

Paolo Gontero
Roger S. Kirby
Culley C. Carson III
Editors

Problem Based Urology



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In memory of Silvia, my beloved sister.

Paolo

Foreword

As the authors of this book state in their Preface, their aim is to produce something which is user-friendly and is primarily intended for general practitioners. The authors also mention that urological problems represent a significant amount of work for primary care physicians in their everyday practice. Their purpose, therefore, was to address the concerns which general practitioners might have relating to diagnosis and treatment of urological conditions and when to refer them for specialist care.

This excellent book fully addresses these problems and will make the task of deciding which patients need to be referred on for specialist evaluation a great deal easier. In order to facilitate this the urological problems are presented here in a rather novel way, in that there are three sections which cover different ways in which these conditions may present: either as urological symptoms, or urological abnormalities on imaging or as urological abnormalities on blood and urine testing. The decision charts and the explanatory text in this book should ensure that those individuals who need further investigation are appropriately cared for, while those whom it is safe to treat in primary care are not needlessly sent into the hospital system. Against a background of stretched healthcare budgets and increasing litigation against doctors, for among other things, delayed and misdiagnosis, this volume could hardly have been more timely.

I would like to congratulate the authors on editing a highly informative and educational volume, which addresses an important issue and is also easy to read.

John M. Fitzpatrick
MCh, FRCSI, FEBU, FC Urol (SA), FRCSGlas, FRCS

Preface

Dear reader,

This book is primarily intended for general practitioners as an aid to in dealing with urological problems, which currently represent a significant burden in their everyday practice.

One of the major concerns for GPs is how far to go themselves in the diagnosis and treatment of the most commonly encountered urological diseases or when to refer the patient for specialist care. As specialists in the field of urology, we have attempted to provide a user-friendly guide to decision making in the major urological problems. We have made suggestions for the most appropriate timing for referral to specialist care and the types of information (investigations) with which the patients should be referred to the specialist.

Urological problems have been grouped into three sections, addressing urological symptoms (Part I), urological abnormalities on imaging (Part II), and urological abnormalities on blood and urine tests (Part III). The chapters have been covered by internationally recognized experts in each specific field. Flow charts and tables are intended to guide the reader, step by step, through the differential diagnosis for each urological problem.

We have tried to emphasize the key position of GPs in leading the diagnosis and treatment of most urological problems, resulting in a more appropriate specialist referral.

We hope we have succeeded in our task!

Paolo Gontero
Roger S. Kirby
Culley C. Carson III

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The editors wish to express immense gratitude to their coauthors, all internationally recognized experts in the fields of urology and nephrology, for their commitment and outstanding contributions to this book.

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