

W.-B. Schill · F. H. Comhaire · T. B. Hargreave (Eds.)
Andrology for the Clinician

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With 225 Figures in 300 Parts and 120 Tables

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Foreword

Andrology in its widest sense is a fast growing medical discipline with special emphasis on the disturbances of male reproductive function including erectile dysfunction and problems of the ageing male. There is a great need to educate both the specialists who practise as andrologists, such as endocrinologists, urologists and dermatologists, as well as the general practitioner, who is often involved in the management of these patients. Three international scientists from different medical disciplines (dermatology, endocrinology and urology) have created an alternative to a classical textbook by providing a new format in this book to facilitate the review of information in the field provided by a large number of international experts.

This textbook is written in two parts. Part I provides easily accessible, brief, problem-oriented information about modern andrology including male factor infertility, male contraception, male genital tract infection and tumours. The book is intended to be of use to the busy clinician and to provide quick access to didactic information about current practice. Part II is subject-oriented and provides the background scientific information for the recommendations in Part I. The three editors are recognized experts in the field and have invited key international scientists to write various sections of this book but, by their extensive sub-editing, have created a homogeneous concept. The key features of this book are the clear recommendations about current practice and easy access to the underlying science. I have no doubt that this textbook will be an asset to the clinical andrologist by facilitating information on to the rapidly increasing scientific data in the fast growing field of andrology.

It is the aim of this textbook to reach doctors working in the field of andrology all over the world but should be of particular value in European countries. The book will be valuable for urologists, andrologists, dermatologists, endocrinologists, gynaecologists, reproductive biologists, general practitioners, gerontologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, paediatricians and paramedicals including all professions allied to medicine as well as pharmaceutical companies working in the field of andrology. I am sure that the book will be a great success and will be of great value to its readers.

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Preface

Andrology is the medical practice of disorders that afflict men. These include congenital and acquired abnormalities of the male reproductive system as well as disorders of the male endocrine system. As these may be treated by different disciplines including endocrinology, dermatology, urological surgery, plastic surgery, oncology, venereology, and sexual medicine, it is difficult for doctors in these various specialties to have a holistic view of andrology. We hope that this book will be a source of reference to the broad spectrum of andrological conditions and that it will promote a holistic view of andrology and catalyse interdisciplinary co-operation in the management of andrological disorders.

The book is written in two parts: Part I presents current clinical practice, whereas Part II provides the reader with more detail on the theoretical background. The reader will find chapters on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of male fertility, disorders of male sexual function, sexually transmitted infections, disorders of androgen status, including ageing changes, and chapters on benign and malignant growths of the male reproductive organs. In addition, we have included chapters on phytotherapeutics and aesthetic dermatology and medical cosmetics because in practice many men seek these treatments and the competent andrologist needs to understand alternative as well as traditional approaches.

Our contributors are from many different countries and each is an acknowledged expert. Wherever possible, reference has been made to the results of randomized clinical trials and it has been our intention that the information in this book should be evidence-based. All contributors were asked to present a comprehensive review of their field as well as their own work.

In previous years, andrological problems have been relatively ignored but this is changing because of the development of effective treatments such as phosphodiesterase inhibitors for erectile dysfunction and 5- α -reductase inhibitors for prostatic enlargement, and as a result, greater media coverage of andrological disorders. Therefore, more men seek treatment and increasingly men expect their clinician to be well informed about all aspects of andrology. We hope that this book will help advance towards that objective.

Wolf-Bernhard Schill, Frank Comhaire, Timothy Hargreave
Giessen – Ghent – Edinburgh, February 2006

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