BOOK REVIEWS


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As stated by the authors in the preface, this text is directed towards clinicians, residents, interns, and students who require drug knowledge for the care of neonates, infants, children, and adolescents. The text includes the contributions of 20 authors and 26 pediatric advisory committee members.

The text consists of 14 chapters, 2 appendices, and an index. The chapters are sequenced as follows: Administering Drugs to Infants, Children, and Adolescents; Drugs as Human Teratogens and Feto-toxins; Drugs Excreted in Human Breast Milk; Pediatric Poisoning; Adverse Drug Reactions in Neonates, Infants, Children, and Adolescents; Pediatric Drug Interactions; Abusable Psychotropic Use Among Children and Adolescents; Intravenous Drugs for Neonates, Infants, Children, and Adolescents; Preparation, Storage, and Administration; Pediatric Immunizations; Pediatric Pharmacokinetics; Pediatric Pharmacogenetics; Pediatric Antineoplastic Drug Therapy; Drug Dosing for Neonates; and Drug Dosing for Infants, Children, and Adolescents. The chapters vary in length from 16 to 223 pages with the longest chapter being Chapter 14 (Drug Dosing for Infants, Children, and Adolescents) of which 199 pages are devoted to a table (Table 14-1) consisting of indications, dosages and dosage forms, contraindications, adverse drug reactions, and miscellaneous comments on more than 600 medications used in pediatric patients. Chapter 14 also includes 2 additional tables that include information on modified dosages for patients with renal dysfunction and therapeutic drug monitoring guidelines. Appendices A and B are abbreviations/symbols and normal pediatric laboratory values, respectively.

Overall, the text provides a concise review of significant pharmacological issues relating to pediatric patients. A major strength of this publication is the referencing that appears throughout the text with an alphabetical reference list appearing at the end of each chapter. Many of the references reflect current literature.

As mentioned, the longest chapter in the text includes a table for dosing drugs in pediatric patients. Although the information in the table is concise and well organized, other sources, including *The Harriet Lane Handbook* and *Pediatric Dosage Handbook*, contain similar information and are more convenient “pocket guides” for clinicians and students/residents. The second longest chapter (114 pages) in the text is entitled “Drugs as Human Teratogens and Fetotoxins.” Although the information is well presented, it offers no great advantage over the well-known published text, *Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation*.

In summary, this text is well written and provides the reader with a compilation of pediatric pharmacological information in a single source. I feel the title of the text may be somewhat misleading as the text provides the reader with an abundance of information well beyond the scope of problems encountered in providing drug therapy to children. Although it won’t replace other more convenient pediatric dosage handbooks which is not its intent, I feel it would make a nice addition to the reference library of those involved in the pharmacological care of pediatric patients.

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