



Book review

BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS
Medicine- Public Health – Policy

Nancy Khardori, (Editor),
Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH& Co. KGaA, Weinheim, Germany,
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The range of diseases caused by biological agents and/or their toxins with the potential to be used intentionally against civilian populations is extensive and diverse. The advances in technology that have made diagnosis and treatment of many infectious diseases possible have also made it simpler to obtain, cultivate and use them for bioterrorism. The threat of biological agents being used for terrorism activity has given an impetus to research that will enhance humans' capability to detect, trace, and manage bioterrorism events.

The book *Bioterrorism Preparedness. Medicine – Public Health – Policy* has been prepared and edited in 11 chapters for being useful to medical students, healthcare providers, infection control practitioners, public health professionals and legal professionals involved in health policy issues.

Chapter 1 – *Potential Agents of Bioterrorism* (by Nancy Khardori) presents an historical perspective on the development of biological weapons and an overview on the bacterial and viral agents of bioterrorism and biological and other toxins with potential for bioterrorism. The next chapter *Bioterrorism preparedness* (by Nancy Khardori) is also an overview, but it presents some issues on civilian biodefense, public health laws, political and bioterrorism preparedness. These two chapters provide a quick reference to a variety of issues related to bioterrorism.

The third chapter *Care of Children in the Event of Bioterrorism* (by Subhash Chaudhary) emphasizes differences between the approach to bioterrorism - related diseases in adult and children - where they exist and are important. The chapter presents important aspects on anatomic and physiological features placing children at increased risk of vulnerability and developmental factors involved in increased vulnerability of children.

The next six chapters (4 to 9) are dedicated to the agents of Category A. Each chapter stands on its own and provides appropriate detail on biological aspects, clinical presentation and management of *Smallpox* (by James M. Goodrich), *Anthrax* (by Nancy Khardori), *Plague, Botulism and Tularemia* (by Janak Koirala), and *Viral hemorrhagic fevers* (by James M. Goodrich) diseases.

The last two chapters *Policy Priorities* and *Legal preparedness* (by Ross D. Silvermann) focus the discussion on public-health authority, isolation and quarantine and international health regulations. International health regulations must serve as a mechanism to compel member states to improve their core capacity to address issues pertaining to public-health surveillance, reporting, notification, verification, response and collaboration internally, and improve upon their ability to manage air, sea and ground travel crossings.

Also, the book gives interesting information about the lessons from nature and presents excellent and suggestive illustrations.

Overall, the book represents an introduction to a possible study of a large and difficult subject - bioterrorism and also an attempt to discuss the complex legal preparedness.

The book encourages a better understanding of the bioterrorism phenomena and also of the key elements of protection against biological agents with potential for mass destruction.

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