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Asthma (Paperback)

By William Berger

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 198 x 127 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Asthma is a common chronic inflammatory condition affecting the airways and displays a varied phenotypic picture. It is becoming increasingly recognized by healthcare workers and epidemiological studies suggest that along with other atopic diseases, its prevalence is rising. The precise etiology of asthma remains uncertain, but genetic and environmental factors such as viruses, country of origin, allergen exposure, early use of antibiotics, and numbers of siblings have all been implicated in its inception and development. Pathologically it is characterized by inflammation, physiologically by airway hyper-responsiveness (or hyper-reactivity) resulting in reversible airflow obstruction, and clinically by wheeze, chest tightness, breathlessness and cough. It can present in early childhood as well as adulthood, and varies markedly in severity, clinical course, subsequent disability and response to treatment. Exacerbations and symptoms of asthma are the final manifestation of a complex interplay between an array of inflammatory cells and mediators, which cause airway smooth muscle to intermittently relax and contract. Despite greater knowledge surrounding the immunopathological origins of asthma and considerable advances in its management, it remains one of the...



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