

Susanne Suter

## **Smith OP, Hann IM (eds): Essential paediatric haematology**

**M. Dunitz, London, 2002. X 241 pp with illustrations and tables (ISBN 90-5823-179-8), US\$ 68**

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Written by eleven authors under the editorial guidance of Owen P. Smith and Ian M. Hann, this book of 240 pages aims to inform physicians in training for paediatric haematology, with special emphasis on the progress due to the advances in molecular diagnosis of diseases. Starting with an overview on normal haematopoiesis, leading the reader through the jungle of the cytokine networks and normal coagulation, the chapter on molecular biology and genetic manipulation introduces the main molecular techniques currently used for diagnosis and predicting prognosis of the main malignant

haematological disorders. The management of infections is presented in a concise manner and the indications for blood and blood component transfusion are discussed. A chapter on anaemia, with reference to different age groups, is followed by information of the main neoplastic diseases encountered. One may regret a certain lack of coloured illustrations, but summarising tables and figures are concise and informative. A valuable up-date in paediatric haematology.

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