



Book Reviews

Drug Induced Neurological Disorders

Edited by: KK Jain

Published by: Hogrefe & Huber, Seattle

1996 389pp.

ISBN: 0-88937-154-7 DM 118.00

This extremely useful book discusses drug-induced neurological disorders which, nowadays, must be considered in the differential diagnosis of a great number of neurological conditions. I do not think that there is any book of this kind in the literature although the adverse drug reactions (usually under reported) are available scattered in various journals.

The author has evaluated over 5000 publications and discusses each disorder with lists of the responsible drugs so that some drugs appear in more than one chapter. The chapters vary from the epidemiology and clinical significance to pathomechanism of drug induced neurological disorders to almost every known problem including diseases of the spine and spinal cord. In this section the topics dealt with include back ache, toxicity of intrathecal agents, drug induced myelopathies, anterior horn cell lesions, nerve root lesions and intra spinal haemorrhage. This is a short but extremely useful section. The potential for drug interaction has increased enormously as drugs become more potent. Such interactions may be the result of an excessive therapeutic action or the blocking (or abnormal increase) of normal neurological function, or neurotoxicity.

In these days of polypharmacy a patient presenting with an unusual neurological syndrome should raise the suspicion as to whether or not an adverse drug reaction may be responsible. And here, this book would be of great value. It is reasonably priced and it is well produced.

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New therapeutic agents in thrombosis and thrombolysis

Edited by: AA Sasahara and J Loscalzo

Published by: Marcel Dekker Inc, New York: 681pp.

ISBN: 0 8247 9866 X £120.05

Many advances have been made in the understanding of haemostasis, thrombosis and fibrinolysis. As a consequence there has been a continuing rapid expansion in the development of new therapeutic agents targeted at various

aspects, such as the thrombin inhibitors, Tissue factor pathway inhibitor, Factor Xa inhibitors, platelet glycoprotein receptor antagonists and numerous Low-Molecular-Weight heparins.

The authors intentions were to simplify this very complicated area by separating the various therapeutic agents into their respective classes and only discussing agents that have achieved Phase II or show significant promise.

The book starts with an excellent overview of the principle mechanisms involved in haemostasis. Since the new 2nd and 3rd generation anti-thrombotic drugs are devoid of *in vitro* anticoagulant effects, the book follows with an in-depth survey of animal models including pre-clinical testing in non-human primates. Design issues in clinical trials forms a very useful chapter.

Several anticoagulant drugs under development but yet to be studied in humans are mentioned: Activated Protein C, Tissue Factor Pathway Inhibitor, Direct Xa inhibitors, inhibitors to Factor VIIa and Ixa and recombinant truncated Thrombomodulin.

Clinical studies are described for venous and arterial (almost exclusively coronary) thromboembolism. However, the atherosclerotic process responsible for chronic and acute cerebral and peripheral vascular disease parallels that which occurs in the pathogenesis of acute coronary syndromes. This would suggest that many of the advances made in the treatment of the latter would, in the future, hold similar management strategies for acute therapy and secondary prevention in the latter.

This book is primarily designed as a reference book or for specialists in thrombosis or haemostasis (be they haematologists or vascular specialists). It is therefore written so that each chapter may be read on its own.

The earlier, more introductory chapters, are easier to read, but nearly all chapters have a number of figures and tables to ease assimilation.

This is an interesting book, containing an admirable review of current knowledge regarding therapeutic modulation of thrombosis and haemostasis by some of the world leaders in the field. It is probably of more interest to specialists in that specific field.

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