

## Book Review

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*Madkour's Brucellosis*, 2nd edition. Ed. M. M. Madkour, Springer, 2001. Pp. 305. €144.95.

Mounir Madkour has produced a second edition of his book, *Brucellosis*, 12 years after the first edition. While the 1980s saw a major increase in publications on brucellosis cited in the first edition, the intervening years have seen no decline in the appearance of new material on all aspects of this infection and continuing interest is reflected in the new references cited in the extensive bibliography. The contents page lists 28 chapters, five more than that of the first edition; new topics are Haematological Localization (instead of Haematological Disorders), Endocrinal Brucellosis, Spondylitis with Neurobrucellosis, Difficulties in Diagnosis, HIV and Brucellosis, and Bioterrorism. Most of the chapters are written by Madkour either as sole author or with colleagues from Riyadh; additional authors include M. J. Corbel on Microbiology, E. J. Young on Immunology, and A. Akhtar on Histopathology – all have a wealth of knowledge and experience in this field. The chapters give full discussions of their subjects with comprehensive, updated reference lists. The text emphasizes the protean nature of this infection and stresses the parallels with tuberculosis with which it shares so many clinical and pathological similarities, such as meningitis.

This second edition comes from a new publisher. The use of a slightly glossy paper allows the printing of illustrations in the text where they are mentioned rather than sequestered in

illustration sections and those shown are excellent examples of plain radiology, CT and isotope scans. It was regrettable that the histopathological illustrations could not have been in colour. There are odd aberrations in relation to references, for example on page 3, seven references are cited in the text but not listed in the bibliography of that chapter. One of the strong points of this book is the way in which it brings together systematically comprehensive reviews of the wide range of manifestations of this infection. I should have liked to see a consistent style for lists in the text; some are just indented, some are numbered, some have bullet points and some have numbers plus bullet points. Overall the copy editing is fairly good.

The key chapter is probably that on treatment, Madkour has immense experience of this. He also discusses the randomized trials that have been done. Dr Madkour should consider whether or not a large trial can be done, for example in the countries of the Arabian peninsula where sufficient numbers of cases may still be present.

Brucellosis remains an important cause of morbidity in many countries of the world. Madkour has done a valuable job in producing a second edition of this book. I recommend this book highly but fear that it is too expensive for individuals and medical libraries in countries where the disease is common.

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