

BOOK REVIEW:

Mehta Jay L (editor): Inflammatory and Infectious Basis of Atherosclerosis.

Birkhäuser Basel, Boston, Berlin, 2000, ISBN 3-7643-6154-9, 188,- SFr

This book has been published in the series on Progress in Inflammation Research and contains a collection of 16 chapters dealing with morphologic, functional, biochemical, and immunological aspects of inflammation in atherosclerosis. This aspect of the major killer in the Western hemisphere has been neglected for a long time, when research focussed on risk factors and their potential influence on atherosclerosis such as smoking, hypertension, or diabetes mellitus. In this context it might be useful to remember the first observations of the association of inflammation and atherosclerosis given by Rokitanski and Virchow in the 1850s. Additional data have been published in the middle of last century by Doerr focussing on specific morphological aspects of inflammation in atherosclerosis. This book gives a precise description of the present status of theoretical and experimental data of the complex features between inflammation and atherosclerosis. Four chapters describe the theoretical and pathological aspects. The active influence of interaction between endothelial cells and inflammatory cells with various impact of immunoreactivity are discussed as well as the role of certain substances such as interferon or adhesion molecules. The contribution of the next six chapters focuses on free radicals, low density lipoproteins, and angiotensin. The clinical significance is pointed out in the last four chapters.

Each contribution contains several black and white figures, and a quite detailed list of references.

The book reflects to all present known aspects of inflammation in atherosclerosis. It is a useful reference and teaching book for all colleagues who want to inform themselves about these important aspect of atherosclerosis. It gives a detailed insight into basic theoretical considerations, experimental laboratory findings, and clinical application.

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