

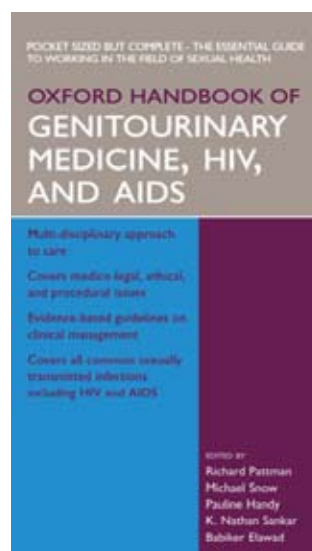
Oxford Handbook of Genitourinary Medicine, HIV and AIDS

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This book from the Oxford Pocket Handbook series addresses the increasing problems of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic. Genitourinary medicine (GUM) is an expanding specialty, which is primarily related to the treatment and prevention of STIs. The *Oxford Handbook of Genitourinary Medicine, HIV and AIDS* consists of three parts. The first section deals with routine management, special situations, and clinical and laboratory processes. The second section covers genitourinary conditions in a disease-orientated style, including STIs and other genitourinary problems. The third section on HIV provides a contemporary epidemiological overview of this infection, basic viral biology and pathogenesis, a disease-oriented description of conditions, both directly related and opportunistic, and their management, and data on special situations such as pregnancy. The contributors to the book are consultants in GUM and infectious diseases and a clinical nurse specialist, reflecting a multidisciplinary approach in the management of genitourinary and HIV-related conditions. The book is written well and simply. The presentations are clearly organized into sections, i.e. brief history of GUM; legal and ethical issues; the clinic attendance process; and an excellent summary of partner notification issues. Key areas of genitourinary infections are covered before the epidemic of HIV/AIDS is discussed. There are 34

chapters on STIs, followed by chapters 35-55 on HIV/AIDS. All disease-specific chapters follow the format of describing the etiology, clinical features and natural history, diagnosis and management. The section on diagnosis includes clinical tests, their sensitivity and specificity. They all end with a reminder that this infection facilitates infection with HIV. Special sections on the management of sexual assault and children are included. One of the highlights of the book is the chapter on syphilis, which demystifies diagnostic tests and explains early and late syphilis, complications in pregnancy, treatment guidelines, and partner notification. An excellent chapter on gonorrhoea covers the etiology, epidemiology and clinical features (with those in men and women clearly separated) and has specific reference to extra-genital features, complications, pregnancy and management.

The chapter on chlamydia follows a similar format and is also comprehensive. Common conditions such as bacterial vaginosis, *Trichomonas vaginalis* and candidiasis are discussed and have excellently highlighted sections on frequently asked questions. Anogenital herpes and warts each have a chapter with clear instructions for management options. There is a short chapter on NSU and a particularly good summary of epididymitis and orchitis, which explores their differential diagnosis.

Tropical sexually acquired infections, enteric sexually acquired infections, urinary tract infections, dermatological problems, sexual dysfunction, cervical neoplasia and contraception are all briefly covered. The chapters on HIV start with a description of the epidemiology, with a good summary of seroprevalence data in the UK and worldwide. HIV is then considered in terms of the body systems, gastrointestinal, respiratory, neurologic, ophthalmic, dermatologic, metabolic, renal, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, reticuloendothelial, and also of HIV-related malignancies. An outstanding summary covers HIV management and combinations of antiretrovirals, with current treatment guidelines.

An up-to-date chapter on HIV in pregnancy discusses the controversies in the use of nevirapine and the option of a normal vaginal delivery (as opposed to an elective cesarean section).

The book provides practical information on STI evidence-based information on medico-legal, ethical and procedural issues and an extensive color plate section. In conclusion, this book is an excellent portable resource. We would recommend it for senior medical students and practitioners that have special interest in genitourinary/HIV infectious diseases or microbiology.

Professor Jasna Lipozenčić
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By rain and bad weather use Nivea cream; year 1935.
(from the collection of Mr. Zlatko Puntijar)