

## Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems—A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective (3<sup>rd</sup> ed)

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The third edition of this manual of gastroenterology by regional experts from Malaysia and Singapore consists of 27 short chapters packaged in 2 sections entitled “Luminal gastroenterology” and “Hepatobiliary & Pancreas.” In his preface, the editor, Dr Richard Guan, states that “our goal is to provide a resource for primary care physicians and non-gastroenterological specialists in the diagnosis and management of common gastroenterological problems.” Dr Guan points out that “all the chapters have been revised to reflect the advances in gastroenterology over the last 5 years.”

Three new chapters on abnormal liver function test, gallstone disease and gastroenterology in the East and West have been added. Also, most chapters have been extensively revised to reflect current thinking and describe new techniques.

How well does this book address its stated goal? It would be easy to criticise its “cook-book” approach, especially when there is an overlap on the management of jaundice or the approach to gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding. However, it is clearly stated in the Preface that this manual provides “a quick reference, to help local doctors to diagnose and treat patients more efficiently and confidently.” It does not pretend to be a comprehensive gastroenterology text.

The authors have adhered to a standard format that makes for easy reading. Indications, contraindications, preparation, algorithms are clearly laid out. This will appeal to busy medical students, housemen and other physicians in training, for whom time is precious. References and recommended reading lists are provided for those who require them. Thus, each chapter is comprehensive on its own.

As expected in a multi-author text, there is considerable variation in the quality of the chapters. Some are quite outstanding (e.g. chapter 15, Treatment of chronic hepatitis; and chapter 21, Drugs and the liver). The overall standard is good. Of course, one can take issue with technical points here and there. For example, the Tensilon test is seldom used to provoke non-cardiac chest pain (yield less than 20%) while colonic air insufflation to test irritable bowel is not conclusive. For variceal bleeding, balloon tamponade has largely been superseded by endoscopic intervention while T.I.P.S.S. is still not widely available.

There are 2 chapters on parasitology and gastroenteritis by Malaysian authors while the chapter on Cancers is written by a senior oncologist. There are also 2 excellent chapters by surgeons on the acute abdomen and laparoscopic surgery. The chapter on ERCP would benefit from some additional line drawings to explain the text.

The book ends with a very nice chapter entitled “Gastroenterology in the East and West”, a concise yet comprehensive overview of the major differences between the spectra of diseases experienced in the East and Britain.

Overall, this is a very useful book. It contains a wealth of information and common sense in a compact form. I believe that Dr Guan and his co-authors have achieved their goal. I was the author of one of the chapters.

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These common cross-border problems brought home to the leadership of both countries the necessity and wisdom of maintaining good relations. The 3 New Straits Times. (2003). May 5. p. 22. (2003). Singapore's Troubled Relations With Malaysia: A Singapore Perspective. Southeast Asian Affairs. p. 259-274. 7 Star. Malaysia is baffled by the discrepancy in the management of the withdrawal of the CPF savings for employees 16 Kyodo News. (2005). Singapore and Malaysia resolve land reclamation dispute. April 26. <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/144527/1.html> for Sabah and Sarawak who is allowed to withdraw their CPF savings upon completing their employment contracts vis-à-vis those employees from Peninsular Malaysia. Since 2019, the "Problems and Perspectives in Management" Journal is the Member (JM13790) of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The Journal is open access and double blind peer-reviewed. It is published in English with quarterly frequency, in Sumy (Ukraine). Authors are committed to publish their articles under Creative Commons licenses (CC-BY 4.0). Find detailed information in the Copyright section. Show full description hide full description. Publication History. The journal "Problems and Perspectives in Management" ISSN (print) 1727-7051, ISSN (online) 1810-5467 was founded by LLC "CPC Business Perspectives" (Sumy, Ukraine) in 2003 and registered by Ministry of Justice of Ukraine (No. ДСД' 22090-11990Д from April 22, 2016). Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems: A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective, 2nd Ed. 1995 pg 220 - 234 2. Robert Ding Pooi Huat. Drugs and The Liver. Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems: A Malaysia & Singapore Perspective, Third Edition 2000 pg 227-248. 3. Robert Ding Pooi Huat. Doctor, I Have Wind. 14. International American Gastroenterology Association / Singapore Gastroenterological Meeting held in Singapore from 6 - 9.9.95. 15. 4th United European Gastroenterology Week held in Berlin, Germany from 17 - 21.9.95. 16. 9th Triennial International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis & Liver Disease held in Rome, Italy from 21 - 25.4.96. Singapore's Troubles Relations with Malaysia: A Singapore Perspective. Southeast Asian Affairs. pp. 259-274. 18. (1992). "The Management of Interdependence and Change within a Special Relationship", in Azizah. Kassim and Lau Teik Soon (eds), Malaysia and Singapore: Problems and Prospects, Singapore: Singapore. Institute of International Affairs. pp. 230-248. Chang, L. L. (2003). Singapore's Troubles Relations. with Malaysia: A Singapore Perspective. Southeast Asian Affairs. pp. 259-274. 10. Indonesia Philippines Thailand MALAYSIA Singapore India. % GDP. 2004. Malaysia follows a systematic planning process whereby five-year plans are set within longer Outline Perspective Plans (OPPs), and systematic reviews are conducted at mid-point of these five-year plans. Annual plans are vehicles for fine-tuning and adjusting the five-year plans to adapt to changing circumstances.