

Autoimmune Bullous Diseases

Naveed Sami
Editor

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Approach and Management

 Springer

Editor

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ISBN 978-3-319-26726-5 ISBN 978-3-319-26728-9 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-26728-9

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016931996

Springer Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

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Printed on acid-free paper

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This book is wholeheartedly dedicated to the following:

To my devoted parents, for their boundless wisdom and prayers in continually encouraging me to make a contribution and difference in the lives of those who seek remedy for their illnesses, and comfort from ailments.

To my lovely wife, Abira, and precious daughters, Eshal and Inaya, who have been graciously supportive in allowing me to dedicate the time and energy in completing this endeavor.

To my memorable teachers for their guidance and indispensable mentorship.

To all of the patients and their families who have entrusted me with their lives and care. They have taught me not only about the management of complex diseases, but so much more including the essence of the art of medicine, and the virtue of patience. It is the unfeigned desire to make a difference in patients' lives that has fueled my motivation to continue the unending search for better solutions.

Preface

The objective of this book is to provide a coherent synopsis on the treatment and management of autoimmune blistering diseases, with one chapter focusing on each of these rare conditions. Many of these disorders can have irreversible consequences, and in some cases the potential to be fatal. Each chapter has endeavored to summarize the present-day literature on currently available therapies, and how they may fit into various feasible treatment algorithms. The contributing authors are individuals who have devoted their careers to understanding these diseases and have invested countless hours in their research laboratories and clinical settings. The ideas presented by this text do not intend to serve as the de facto treatment approach. Instead, it is our aspiration that the information and algorithms presented may help serve clinicians by providing some direction and assistance in the management of their patients. There is a large amount of overlap in the conventional treatments of these complex ailments. To help better stratify therapeutic strategies to specific diseases, the authors have provided expert opinions based on their vast sum of experiences. This serves to add an angle in balancing evidence based science with the “art of medicine” in patient care. This includes practical matters in disease management, and an algorithm based on various factors such as severity indices, side effect profiles, and the authors’ personal preferences based on anecdotal observations.

While the overall focus of this text has been on the more common autoimmune blistering diseases afflicting adults, there are four chapters which separately address other important topics, including: the more rare blistering diseases, systemic corticosteroids, supportive and topical care, and blistering diseases in children. The sections on systemic corticosteroids and supportive care add two components of management which can often be overlooked, as clinicians search for the appropriate long-term treatment for their patient. It is my hope and desire that this book may serve as a guide in assisting my colleagues to develop their approach to treatment. However, as many of us have come to realize, the overall strategy will need to be individualized to each patient, and may evolve based on numerous factors in the patients’ long-term care.

Lastly, with sincere gratitude, I would like to thank Springer for recognizing the importance of dedicating a book to the treatment of this rare group of diseases. This has been an amazing experience!

Birmingham, AL

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Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge all my esteemed senior colleagues (basic scientists and clinicians alike) who have invested their efforts and dedicated their careers in helping us reach our current understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of these diseases.

Finally, I would like to express my genuine and deep appreciation to all of the authors who have contributed their time and effort in completing a momentous accomplishment. I am truly humbled by this team of authors who have a steadfast dedication to their careers as researchers, teachers, and clinicians.

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