department of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG. Tel: 071 794 0500 extn 3969; fax: 071 435 5803.

### The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)

The Annual Meeting will be held in Vienna on 25-29 August 1992. Further information from: the Secretary of EASL; Dr P L M Jansen, Academic Medical Center, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Fax: 31 20 691 7033.

### Alfa-1-Antitrypsin Deficiency and the Liver

A meeting will be held on 23 October 1992 in the Dolomites, Bozen, Italy. Further information from: Pediatric Gastroenterology, Mrs Gabi Schwarz, Department of Pediatrics, Regional Hospital, via L Böhler 5, 39100 Bozen, Italy. Tel: 39 471 908648; fax: 39 471 908831.

### Asian-Pacific Congress of Gastroenterology

The IX Asian-Pacific Congress of Gastroenterology and the VI Asian-Pacific Congress of Digestive Endoscopy will be held in

Bangkok from 29 November - 3 December 1992. Further details from: The IX APCGE and VI APCDE Secretariat, c/o TGT Enterprise Co Ltd, Monririn Building, 2nd floor, 60 Phaholyothin Soi 8, Bangkok 10400, Thailand. Fax: 662 271-1938.

### Therapeutic endoscopy

The 7th International Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy will be held in Hong Kong on 8-10 December 1992. Further information from Dr Sydney Chung, Combined Endoscopy Unit, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong. Tel: 852 636 2233; fax: 852 635 0075.

### Pediatric Surgical Research

The 6th International Congress of Pediatric Surgical Research will be held from 29-30 April 1993 in Innsbruck, Austria. Further information from: Michael E Höllwarth, Department of Pediatric Surgery, University of Graz, Heinrichstraße 31 A-8010 Graz, Austria.

### Pediatric Surgery

The 5th Southeast European Symposium of Pediatric Surgery (150 years Pediatric Surgery in Graz) will be held from 8-10 July 1993 in Graz, Austria. Further information from: Michael E Höllwarth, Department of Pediatric Surgery, University of Graz, Heinrichstraße 31 A-8010 Graz, Austria.

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Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology  
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**SI UNITS** All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In tables and illustrations values are given in SI units. For general guidance on the International System of Units and some useful conversion factors, see *The SI for Health Professions* (WHO, 1977).  
**NB: Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.**

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