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0521839297 - Histiocytic Disorders of Children and Adults
Edited by Sheila Weitzman and R. Maarten Egeler
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Histiocytic Disorders of Children and Adults

As the first comprehensive reference on all aspects of the histiocytic disorders, *Histiocytic Disorders of Children and Adults* stands out as the definitive text on the genetics, pathophysiology, and clinical management of this wide range of disease. The chapters, written by acknowledged experts in the field, cover all aspects of histiocytic disorders, from Langerhans cell histiocytosis and hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, to the uncommon cutaneous and extracutaneous histiocytic disorders. Current views on the function of normal histiocytes in the immune system, the pathogenesis, underlying genetic defects, clinical presentation, treatment, controversies in therapy, salvage therapies and the late consequences are discussed in detail. This book will be a valuable resource to clinicians and researchers who wish to learn more about histiocytic disorders.

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Preface

This book, the only current comprehensive text on the histiocytic disorders, is intended to be a useful source of information for all those who care for patients with one of the histiocytoses, for clinicians with primary responsibility for patient management, physicians concerned with laboratory medicine, and all who are involved with research in the field. Furthermore, patients with histiocytosis and/or their families may well find it useful to have the book as a standard reference for themselves and for every caregiver who tells them that histiocytosis is rare and that they know nothing about the condition and do not feel comfortable managing it.

Patients with histiocytoses, especially with Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) and hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), are sufficiently common that they constitute an important problem but, on the other hand, are sufficiently uncommon that it has been difficult for many/most physicians to gain experience in their care.

In particular, research into the special problems of adults with histiocytic disorders has not kept pace with that in paediatrics except in certain areas such as adult lung histiocytosis. One of the goals of this book is to encourage the same comprehensive care of adult patients as has become the standard for children.

In this book, you will find discussion of all aspects of the histiocytic disorders, written by some 50 international experts in the field. The discussion includes a chapter on histiocyte function in the normal immune system as well as the most recent research into genetic predisposition, pathogenesis, clinical features, modern and salvage therapy and the late permanent consequences. The section on LCH includes separate chapters on the commonest disease manifestations in bone, skin and adult lung, while the HLH section includes discussion of Epstein–Barr virus (EBV)-HLH, lymphoma-associated hemophagocytosis and HLH associated with rheumatic diseases. In addition, chapters on the malignant histiocytic diseases and the psychologic aspects of histiocytosis have been included, as well as a detailed discussion of the less common histiocytic disorders, the non-LCH, including an up-to-date review of current therapy.

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There has been great progress in the understanding of the basic biology and clinical features of the histiocytoses over the last few decades. We hope that sharing the experience of the experts through the medium of this book will be of value to all caregivers confronted with these difficult but fascinating problems, as well as to the patients and their families.

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