usually responds to high-dose corticosteroids; if these are not successful, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil or azathioprine may be tried.

Our patient had LIP with autoimmune hepatitis. Patients with autoimmune hepatitis are on immunosuppressive drugs and hence have a high chance of respiratory infection. Since LIP also presents in a similar way, it is often misdiagnosed as an infection.

References

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BOOK REVIEW


This is the latest entrant in the list of books being published by Indian authors with the help of multiple contributors. It underscores the revolution that is taking place in knowledge vis-à-vis the Indian medical literature. The contributors chosen are all distinguished surgeons in the field of Surgical Gastroenterology. Professor Kaushik himself has been at the forefront of the development of this speciality in India.

The book has many strengths. It is written in "terse lucid prose" (as aptly described in the Foreword by Prof. Michael Hobsley), which is quite effective, with operative steps being elucidated in an easy-to-follow point-wise style. Contents are well organized, with frequent highlighted headings, which is helpful in navigating the book. Surprisingly, unlike most books with contributions from many authors, this one is not uneven, but all the authors have followed the same pattern. For this, the credit should go to the editor.

The book is organized into several chapters dealing with different surgical techniques. Most of the chapters on esophageal, gastric, hepato-biliary, pancreatic and colorectal surgery are well written. Some of the thoughtful chapters, like the ones on partial cholecystectomy, segment III cholangiojejunostomy, cholecystectomy in Mirizzi's syndrome, Roux-en-Y loop reconstruction, and gastrojejunal fistula will prove especially useful to young surgeons, as information on these topics is rather sparse in literature like this. There is also a comprehensive index at the end. Overall, it is an easy read.

The book is not without its share of flaws and weaknesses, some of which are quite obvious. Diagrams are few and far in-between; more diagrams would have gone a long way in enlightening the reader about the finer nuances of the operative steps. Some of the authors have been rather reticent in sharing detailed analysis of their own data. For example, the chapter on Transtorial Oesophagectomy, by Prof. T K Chattopadhyaya and a colleague, whose vast experience in this procedure is perhaps second to none in the Indian subcontinent, has data limited to operations done before 1996. Few will agree with the list of benign conditions for radical gastrectomy (page 41). Such shortcomings convey an impression of a missing stamp of authority from senior authors. Budding and aspiring surgeons would have appreciated the use of highlighting, shaded boxes directing the reader's focus, and "yellow flagging" of the areas and pitfalls in these advanced procedures and tips on how to avoid them. References are not marked in the text, leading to a rather difficult search at the end of the chapters. Some references are incomplete (on pages 19, 36, 40, 63 and 163). There is very little here that is new or stimulating; for a connoisseur looking for cordon bleu delights, the book comes across like fast food: neat and adequate but slightly bland.

Notwithstanding these reservations, the book may quickly become dog-eared and worn from frequent use. The book is, as mentioned in the Preface, meant to be "a support"; a type of companion or aid to memorizing for "the young faculty, an MCh / MS postgraduate and a practitioner of surgery to remember basic and essential steps." No doubt this purpose is served, but readers will have to read between the lines to understand why a procedure is performed in a particular way.

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