

hypothesis that a shortage of natural antioxidants and perhaps other vitamins underpins human vascular disease is no more than that. All may be true but present evidence is not a sound basis for population action.

A F WINDER

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Dr Mitchinson comments:

I concede that those of us who have invested years of work in the lipid oxidation hypothesis might sometimes be over enthusiastic. I cannot, however, agree that "...no single cardiovascular outcome was improved..." in the CHAOS trial. Myocardial infarction diminished in those taking vitamin E, to a degree seen with no other form of treatment. I have to agree that the benefits of vitamin E do not yet convince everyone, but I remain optimistic. Indeed, despite our areas of disagreement, the only real difference, it seems, is that my glass is half full and Professor Winder's half empty.

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Book reviews

Cancer Medicine, 4th edn, 2 volumes. Holland JF, Bast RC Jr, Morton DL, Frei E III, Kufe DW, Weichselbaum RR, eds. (£195.00.) Williams and Wilkins. 1996. ISBN 0 683 04095 2.

Cancer medicine is a very American book with only 12 of the 346 contributors coming from outside the United States, and only one, Professor Bruce Ponder, from the United Kingdom. However, there is little cultural conspiracy and the text is readily accessible. Each section has a contribution from someone who is considered to be the field leader and all of the main institutions are reasonably well represented. The market offers two main competitors: *Cancer: principles and practice of oncology*, commonly known as "DeVita" (JP Lippincott), and *Treatment of cancer* (Chapman and Hall). To some extent the decision as to which to choose is parochial and lies between the Memorial-Sloan-Kettering in New York, the Hammersmith in London, and this volume that inclines towards Harvard in Boston.

Cancer medicine is contemporary and definitive with respect to the essential cancer curriculum. It is helpfully arranged with clinical cancer medicine in mind. The historical context is presented extremely well and the book lends itself as a resource for undergraduate lecturing. It is comprehensive enough for postgraduates and basic scientists alike. The presentation is a little cheap for the price, and lacks a certain authoritative dignity, but this is deceptive. Weighing more than 7 kg this tome is 45% heavier than the field leaders. If surgeons were still using the family bible for ganglions, then this would be a match for any cancer.

R PENSON

Oral Pathology—Actual Diagnostic and Prognostic Aspects. Seifret G, ed. (Pp 244 hardback; DM 248.00; sFr 216.00.) Springer. 1996. ISBN 3 540 60987 3.

This is a splendid book—it is well written, clear and concise, providing an excellent overview of recent advances in the field of oral pathology. The scope of the book is such that it will be of benefit to anyone with an interest in diseases of the oral mucosa or oral cancer.

The first chapter discusses the epidemiology, clinical manifestations, pathogenesis, histopathological features, and treatment of both common and rare mucocutaneous conditions affecting the mouth. This section contains an excellent review of recent developments in our understanding of the antigens associated with autoimmune diseases, and the mechanisms likely to be responsible for cell damage. This is followed by two chapters summarising viral infections with manifestations involving the oral mucosa or salivary glands. Both benign and malignant disease are included and the text is enhanced by the inclusion of excellent tables. This is followed by a summary of the oral pathology of AIDS, including a comprehensive description of the four common subtypes of orofacial Kaposi's sarcoma. The fourth chapter reviews the new concept of extranodal non-Hodgkin's lymphomas of the oral cavity, emphasising the importance of subtle histological features, together with the results of immunological and molecular studies. The book is well illustrated throughout with clinical photographs and photomicrographs.

The final chapters discuss new developments in our understanding of the carcinogenic

process which occurs in the oral cavity and includes an excellent summary of recent studies looking at the possible clinical applications of proliferation markers in the diagnosis and prognosis of oral lesions. The role of oncogenes and the search for the tumour suppressor likely to be involved in the pathogenesis of oral cancer add to the wealth of new information succinctly presented. All chapters are well referenced, perhaps too well in some instances. The chapter discussing new aspects of viral disease has nearly 600 references and it would be difficult for the inexperienced reader to highlight key references. However, overall this book provides a very helpful summary of a plethora of recent information and can be strongly recommended.

M PARTRIDGE

Notices

Workshop on diagnostic pathology Dysplasia in inflammatory bowel disease

Wednesday, May 7 1997
St Mark's Northwick Park Hospitals,
Harrow

A day of practical interactive microscopy and lectures on the clinical relevance of dysplasia, diagnostic problems, and controversies. This is an intensive course for consultants and senior trainees. Using a multiheaded microscope, problem cases will be demonstrated and discussed. Faculty: Professor G T Williams, Dr A B Price, Professor I C Talbot.

Numbers are limited to 11 but if there is sufficient demand, the course may be repeated. Cost is £95.00 including coffee, lunch, and tea.

For further information and reservations, contact Mrs Elena Power, St Mark's Academic Institute, Northwick Park, Watford Road, Harrow HA1 3UJ. (tel: 0181 235 4048; fax: 0181 235 4039.)

Forthcoming meetings of the South Thames West Regional Cytology Training Centre

June 26–27 1997 Two day South Thames Breast Cytology Course

October 6–31 1997 Four week introductory gynae course for MLSOs/cytoscreeners

November 17–21 1997 One week gynae update course for MLSOs

December 1, 2, and 4 1997 One day non-gynae courses for MLSOs

Further details can be obtained from Mrs Jennifer Walker, Department of Cytology, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XX. (Tel: 01483 571122 ext 4374; fax: 01483 453615.)

Non-gynaecological and fine needles aspiration cytology course Oxford Cytology Training School John Radcliffe Hospital

June 2–6 1997

This one week course is suitable for all trainee and career medical staff and clinical scientists. It is recognised for CME purposes. Some accommodation is available. Course fee: £250. The FNA cytology component may be attended separately on June 5–6; fee £100.

Course organiser: Dr ID Buley, Consultant Pathologists, Histopathology and Cytology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU.

Further details from Patsy King, tel: 01865 220510.

Preparation, restoration, and maintenance of pathological museum teaching specimens

Many departments cannot justify having a dedicated technician to prepare interesting museum specimens for teaching. The Department of Pathology, University Hospital Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham has a team of highly qualified and experienced staff in its museum workshop who can prepare and mount new material or restore existing specimens. All specimens are mounted in tailor made "perspex" containers manufactured to the highest standards. The mounting fluid complies with COSHH regulations.

For details on this service, contact Mr JE Ben, Museum Curator, Pathology Museum, University Hospital, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH. (Tel: 0115 970 9076; fax: 0115 970 4852.)

Corrections

The beginning of paragraph 6 in the editorial by Hunt and Segal (*J Clin Path* 1996;49:958) should have read:

Measurement of fibrinolytic activity is difficult. Low fibrinogen levels will eventually result due to consumption. Also there may be prolongation of clotting due to interference from elevated fibrin degradation products. Increased levels of . . .

and not as published.

Attitudes of medical students to necropsy. N J Botega, E Marques, A Cruvinel, Z V Moraes, L A R Costa. *J Clin Pathol* 1997;50:64–66.

L Augusta was cited as an author of this paper in error.