

Book Review

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Günter Burg and Werner Kempf, eds. *Cutaneous Lymphomas*. Taylor & Francis Group, LLC; 2005. 556 pages, 251 illustrations and tables. Hardcover, \$199.95 US.

This encyclopedic, concise, and up-to-date book is the best monograph written on cutaneous lymphoma currently available. The majority of 19 contributing authors are from the Department of Dermatology at the University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland. The editors are internationally recognized experts in dermatology and dermatopathology, with more than 30 years of experience in the field of cutaneous lymphomas.

A new WHO/EORTC classification of cutaneous lymphomas published in May 2005 is included in this monograph; both editors were part of the international consensus team that created the new classification system. Within the 556-page hardcover guide are 208 figures and 43 tables. The glossy paper and illustrations are of good quality, and the color photographs of cutaneous lesions and histology present the most characteristic features of each disorder. The book offers a collection of 49 detailed chapters by experts in the field of lymphoproliferative disorders of the skin. Each chapter is concise, easy to read, and well designed, using the same structure to describe each disease entity.

The Introduction is divided into four chapters that cover historical aspects and unique features of cutaneous lymphomas, cutaneous lymphoma as a prototype neoplasia for research, and epidemiology. Structure and function of the lymphoid system are discussed in chapters 5 to 9. Chapters 10 to 20 deal with up-to-date diagnostic approach and classifications of cutaneous lymphomas. Chapters 21 to 36 comprise almost 200 pages devoted to subtypes of cutaneous T and B cell lymphomas. Rare immature hematopoietic malignancies with cutaneous manifestation including blastic NK-cell lymphoma and precursor lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma are discussed in chapters 37 and 38, respectively. Cutaneous manifestation of Hodgkin's disease is discussed in chapter 40. Benign diseases that can mimic cutaneous lymphoma, including cutaneous pseudolymphomas, parapsoriasis, and cutaneous T-cell lymphoproliferative disorders of unknown significance, are discussed in chapters 41 and 42. These conditions are frequently omitted from hematology and oncology textbooks, and not all specialists involved in diagnosis and therapy of cutaneous lymphomas are familiar with their clinical characteristics and morphology. Chapters

43 and 44 focus on skin involvement in leukemias and paraneoplastic cutaneous reactions in leukemia and lymphomas. Histiocytic disorders are covered in chapter 45. The editors' decision to discuss the etiology, pathogenesis, therapy, and prognosis of cutaneous lymphomas at the end of the monograph in chapters 46 to 48 is somewhat unconventional. The last chapter deals with concepts, misconceptions, and controversies in cutaneous lymphomas.

The authors were able to fit this practical encyclopedia of cutaneous lymphomas and related disorders into a user-friendly size. However, a CD-ROM version with illustrations included with this monograph would be useful.

In summary, I highly recommend this up-to-date and authoritative resource on the epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of cutaneous lymphomas to dermatologists, dermatopathologists, hematologists/oncologists, hematopathologists, and fellows and residents in hematology/oncology and dermatology.