

The chapter on pathophysiology mentions well the series of changes which occurs as wide variation in the resistance to airflow in the airways over a short period. Early asthmatic reaction, late asthmatic reaction and the bronchial hyper-responsiveness have been discussed in a very simplified way. Similarly, a chapter on pathology helps to understand the functional and structural changes happening in the airways.

An effort has been made to understand the natural history and clinical presentation of asthma from various studies and references. Based on evidence two stages is an induction or sensitization phase and a maintenance or progression phase have been discussed as possible stages of asthma. A study on gene-environment interaction on the origin of asthma is helpful to understand the development of allergen-specific and virus-specific IgE-enhancing the immune/inflammatory responses in the lung. The clinical presentation part beautifully points out its diversity in presentation.

Diagnosis of asthma stresses the need of point made by international consensus report on asthma which defines asthma as a chronic inflammatory disorder of airways in susceptible individuals. It needs to be differentiated from other conditions which cause airflow restriction or obstruction. It is suggested that a careful history, physical examination and investigations such as pulmonary function tests, spirometry, blood tests for eosinophilia, sputum examination for sputum eosinophil counts, noninvasive markers of airways inflammation, and measurement of allergic status should be done and evaluated properly to come to the diagnosis of asthma.

The second part of the book deals with the general management focusing the attention on patient education and self-management to avoid triggers and recognize signs of worsening asthma and monitor their conditions. General management also gives importance to life style modification as well as several hints on dos and do nots. An elaborate description on Yoga with different pictures is explained well.

Homoeopathic management has been described in a very unique way-delineating the guidelines with clear steps in practice such as proper case taking, symptoms analysis, evaluation, repertorization and selection of medicine, potency and dose.

The therapeutics section expands the indication of 51 medicines by rearranging the information from various sources into three main headings; causation, characteristics, and modalities - this has made it more helpful for the clinicians. A section on commonly used mother tinctures in the management of asthma would also help the practitioners in managing acute exacerbations of asthma.

Separate sections on miasm and their therapeutic implications in the treatment of asthma and prescribing strategy guides the steps taken to understand asthma from Homoeopathic point of view. A holistic view involving the individual as one unit from the causation to the expression has been stressed upon to take into view the fundamental cause and manifestation of the symptoms. It helps to plan for the curative treatment. The write up on constitutional treatment, miasmatic treatment, status asthmaticus, the preventive approach has addressed all practical issues in a clinical setup.

Repertory of bronchial asthma has been prepared on Kent's format and has information from various sources such as Kent's Repertory, C B Knerr's Repertory, Boger's Repertory, synthesis, complete Repertory, Murphy's Repertory, and Gentry's concordance Repertory. It provides all useful information about the symptoms of asthma in various circumstances and its relation to different functions of the person.

The expressions of asthma related to mind, head, eye, nose, face, mouth, throat, stomach, abdomen, rectum, stool, bladder, urine, genitalia female, larynx and trachea, respiration are well represented in the Repertory.

Research work done by Council suggests the positive role of Homoeopathy in reducing the frequency and intensity of acute exacerbations of asthma. A constitutional similimum during the asymptomatic phase has helped many to fully recover from this disease. This monograph mentions many such observational studies with encouraging results. Research updates worldwide also gives an overview of possibility of Homoeopathy treating asthma successfully in different hands in various parts of the world. Such studies show the positive scope of Homoeopathy in the successful treatment of bronchial asthma.

A section on frequently asked questions covers almost all the queries which a common person or a student can have regarding the disease and the role of Homoeopathy as well as the difficulties arising

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during the treatment of asthma. Toward the end, a few cases are described with good result in appendix.

On the whole, disease monograph on bronchial asthma is an authentic book for reference work as well as for the treatment of asthma. One can be very confident in handling all types of presentations of bronchial asthma if he or she has gone through this book carefully. It is equally useful for the students, teachers, and practitioners as well as for researchers.

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