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Sommario/riassunto

This book provides up-to-date information on the characteristics of each species of intestinal fluke found in humans and on the management of infections caused by these trematodes. Biology, epidemiology, host-parasite relationships, pathogenicity, clinical aspects, diagnosis, and treatment are all reviewed in detail. The zoonotic intestinal flukes comprise 38 genera belonging to 16 families. They are morphologically diverse and each species has a characteristic life cycle and geographical distribution. Intestinal fluke infections are commonly considered as tropical endemic diseases in Asian countries, where 6 million people are infected, but the geographical limits and populations at risk are expanding and changing owing to a range of factors, including growing international markets, improved transportation systems, changes in eating habits, demographic trends, and climate change. While the pathogenicity of intestinal flukes is generally mild, the impact in immunocompromised individuals requires clarification and some diagnostic problems remain to be solved. In exploring all aspects of human intestinal fluke infections, this book will be invaluable for clinicians and researchers alike.
