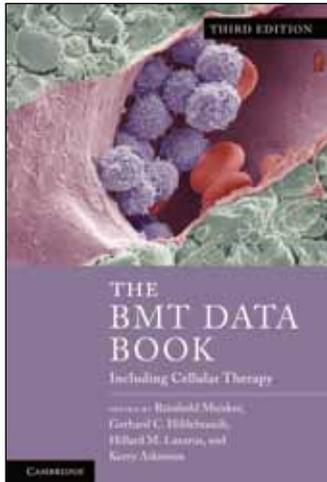


**THE BMT DATA BOOK INCLUDING CELLULAR THERAPY
THIRD EDITION**

Editors Reinhold Munker, Gerhard C Hildebrandt, Hillard M Lazarus and Kerry Atkinson

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I read the first edition of The BMT Data Book back in 1998 when it was first published. For a haematologist training in bone marrow transplantation (BMT), the book was a welcome addition to the several other books written on this subject for its clearness, conciseness and no-nonsense practical approach. 15 years have since passed and there have been many advances in the field of BMT, which is now sometimes called haematopoietic stem cell transplantation in order to accommodate the fact that in addition to bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cells and cord blood stem cells are also being transplanted. The editors have produced many timely additions to incorporate what we now know about cellular therapy, including the role of mesenchymal stromal cells and natural killer cells. Delightfully, the editors have also managed to keep the same concise style and practical tone that made its first two editions so well liked. For example, instead of meandering over the details of what one clinical study found and what another clinical study did not find, the editors chose to reduce the intellectual noise and distil what they felt were the truly important points for the health practitioner in the BMT ward or clinic, by citing the results of the most important study (where needed) and providing point-by-point recommendations. Nevertheless, the book is strong on data and provides the BMT practitioner with a useful resource to guide decision-making in the wards and clinics. However, the book is meant to be a practical supplement, and thus does not go into detail concerning the nuances of certain subjects, nor does it go to great lengths to explain some diagrams on basic science. Therefore, the interested clinician should do his or her own wide reading on these subjects.

I find the book useful as a resource for family conferences, writing Standard Operating Procedures and reviewing pre-transplant protocols. It also serves as a useful guide for ward or clinic staff with regard to dealing with practical problems such as the management of a nonfunctioning central venous catheter. Having read this latest edition, I am inclined to say that it should be a supplement in every BMT ward and brought into every weekly BMT meeting. No BMT unit should be without at least one copy of the book, and every BMT practitioner should have one available for handy reference.

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