

## BOOK REVIEW - LIVRO

HOPKIN, J. M. - *Pneumocystis carinii*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991. 152p. (Colour photographs, halftones, line drawings and tables throughout) ISBN: 0-19-261654-4 £ 25.00 Hardback.

This well-illustrated and closely referenced monograph gives a broad-ranging account of the opportunistic pulmonary pathogen, *Pneumocystis carinii* - the parasite which has become one of the leading causes of death and morbidity in the ever increasing numbers of immunosuppressed individuals on transplant or oncology programmes, and those with AIDS.

In its first half, the book focuses on the epidemiology of pneumocystis infection and the basic biology of the parasite, especially emphasizing the progress in molecular biology and the important uncertainties that remain unanswered about its epidemiology. In the second half, a critical account of the literature is combined with the practical approach the clinician needs to take in the diagnosis and treatment of the immunosuppressed patient with pneumonia.

**Contents:** The occurrence of pneumocystis pneumonia and infection: epidemic infantile disease; Sporadic disease; A second epidemic; Epidemiology of pneumocystis infection; The nature of *Pneumocystis carinii* and its interaction with the lung: structure of the parasite - light and electron microscopy; Transmission of infection; Pneumocystis and lung tissue; Keeping the parasite in check; Molecular biology; The clinical problem of pneumocystis pneumonia: clinical picture; The differential diagnosis; Diagnostic techniques; Diagnosis in practice; Treatment and chemoprophylaxis for pneumocystis pneumonia: early experience - pentamidine and cotrimoxazole; The advent of AIDS - new challenges; New responses; Other aspects of treatment and prevention; Index.