Book Review

HIV and psychiatry. A training and resource manual


This is the second edition of this book, whose main editor, Kenneth Citron, sadly died at the age of 46 of a brain tumor. Kenneth left a wealth of information and training guidelines for all careers, relatives and patients in the field of both psychiatry and HIV. The value of this book lies in the fact that psychiatry and HIV have been, and remain, the most controversial health problems due to the stigmatization associated with these problems. This book encompasses the medical overview of HIV in relation to psychiatric syndrome, not skipping the cognitive disorder in people living with HIV. It also incorporates the general principles of pharmacotherapy in addition to psychotherapies, which may be useful to HIV patients who are psychiatrically ill.

In fact, it touches on all areas of psychiatric disorder in relation to HIV infection, in addition to drug abuse, which has been very much associated with HIV. I find the book to be a valuable resource for people working with AIDS and psychiatric patients. It not only provides a wealth of information, but simple and clear guidelines to facilitate and provide care for the patient. It addresses a western style population, however, the universality of HIV infection and psychiatric problems makes it readable and enjoyable by any population, regardless of cultural differences. The book is reasonably priced, which renders it accessible to a large number of people. Moreover, it is a great resource for health professionals dealing with HIV and psychiatric patients in understanding, approaching and management of a care plan approach.

Gamal El-Gurashi
Department of Psychiatry
Armed Forces Hospital
PO Box 7897
Riyadh 11159
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia