Infectious Disease in the Aging
Infectious Disease

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Infectious Disease in the Aging

A Clinical Handbook

Second Edition

Thomas T. Yoshikawa, MD
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VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Los Angeles, CA
To our wives,
Catherine Yoshikawa and Jane Norman,
for their love and support
Preface to the Second Edition

Since the first edition of *Infectious Disease in the Aging: A Clinical Handbook*, the problem of infections in older adults remains a clinical challenge for primary care physicians, geriatricians, infectious disease specialists, surgeons and other surgical specialists, pharmacists, and providers working in long-term care facilities, all of whom care for elderly patients. Despite the availability of improved diagnostic techniques and newer antimicrobial agents, the common and well-recognized infectious diseases of geriatric patients such as pneumonia, urinary tract infections, skin and soft tissues infections, osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, tuberculosis, intraabdominal sepsis, bacterial meningitis, and infective endocarditis continue to cause serious morbidity and mortality. Furthermore, in the aging population, “newer” infections have appeared that are particularly common and/or more severe; these include acute respiratory syndrome and West Nile virus infection. As the aging population increases and people are living longer, infections that are occur more frequently in younger adults become increasingly more important in older adults, such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Finally, with the increasing prescription of antibiotics, the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance is accelerated at an alarming rate. Infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* are now primarily due to methicillin-resistant strains (MRSA). MRSA infection is a major infectious disease problem in older patients.

In this second edition of *Infectious Disease in the Aging: A Clinical Handbook*, the editors have once again assembled the leading experts in geriatric infectious disease; we have updated all the chapters, added new chapters, and included new references. The information, including tables and figures, is presented succinctly but completely. The editors feel that readers will continue to find this textbook a valuable and important resource for diagnosing and managing infections in older adults as well as a reference guide for training, educating, and for developing policies and procedures for infection control. As we stated in our first edition, we again welcome your comments and suggestions.

Los Angeles, CA

Thomas T. Yoshikawa
Dean C. Norman
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