

Fungal Infection: Diagnosis and Management, 3rd Edition
MD Richardson and DW Warnock.
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The third edition of this very popular book was published at the end of 2003. The book is noticeably larger than the previous edition and covers several new areas, but retains the same chapters and layout as previously.

The introductory chapters have been updated and now include brief sections on new approaches to diagnosis and treatment and molecular diagnosis. The next chapter on antifungal drugs has been undergone extensive changes. The drugs are now grouped together in classes, rather than being listed alphabetically, a much more useful way to present the information. The newly licensed antifungal drugs are also covered, with information about dosages, indications, interactions and metabolism. For the first time in this edition relevant references have been included at the end of each chapter, which provide a useful starting point if further information is required. On the down side, some of the references are already a little old and will rapidly become outdated as further papers are published.

The book contains chapters on all the commonly encountered mycoses, and several of the more unusual infections. The format is the same as for previous editions, covering geographical distribution, causal organism, clinical manifestations, differential diagnosis, investigations and management. In addition, for several diseases there are now sections on epidemiology and prevention. This book is ideal to dip into for specific pieces of information because of the consistency of chapter format, however, little use is made of tables or diagrams and this would further enhance the accessibility of information. The other ongoing gripe about the book is the lack of pictures. The first edition was published with a companion set of slides containing relevant illustrations, but the inclusion of some illustrations in the book, even in black and white, would be a great improvement.

Overall, the book is very useful and one to which many people will refer regularly. It succeeds in its stated aim of being "concise and up to date" and for those who have to deal with fungal infections in clinical practice, it is a valuable source of information.

Ruth Ashbee, Leeds, UK.