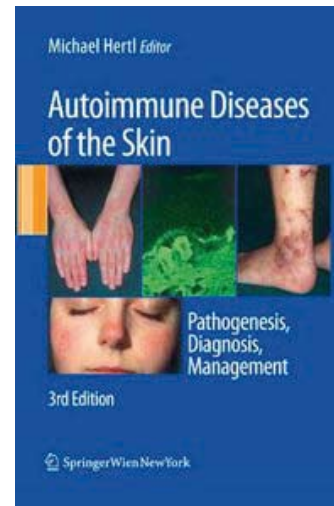


M. Hertl, editor

Autoimmune Diseases of the Skin. Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, Management

3rd edition. Wien-New York: Springer-Verlag 2011. Format: hard cover. One volume. Pages 593, chapters 19. ISBN 978-3-211-99224-1



The third revised and expanded edition of the book *Autoimmune Diseases of the Skin*, published at the beginning of 2011, was expected with great interest. Autoimmune disorders remain an enigma for many clinicians and scientists. A significant portion of autoimmune diseases precipitate primarily or secondarily on the skin. Understanding the cutaneous symptoms may be crucial for the diagnosis, classification and management of organ-specific and systemic disorders that require special attention by the physician. This book is set out to present the most recent scientific and clinically relevant state-of-the-art on the spectrum of autoimmune diseases affecting the skin. The book has been written by world-known experts in the field and is enriched with many illustrative figures and clinical color photographs.

Chapter 1 is dedicated to the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases and illustrated with a number of excellent schemes to facilitate understanding of this complex issue. Chapter 2 deals with autoantibody detection using indirect immunofluorescence on HEp-2 cells. Special chapter describes autoimmune bullous skin disorders, i.e. pemphigus, bullous pemphigoid, dermatitis herpetiformis Duhring and epidermolysis bullosa acquisita. In the chapter on scleroderma, localized scleroderma and progressive systemic sclerosis are extensively presented, along with numerous

therapeutic options in the management of localized scleroderma, e.g., UVA light, oral calcitriol, topical calcipotriol, corticosteroids, methotrexate, aminoquinoline, antimalarials, d-penicillamine, sulfasalazine and interferon- γ . In the section on progressive systemic sclerosis, clinical phenotypes and clinical characteristics of the autoantibodies associated with progressive systemic sclerosis are presented in detail. Concerning the diagnosis and therapy of this serious disease, the need of cooperation with different subspecialties is emphasized, in order to provide optimal care due to the nature of the disease also affecting systems other than the skin (e.g., rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, nephrology, neurology). Chapter five deals with chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus and subacute cutaneous and systemic lupus erythematosus. Special chapters are dedicated to dermatomyositis, mixed connective tissue disease and Sjögren's syndrome. The chapter on psoriasis as an autoimmune disease brings thorough description of the immunopathogenesis, clinical characteristics, comorbidities and therapy, along with the criteria to classify psoriasis as an autoimmune disease: it has a hereditary background with strong HLA-class I association; microbial infections contribute to disease onset, and T cells apparently play an essential role in disease manifestations. Especially Th17 and Th22 cells and

their cytokines are important in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. Only identification of the putative autoantigens will finally prove its autoimmune nature.

Special chapter is dedicated to lichen planus, lichenoid eruptions and cutaneous graft-versus-host reaction. Chapter twelve deals with small vessel vasculitides, their classification, pathogenesis and therapeutic options.

The third edition has been updated and extended by chapters on paraneoplastic cutaneous syndromes,

autoimmune phenomena in atopic dermatitis, eosinophilic disorders and skin manifestations of rheumatic diseases. The last chapter of this excellent book presents targeted therapies for autoimmune and inflammatory skin disorders, describing various strategies and approaches in the management of autoimmune diseases. This valuable book will certainly find its place in the libraries of all those dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune diseases or involved in their research.

Aida Pašić, MD, PhD

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