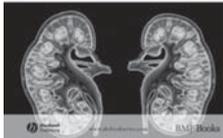


Book Review

ABC
of
Kidney Disease

Edited by David Goldsmith, Satish Jayawardene
and Penny Ackland



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ABC of Kidney Disease

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The ABC of Kidney disease is another addition to the varied titles in the ABC books series. The editors David Goldsmith (Guy's Hospital) and Satish Jayawardene (Kings College Hospital) are consultant Nephrologists and Penny Ackland is a General Practitioner (GP). There are several contributors to this book mainly nephrologists but also included is a registered nurse and pharmacist, all from the United Kingdom (UK).

The preface clearly states that this book is not intended to be a comprehensive and complete textbook on renal disease. It is intended, however, to be a user friendly book which provides practical information on a wide variety of renal disease, which the editors have put together very successfully. The ABC of Renal Disease is a very easy to read book with many clear illustrations. The intended audience is for those in primary care such a GP.

The book has 12 chapters covering Diagnostic Tests in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD); Screening and Early Intervention in CKD; CKD Prevention of Progression and of Cardiovascular complications; Adult Nephrotic

Syndrome ; Renal Artery Stenosis, Urinary Tract Infections, Renal Stones, Renal Cysts and Tumours and Pregnancy in CKD; Acute Kidney Injury; CKD, Dialysis and Transplantation in Children; Conservative treatment in CKD; Dialysis; Renal Transplantation; The organisation of services for people with CKD—a 21st Century Challenge.

Throughout the book references are made to the UK system of healthcare, however the overall information provided is relevant in Australia. Each chapter is introduced with an overview covering the major focus points. At the end of each chapter references for further readings are provided.

The first two chapters Diagnostic Tests in CKD and Screening and early intervention in CKD explain the importance of simple investigations such a basic urinalysis and plasma creatinine level. Interpretations of these investigations are clearly explained and the importance of referral to specialist services discussed.

The following chapters, CKD Prevention of Progression and of Cardiovascular complications; Adult Nephrotic

Syndrome; Renal Artery Stenosis, Urinary Tract Infections, Renal Stones, Renal Cysts and Tumours and Pregnancy in CKD discuss management of patients with various renal conditions in an attempt to prevent progression of disease and again ensuring timely referral to nephrologist services.

The chapters on CKD, Dialysis and Transplantation in Children give a general overview of the specific issues that relate to children including investigations and urinary tract infection presentation. The final chapters relate to dialysis options including conservative management and transplantation.

In summary the ABC of Kidney Disease is a book which is easy to read and understand. If you are looking for detailed and comprehensive information on renal disease then this is not the book for you. While the target audience is stated to be GP, this book would also be suited to GP practice nurses, community and outreach nurses and students in health care. Nurses new to nephrology would find the information in this book useful as a starting point in understanding some of the challenges in managing patients with renal disease.