Emergency Management of Infectious Diseases

The diagnosis and management of infectious disease is a key component of contemporary emergency medicine, ranging from the definitive treatment and discharge of a patient with a simple abscess, to the recognition of a rare infection in a traveler, and to the resuscitation and stabilization of a patient with septic shock. The changing epidemiology of infectious diseases presents a considerable challenge. Acute care practitioners are sentinels for emerging outbreaks and must rapidly synthesize history and exam findings with laboratory studies, imaging results, and epidemiology. Time-dependent morbidity requires practitioners to balance a high degree of suspicion for deadly diagnoses with the precision needed for high-yield diagnostic testing and appropriate care. This book provides a practical, clinically oriented, systems-based overview of infectious disease with an emphasis on emergent diagnosis and treatment. It offers broad coverage of viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic diseases in a narrative supplemented by explanatory photos, diagnostic tables, and treatment charts. It should prove an invaluable reference for practitioners confronting the spectrum of infectious disease in the acute care setting.
Emergency Management of Infectious Diseases

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To my mother, who taught me that I can do anything; my husband, Tom; and my wonderful daughters – the queens, Elizabeth and Katherine – who give me more than I could ever wish for

– RLC

For my wife, Susan, and daughter, Thisbe

– MSD

For Franco, who understands about work and the sound of the sea

– TAR
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Preface

The diagnosis and treatment of infectious disease is a key component of contemporary emergency medicine, ranging from the definitive treatment and discharge of a patient with a simple abscess, to the recognition of a rare infection in a traveler, and to the resuscitation and stabilization of a patient with septic shock.

We aimed to produce a practical, clinically oriented, systems-based overview of infectious disease with an emphasis on emergent diagnosis and treatment. Our text covers a broad range of viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic diseases, in a narrative supplemented by explanatory photos, diagnostic tables, and treatment charts.

Practitioners in the acute care setting are sentinels for emerging outbreaks and must rapidly synthesize history and exam findings with laboratory studies, imaging results, and epidemiology. We hope that our book will serve emergency physicians, primary care physicians and specialists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, residents, and medical students who care for patients with infectious diseases.

We thank the many nationally and internationally respected clinicians, educators, and researchers who have contributed, and we hope that Emergency Management of Infectious Diseases will prove an invaluable reference for practitioners confronting the spectrum of infectious disease.

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