

topics, such as contraception, lend themselves to tabular comparisons, but the book's structured format is imposed. The only tables I found were in the Immunizations section.

Consult's useful bullet-point style is certain to make it a best seller. Purchasers should be aware of several additional limitations. Listings are inconsistent: iron deficiency anemia is listed under "i," whereas sickle cell anemia is listed as "anemia, sickle cell." From the text, it is often difficult to discern which diagnostic tests to use when, which of the listed tests is preferred, and how to sequence tests. There are no clues about cost. Space is devoted to rare entities (erythroblastosis fetalis) with neglect of issues of daily life, such as normal newborn or child care and normal prenatal care. Topics such as blastomycosis through Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome merit two-page spreads, whereas agoraphobia and panic, with lifetime prevalences of up to 5 to 10 percent, are rolled into the two-page anxiety section rather than being individually discussed. The information provided about panic is insufficient to be of diagnostic assistance. A few listings required guessing the exact term (low back pain, perleche); the index did not contain synonyms. Journal citations have variable format, and journal title abbreviations do not consistently correspond to the official ones.

One could quibble with many of the statements and recommendations in *Consult* because so few issues in medicine are truly settled. For example, the section on depression begins: "Depression results when a person experiences more frustration and anger than he or she can handle." My criticism is not the presentation of controversial material, but the dearth of notation about controversy or the range of authoritative opinion that exists.

Consult will be useful to anyone for whom thumbnail sketches of a great diversity of illnesses would be useful. Students, residents, and practicing physicians can quickly reacquaint themselves with less familiar illnesses or review diagnostic or therapeutic recommendations. I would recommend that all clinicians leaf through this book to see whether it might serve some of their "quick" clinical consultative needs.

Gary Fox, MD
Toledo, OH

HIV Infection: A Clinical Manual. Second edition. Edited by Howard Libman and Robert A. Witzburg. 556 pp. Boston, Little, Brown & Company, 1993. \$32.50 (paper). ISBN 0-316-51162-5.

HIV Infection: A Clinical Manual is an excellent reference text for the family physician or internist. The first edition of this text was released in 1990. The second edition is an updated and expanded review of the state

of knowledge regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and its treatment. Printed in paperback, it is a practical addition to the library of any primary care physician caring for HIV-infected adults. The organization of the text is logical and usable. In the interest of utility to the practicing physician, the text is not comprehensive. Each chapter is extensively referenced, however, serving those times when more in-depth knowledge is needed.

The first section of the text is entitled Overview of HIV Infection. The history and pathophysiology of HIV are reviewed; counseling, testing, staging, and laboratory assessments are discussed.

In the 13 chapters that follow, the authors review, by clinical syndrome and organ system, the conditions and diseases related to HIV infection in all of its stages. For the physician who does not have extensive practice and experience in treating HIV-infected patients, these reviews are a useful adjunct to the assessment of presenting complaints and findings.

Most of the text is devoted to a more comprehensive discussion of the specific opportunistic infections associated with HIV infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and their treatments. The editors and authors have provided commendable guidance and appear to have met their objective to "indicate where uncertainty exists and to present a reasonable approach to management based on current literature."

In addition to the editors, 47 authors contributed to this text. The quality and readability of the text is uniformly very good. The text began its life as a manual for medical house officers and attending staff of the Department of Medicine at Boston City Hospital, and the geographic distribution of the contributing authors is reflected in those roots. This second edition is supplemented with important new chapters dealing with the ambulatory management of HIV infection and the implications of HIV infection and treatment in specific population groups (women, children, homosexual or bisexual patients, drug-using patients, and minority populations).

In summary, this text is a commendable basic reference for the primary care physician. In caring for the HIV-infected patient, it is essential to have an up-to-date, complete resource. This clinical manual represents a good balance between completeness and utility. The only disappointment is that in this updated edition, reference lists have not been uniformly updated to the same extent by all contributors.

Michael W. Maples
Yakima, WA