

## Endoscopy and Liver Disease

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Clinics in Liver Disease, Elsevier Health Sciences, London, UK, May 2010; Vol. 14, No 2; ISSN 1089-3261, 380 pages

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The series of *Clinics in Liver Disease* has become a well-known and important source of information in the field of hepatology. Doctors Andrés Cárdenas and Paul J. Thuluvath, who are renowned personalities with great expertise in the field of hepatology and endoscopy, coordinated this volume that is dedicated to endoscopic issues in specific liver disease.

Endoscopy plays a very important role in the management of patients with liver disease, especially in the treatment of complications of end-stage liver disease or hepatobiliary malignancy.

The book is divided into 14 chapters, somehow following a logical sequence, from special problems of sedation in liver patients undergoing endoscopy to endoscopic evaluation and treatment of cirrhosis and portal hypertension, followed by special endoscopic techniques for hepatobiliary malignancies and ending with the endoscopic management of biliary complications of liver transplantation. Each subsection is written by recognized experts in their respective fields and the Editors have taken great care to ascertain that each contributor focuses on the task at hand.

The book begins with a chapter dedicated to the endoscopic sedation of patients with liver disease. This subject is particularly interesting because of the risk of new drugs inducing encephalopathy. Actually, the optimal sedation of those patients is poorly defined and a detailed discussion is provided in this chapter.

In the following nine chapters, endoscopic diagnostic and therapeutic strategies of esophageal and gastric complications of portal hypertension are extensively discussed. This exhaustive discussion is focused on the latest evidence in this field. In a very interesting chapter, Dr. Roberto de Franchis

and colleagues analyse the role of capsule endoscopy in patients with portal hypertension. Equally engrossing is the chapter where the role of endoscopic ultrasonography in the evaluation of portal hypertension is discussed. Other chapters are dedicated to the exhaustive discussion of the diagnosis of esophageal varices, the role of endoscopy in primary prophylaxis of esophageal variceal bleeding, the management of acute variceal bleeding, therapeutic options for gastric varices, portal hypertensive gastropathy and vascular ectasia, secondary prophylaxis of variceal bleeding and the management of refractory acute variceal bleeding.

In an absorbing chapter Dr. Paul J. Thuluvath and colleagues present a novel application of endoscopic ultrasound and fine needle aspiration in the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma. The role of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography in the diagnosis and management of cholangiocarcinoma and of the primary sclerosing cholangitis is also discussed.

The final chapter is dedicated to the endoscopic management of biliary complications after liver transplantation. The chapter is very important because these complications appear in up to 25% of the liver transplant patients.

The index at the end of the book helps the reader to rapidly find the subject of interest.

In summary, this issue of *Clinics in Liver Disease* is a valuable up-to-date source of the latest evidence in the use of endoscopic techniques in liver disease. It is a book that uses multidisciplinary approaches, of interest to endoscopists, hepatologists, gastroenterologists and surgeons, too.

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