

Gastrointestinal Disease

Volume 1

Pathophysiology
Diagnosis
Management

FOURTH EDITION

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FOREWORD

Since its first publication in 1973, the appearance of a new edition of this widely acclaimed text has served as a milestone in the progress of our knowledge of digestive disease. For twenty years the Editors, themselves deeply involved in the logarithmic growth of fundamental research and in the rising standards of clinical training and education, have enlisted more than one hundred of the major North American participants in that progress as contributors to this trusted resource for learning and for patient care.

Like its predecessors, the Fourth Edition affords the reader a sound orientation to current concepts of biology, human behavior, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and nutrition essential for understanding the broad spectrum of manifestations of digestive illness; yet its chief emphasis is on the rational and effective management of the principal gastrointestinal diseases and disorders encountered in developed Western countries. As before, the Editors have excluded from the scope of the book only the diseases of the liver, some conditions common in children, and most specific infections of the gut, in view of excellent coverage of those fields by other texts.

The veteran reader of this work will find extensive revisions, incorporating new advances in the basic and clinical aspects of our field and bringing into play the insights of thirteen new authors or coauthors. Eight wholly new chapters present important fresh perspectives on, among other things, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the gastrointestinal effects of aging, the management of intrahepatic masses disclosed by modern methods of imaging, and the endoscopic treatment of biliary tract disease. The material on cytoprotection of the gut mucosa, on the pathogenesis of gallstones, on premalignant conditions in the digestive tract, and on psychological interactions between physician and patient has been thoroughly updated. The section on nutritional management has been revised to reflect recent advances in basic nutritional concepts and to provide authoritative guidance on the benefits and limitations of enteral and parenteral feedings for functionally impaired patients. The coverage of new diagnostic procedures is no less extensive than in the previous edition but will be found, suitably indexed, in the chapters that describe their most important clinical applications. This change should facilitate the most appropriate, timely, and cost-effective use of these rapidly evolving and expensive resources.

The Editors are to be congratulated on their conspicuous success in keeping their far-flung readership abreast of the current rapid advances in digestive disease. Their Fourth Edition is a volume of large but still manageable proportions, whose weight will be measured not in pounds but by its continuing impact on the modern practice of gastroenterology.

THOMAS P. ALMY

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Again, we cannot fail to mention the influence of the late Mort Grossman and the late Franz Ingelfinger, and the continuing encouragement of Tom Almy. Directly and indirectly they all influenced this work. We hope we have justified their efforts and confidence.

PREFACE

In the five years since the Third Edition, the avalanche of information has been greater than during the intervals between preceding editions. Once again we have found it impossible to eliminate enough of the older material in making way for the newer to maintain constant the size of the work. So, the Fourth Edition is a bit bigger. Fortunately, availability of thinner and lighter paper has allowed this to be done with little increase in the book's weight. The bibliography remains rather complete, reflecting our belief that all important statements require documentation.

Many chapters have been completely rewritten, and all the others were thoroughly updated. In Part I, *Some Psychologic and Biologic Aspects of Gastrointestinal Disease*, we have a new chapter, *The Effect of Age on Gastrointestinal Function*. New additions to Part II, *Major Symptoms and Syndromes*, include chapters on *Complications of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, *Fecal Incontinence*, and *Evaluation of Mass Lesions in the Liver*. We have also given greater emphasis to the oral and cutaneous manifestations of gastrointestinal disease by discussing these important clinical findings in a separate chapter. In Part V, *The Small and Large Intestine*, there is a new chapter on *Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome*, and several chapters have been expanded considerably (including those on *Colon Cancer* and *Food Sensitivity and Eosinophilic Gastroenteropathies*. Part VI, *The Biliary Tract: Anatomy, Physiology, and Disease*, contains a new chapter on *Endoscopic and Radiologic Treatment*. Finally, much new information on nutrition will be found in Part IX, particularly on the biomedical effects of alcohol, on vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and on enteral nutrition therapy.

We have deleted the section in the Third Edition entitled *Special Diagnostic Procedures*. Indications for endoscopy of the upper intestinal tract, biliary tract, pancreas, and colon and for the various scanning techniques will be found in the chapters devoted to the diseases of the various organ systems.

Although we have tried our best to control it, we are still guilty of some repetition. We hope it will be looked upon as educational reinforcement rather than poor editing. We hope this Fourth Edition will be found both helpful and stimulating for all who are interested in the theory and practice of gastroenterology.

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