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*Pathobiology and Clinical Management*
Edited by:
John M. Bennett
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Rochester, New York

May 2002/528 pp., illus.,
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CRC Press.

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This reference provides a comprehensive overview of the latest research detailing the etiology, epidemiology, treatment, and detection of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)—identifying effective therapeutic regimens, adverse environmental and genetic factors, and efficient modalities of supportive care that improve patient survival and enhance quality of life.
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Myelodysplastic Syndromes
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A comprehensive reference on all aspects of the clinical classification underlying pathogenetic mechanisms and treatment of the myelodysplastic syndromes, Myelodysplastic Syndromes stands out as a definitive text on the genetics, pathophysiology, and clinical management from of this wide range of syndromes. Authored by international experts, this book provides a state-of-the-art update of the current status and recent advances in the field. This book will be a valuable resource to clinicians and researchers who wish to learn more about myelodysplastic syndromes.
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Myelodysplastic syndromes are to the bone marrow what pneumonia is to the lungs; the response of an organ to a variety of etiologic insults like aging, toxic exposure, infections and auto-immunity. Among infectious causes alone, pneumonia could be the result of a variety of possible pathogens including bacterial, viral, tuberculous or fungal agents. Similarly, MDS cannot be treated as a single disease. Attempts to harness the inherent complexity of MDS by devising ‘classifications’ which group the various syndromes as one disease is as misguided as saying that a pneumonia is not infectious because it did not respond to antibiotics. Progress in the field will occur faster when we re-analyze this premise. Therefore, until a clearer picture of the disease emerges it is best to treat each of the MDS syndromes as a separate entity. Having no classification is better than a misleading one. This book is our attempt to define the most crucial questions related to MDS that need to be addressed immediately through logic, analysis and rigorous experimentation. If the emerging problems appear daunting, then instead of being overwhelmed by them, we should follow the advice of the great 20th century thinker Antonio Gramsci, ‘pessimism of the intellect must be faced with the optimism of will'.
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