

BOOK REVIEW:

Thiru Sathia and Waldmann Herman (editors): Pathology and Immunology of Transplantation and Rejection.

Blackwell Science, Boston, Berlin, London ,2001, ISBN 0-632-03676-1, 125,- US\$

Organ transplantation is often the last chance of patients to overcome a chronic destructive disease. After some disappointing results at the beginning of this technique, the survival rates of transplant receiving patients has improved considerably. In addition, the side effects of the post-transplantation therapy have been reduced to a level which does not severely affect the quality of life. A non negligible number of specialists are now involved in organ transplantation of the kidney, liver, heart or lung. The problems of acute and chronic rejection still remain, however, at a significantly lower frequency. This textbook tries to spread information about the latest information of pathogenetic mechanisms involved. It starts with chapters on immunobiology of graft rejection focussing on the nature and structural components of major and minor histocompatibility antigens. New methods in tissue typing, techniques of blood transfusion and the associated effects, and basic aspects of xenotransplantation follow. As to be expected, the remaining chapters deal with specific information of organ related transplantation, i.e. of transplants of kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas and islet, cornea, and skin. Problems of transplantation – induced diseases such as viral and fungus infections are discussed in the last chapters.

The textbook offers a good insight into all problems of organ transplantation. The chapters are well written and sufficient illustrated by black and white figures. The list of references is extensive and can be used for easy collection of further information about a specific problem. It is a textbook which will for sure find its place in the bookshelf of colleagues who are involved in organ transplantation either at the experimental or at the clinical part.

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