

BOOK REVIEW

Short Bowel Syndrome in Children: Current Practice and Future Perspectives

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Short bowel syndrome (SBS) in infants and children continues to be a major cause of morbidity and mortality in spite of all the advances that have occurred in the last thirty years in the management of congenital and acquired abnormalities of the gastrointestinal tract. This is the case currently in spite of major advances in nutritional support, both enteral and parenteral nutrition, intestinal transplantation and advanced therapies for support of the failing liver. The management of patients with short bowel syndrome is complex, requiring a comprehensive approach that frequently necessitates long-term use of parenteral nutrition. Despite the availability of parenteral nutrition, advances in resuscitation, availability of potent antibiotics, and modern techniques of organ support, the morbidity of SBS remains strikingly high. Intestinal rehabilitation refers to the process of restoring enteral autonomy and allows freedom from parenteral nutrition, usually by means of dietary, medical, and occasionally, surgical strategies. In this book, an overview of SBS and pathophysiological considerations related to the remaining bowel anatomy in children with SBS was provided. Additionally, a review of intestinal adaptation and factors that may enhance the adaptive process, focusing on evidence derived from animal studies, was discussed. This book is a significant addition to the literature on this subject by providing insight into the clinical and basic science considerations of intestinal failure. The editor's academic activities have centered around the study of animal models with SBS, with special emphasis on the mechanisms of intestinal regeneration and the impact of liver failure on the intestinal regenerative process. He has published extensively in these areas and has presented his work at many international meetings. In organizing this book, he has brought together several other experts in this field to provide the readers with a comprehensive review of the subject. This comprehensive treatise highlights the importance of the establishment of pediatric intestinal failure centers for the proper treatment of these complicated patients.

Review provided by Hua Yang, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of General Surgery Xinqiao Hospital, Third Military Medical University, Chongqing, P. R. of China