

Review

of the monograph “Gastroenterology: serious cases” by N. B. Gubergrits, N. V. Byelyayeva, A. Ye. Klochkov, G. M. Lukashevich, P. G. Fomenko (Kyiv, 2019)

The monograph under review provides a comprehensive analysis of specific clinical cases (patients), their medical histories, starting from the medical history, the results of objective examination, differential diagnosis, etiology and pathogenesis of the disease, the results of laboratory and instrumental diagnostics and ending with the rationale for the diagnosis and treatment. Each chapter concludes with a list of references.

The book provides clinical analysis of patients difficult to diagnose and treat, covering all sections of gastroenterology: diseases of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum; diseases of the liver, biliary tract and spleen; pancreas and intestines, in total, 24 clinical cases, which, from the point of view of the authors, are the most instructive and useful for doctors examples of clinical diagnosis and treatment, requiring clinical thinking directly at the patient’s bed.

The authors of the monograph are students and followers of the scientific school of an outstanding clinician-gastroenterologist and scientist — Honored Scientist Professor Alexander Yakovlevich Gubergrits (1912–1989).

While working on the book, the authors followed the precepts of a famous doctor, one of the founders of the Russian therapeutic school, Matvey Yakovlevich Mudrov (1776–1831), who considered his archive of case histories, numbering 40 volumes, as his wealth, which was more expensive for him than his entire medical library.

The monograph reflected the extraordinary patients suffering from gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), its medical and surgical treatment, especially in connection with complications such as erosive and ulcerative lesions of the esophagus and cardiac section of the stomach, Barrett’s esophagus, eosinophilic esophagitis.

Lesions of the stomach with AIDS and syphilis, with adenocarcinoma of the duodenum, etc. are described.

Of the diseases of the liver and biliary tract, the monograph reflected chronic stoneless cholecystitis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, chronic hepatitis with an outcome in cirrhosis of the liver (autoimmune and drug); with a false positive Wasserman reaction to syphilis and antiphospholipid syndrome; subleukemic myelosis with non-cirrhotic subhepatic portal hypertension, etc.

Of great interest is the chapter in which numerous clinical “masks” of cholelithiasis are described (cholecystocardial, psychoemotional, autonomic dysfunction, etc.).

The chapter devoted to difficultly diagnosed diseases of the pancreas, in the diagnosis and treatment of which Professor N. B. Gubergrits has vast experience and comprehensive knowledge. So, a rare case of decompensated stenosis of the descending part of the duodenum due to congenital malformations of the pancreas (pancreas annulare) against the background of cholelithiasis and chronic cholecystitis has been described; chronic hereditary calcifying pancreatitis in combination with urolithiasis of both kidneys; damage to the pancreas with immunoglobulinemia G4 in the blood serum (autoimmune pancreatitis); malignant, serotonin-producing pancreatic carcinoid, etc.

Of the intestinal diseases, clinical examples of primary (idiopathic) intestinal lymphangiectasia (Waldman's disease) with severe edematous syndrome are presented; digestive tract angio dysplasia with a predominant lesion of the stomach and jejunum; anorexia nervosa that arose against the background of an anxiety-depressive reaction due to an adaptation disorder, etc.

It is regrettable that in the monograph there was no room for examples of the diverse course of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

In general, the monograph “Gastroenterology: serious cases” is commendable. It will certainly prove useful to practical doctors (and not only) and will allow them to increase their clinical experience, master the principles of differential diagnosis and individualized (personalized) treatment, and improve clinical thinking.

The monograph is properly published, illustrated with various pictures and diagrams that facilitate the assimilation of a very complex material of the book.

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