

Assessment of Fever

Review of the book "Assessment of Fever. Physiology, Immunology, Measurement in Clinical Practice" by Ewa Gordzinsky and Martha Sund-Levander (Gleerups, Malmo 2015). ISBN 978-91-40-68696-1"

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Humans are homeothermic creatures whose thermoregulatory mechanisms allow them to have a determined body temperature that is independent of the environment. Scientists, researchers, and medical physicians have long recognized the association and importance of body temperature and health. The appearance of fever was likewise observed, but remained more of a mystery until the advent of our understanding of the roles, functions, and thermal consequences of the inflammatory, immunological system activation to pathogenic attack. This book and our path to understanding human thermal responses evolve through the development of thermometry, basics of thermo-regulation as influenced by heat transfers and thermal gradients,

and the relevance and implications of thermal measures as a diagnostic tool in clinical practice. The authors clarify and bridge the information gap between thermal physiology, the biological immune responses, and clinical care.

Throughout the text, they have provided "thought clouds", reflections, and clinical scenarios that provoke the readers to further think about pertinent issues. For the clinical practitioner, this provides the etiology behind the observation of a fever. The reader will appreciate the author's development of the thermal literature evolving from basic temperature information through the complex interactions of the immunological responses.