
Advanced
Therapy in

GASTROENTEROLOGY
AND LIVER DISEASE

Fifth Edition

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PREFACE

This is the fifth edition of a book devoted to the details of medical, endoscopic, surgical, nutritional and supportive management of patients with digestive tract and liver disease. The concept, originally provided by our publisher Brian C. Decker, has been to gather a series of “consultations” on common or troubling disorders, which provide specific and detailed guidelines or recommendations for the physician caring for an individual patient. We have assumed that many of the readers of this text will be experienced and competent digestive and liver disease experts who have already made the correct diagnosis and are now looking for another opinion regarding a new or controversial treatment modality. Dr. Anna Mae Diehl, a leader in liver disease therapy and research, has joined me as Co-Editor.

Just as each of us would be tempted to call the expert on new therapies for Crohn’s Disease, on management of Hepatitis C, endoscopic mucosal resection, endoscopic therapy for GERD, psychotropic drugs for functional disorders or abdominal pain, or for the latest on colon cancer chemotherapy, we have persuaded the experts to write a brief chapter on her or his approach to a specific treatment problem. The authors of the 144 chapters have been generous with their insights and recommendations. All have been able to present their views on management and prognosis both clearly and concisely. We want to know what they do and why. This usually goes beyond the results of clinical trials and evidence-based medicine. As in many phases of medicine, there still are a lot of unanswered questions that we as clinicians face almost daily. Most chapters end with a list of supplemental readings. This has been more useful than asking the author to document every opinion. The editors added brief comments to some of the chapters to call attention to other views or other areas of potential interest.

As one looks through the table of contents, they will appreciate the combined medical and surgical approach to common digestive tract problems. Thirty of the authors are surgeons. Common and troublesome patient problems are discussed, at times, by more than one author to present divergent views. New endoscopic techniques and new medications are described by experienced clinicians. There is a strong focus on functional disorders, including recurrent abdominal pain, and the use of psychotropic medications. We are keenly aware of the need for additional laboratory and clinical research in digestive and liver diseases and the authors often point out the unanswered questions. Ensuing editions will chronicle improvements in the management of these important maladies.

We are grateful to our patients who have taught us the importance of many of the issues in this book; to the authors, who shared their views with us; to our colleagues in the Gastroenterology-Liver Division and in the Meyerhoff Digestive Disease-Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center who have participated in the patient care and research that form many of our views of patient management; to our publisher and his staff at BC Decker, including Paula Mucci, Monika Holden and Petrice Custance; and to our editorial assistants Donna Rode and Estelle Boyko. Our profound thanks to our spouses, children and grandchildren, who gave up their time to permit this type of endeavor.

Theodore M. Bayless, MD
Anna Mae Diehl, MD
January 2005

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