



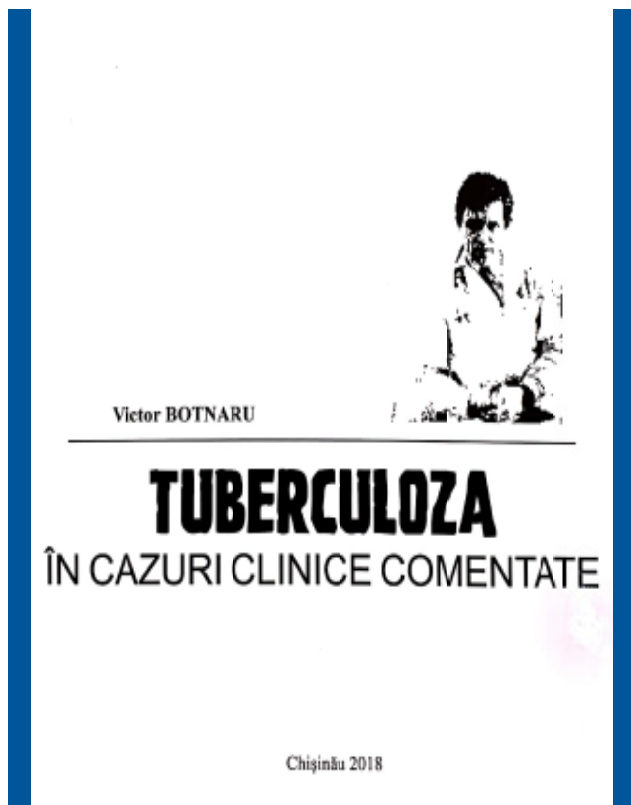
BOOK REVIEW

## Tuberculoza în cazuri clinice comentate [Tuberculosis by discussion of clinical cases] by Victor Botnaru

Publisher "Balacron Printing House", Chisinau 2018

ISBN 978-9975-3255-4-7

307 pages, 699 figures (photographs, tables and diagrams), 84 references



Well known for his prolific editorial activity, Professor Victor Botnaru has surprised us this autumn with another book. As the title suggests, "Tuberculosis by discussion of clinical cases", his new book brings to our attention the current and at the same time painful problem of pneumology on both side of the Prut river. Following his inclination for clinical dilemmas, the author, together with a young team of co-authors, offers a collection of richly illustrated cases, and discusses them from the viewpoints of diagnosis and therapeutic approach.

Addressed to a wide public, the book contains 114 cases structured in a way which offers the readers the possibility to assess their own knowledge on the etiology, pathogenesis, prevention and clinical management of tuberculosis. In every case included, both training physicians and specialists are invited to analyze a set of images and answer several related questions. The reader

can compare his answers with the authors' and also correlate them with the the description and comments of the case. The latter are based on the international guidelines and recent publications, thus providing a good update of our knowledge and acquire new concepts introduced into clinical practice.

Written by a team from the academia, the book is naturally destined for medical students. Its pages contain detailed aspects of mycobacterial microbiology and elements of tuberculosis pathogenesis. At the same time, the clinician may also extract the principles of classical microbiological and molecular genetic diagnostic interpretation, while the laboratory physician is faced with the wide range of dilemmas that occur in making clinical decisions. In fact, at the book core lies the clinical reasoning related to each case. Thus the reader can become acquainted with straightforward issues such as clinical symptoms, the range of tuberculosis images, and can also delight with the complexity of differential diagnosis between tuberculosis and fungal infections, lung malignancies or systemic vasculitis. The list of the cases includes both pulmonary and extra-pulmonary tuberculosis, each time with a mention of the importance of interdisciplinary and critical approach of data interpretation.

Far from the claim of replacing clinical guidelines for tuberculosis, the author gives us a practical illustration of the selection of therapeutic regimens, but also what hinders these decisions, such as associated diseases, side effects, drug availability. The less experienced clinician is also acquainted with the aspects surgical treatment of tuberculosis at present, and the postoperative effects of several decades ago. Some of the latter were downright monstrous, reminding us of the high price of ignorance even in a disease with a high cure potential. From the same angle we have cases that illustrate the deficiencies in applying early prevention and screening methods of new cases of tuberculosis. In fact, most of the cases described present us convincingly the paradoxes of medical reality associated with tuberculosis patients care.

Summing up the characteristics of each case, even a physician without tuberculosis experience would get a picture of a typical patient, described with pertinence and dedication. The same physician would be slightly surprised at the progress in the molecular-genetic diagnosis of

tuberculosis infection and their wide availability nowadays, as well as the possibility of a personalized approach of the patient in the near future.

It would be unfair not to mention the high publishing qualities of the book, with its exhaustive index and impressive bibliographical list, a distinctive mark of Professor Botnaru. These elements confer the book a high esthetic aspect that completes the content, altogether having contributed to the popularity of all the professor's books.

Combining the features of a medical textbook with

elements of a monograph, "Tuberculosis by discussion of clinical cases" will certainly find its place on the bookshelves of medical libraries. The succinct exposure and the originality of style will place it among the reference books as an example of a graceful presentation of a complex matter.

**Professor Doina Todea**  
**Department of Pneumology,**  
**Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and**  
**Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**