

## Views and Practice

### Book review

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**Title:** Treatment of Skin Disease: Comprehensive Therapeutic Strategies

**Editors:** Mark G. Lebwohl, Warren R. Heymann, John Berth-Jones, and Ian Coulson

**Imprint:** Saunders

**Edition:** Third

**Publication date:** December 2009

**ISBN:** 978-0-7020-3121-2

Physicians always ask themselves "Now what should I do?" when their patient doesn't respond to the prescribed treatment or when a skin disorder unfamiliar to a clinician is encountered. It is with these questions in mind that the book was first introduced in 2002. In this third edition, the topics have been thoroughly reviewed by 309 contributors mostly from United States and United Kingdom, and other countries including Ireland, France, Netherland, Poland, Canada, Brazil, Japan and Hong Kong.

The book includes 245 chapters each detailing on a specific dermatological disorder arranged in alphabetic order. Each chapter starts with a brief introduction of the dermatosis, and then the management strategy and specific investigations. They are then followed by primary, secondary and

tertiary treatment options and the evidence base for each of them so that we know what to do when first-line treatments fail. A brief summary of each treatment choice is also included. A clear clinical photo presented on the first page of each chapter is very eye-catching indeed.

This 831-paged book gives concise and updated information on most common skin conditions like acne, dermatitis, skin infection; as well as newer or rarer topics such as biologic treatment for psoriasis, bioterrorism, autoimmune progesterone dermatitis. This new edition also includes access to a fully searchable online version: at expertconsult.com, a feature not available in the previous editions.

The book gives good coverage on skin diseases but some more skin disorders which have a predilection for non-white population could be added in the next edition. These include pityriasis alba, Nevus of Ota, ABNOM, and dermatosis papulosis nigra etc. For Orientals, it is applauding to see prurigo pigmentosa and cutaneous amyloidosis written by Japanese and Chinese contributors respectively.

The efficacy of treatments stated in this book is primarily based on individual reports. A 3rd party in-depth appraisal on the study design and conclusions drawn are lacking. It is forgivable given that the 245 chapters are squeezed into a book of 831 pages.

I would recommend this easy-to-read and useful reference as an important item in the office bookshelf to practicing dermatologists and clinicians who are interested in dermatology.

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