

### Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Laboratory Medicine

Mike Hallworth, Ian Watson  
ACB Venture Publications 2008  
Price £30.00. Pp 218  
ISBN 978 0 902429 42 0

This book follows the now oldish, but certainly not outdated 1993 *Therapeutic Drug Monitoring*, authors Hallworth and Capps and also from Venture Publications, and has been updated to cover the many new drugs which have arrived since then which can be measured with varying degrees of clinical utility. It is interesting but perhaps medically reassuring that much of the didactic guidance available at the time of the 1993 edition has in fact changed little in the intervening 15 years.

The book introduces new sections on the more recent antiepileptics, notably lamotrigine, vigabatrin and gabapentin,

but also on a range of recent drugs introduced used in adjuvant therapy. The antibiotics section is expanded to give more details on non-gentamicin aminoglycosides, the antidepressant, cardiac and immunosuppression chapters are broadened to take account of evolving prescription practices and new drugs, and there are new chapters on drugs of abuse, antipsychotics and pharmacogenomics, the latter giving examples through cytochrome P450 isoenzymes and thiopurine methyltransferase status.

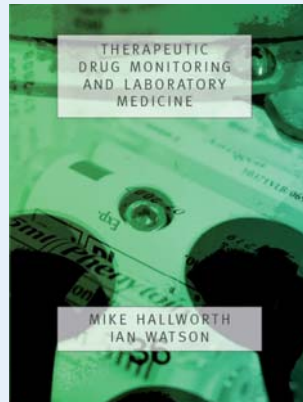
The book provides a wealth of specific information alongside the more generic chapters on pharmacokinetics, analysis and dosage prediction and will

be of use both to practicing laboratory specialists, physicians and pharmacists and doctors preparing for exams. Although there is a clear table listing drugs for which therapeutic drug monitoring is either clearly established or has possible uses, a few of the drugs described in the book are missing from this, and in a few cases I was

left not entirely certain of their utility in routine use. However, perhaps no-one is yet, as these are new drugs.

That said, however, this is an excellent guide and a highly recommended short reference source for hospital doctors.

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### Self-assessment Colour Review of Neuroimaging

Kirsten Forbes, Sanjay Shetty, Michael H Lev, Joseph Heiserman  
Manson Publishing 2008  
Price £21.95. Pp 224  
ISBN 978 1 84076 078 1

The book is a pocket-sized (albeit large pocket) problem-based text on imaging of the nervous system. It uses real-life case scenarios to highlight 100 common and rare neurological conditions.

Each case starts with a short clinical presentation and provides the associated neuro-imaging. The images are of good quality but are a little small. This does not adversely affect their interpretation, however. The reader is encouraged to form his/her own diagnosis before a formal account is given which often includes associated imaging of the differential diagnosis. This is complemented with clinicopathological correlation. A few relevant references are included for further reading and a good index makes searching for pertinent cases quick and easy.

The case-based approach makes the book easy to dip in and out of and it would be an ideal learning or revision tool, especially for those coming up to post-graduate exams.

This is an informative book for those interested or involved in neuro-imaging. The cases use good quality images with up-to-date imaging techniques such as diffu-

sion weighted computed tomography perfusion and diffusion tensor imaging where appropriate, and cover a wide spectrum of pathology. While this is clearly not meant to be a definitive text on neuro-imaging, anyone allied with neurosciences will find it interesting and good value for money.

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### Parkinson's Disease in the Older Patient (2nd edn)

Edited by Jeremy Playfer, John Hindle  
Radcliffe 2008  
Price £65.00. Pp 410  
ISBN 9781846191145

Parkinson's disease is often referred to as a 'disease of the elderly'. The title of the second edition of this work might therefore be considered to represent something of a tautology. Certainly, the risk of Parkinson's disease increases with advancing years, and two thirds of Parkinson's disease patients are over the age of 70 years. However, the peak absolute incidence is in the seventh decade.

It is appropriate that most patients with Parkinson's disease in the UK are managed by geriatricians, many of whom have a special interest in Parkinson's disease. A distinction between 'biological' and 'chronological' age (a distinction of which at least one of the editors of this book disapproves) is sometimes invoked to emphasize the variability in the 'ageing process' and the

fact that elderly people of a given age will often have a widely varying number and nature of pathologies or co-morbidities. Such an argument may encourage a therapeutic approach that is individualized to the patient, rather than based on age alone, certainly an admirable principle.

Nevertheless, *Parkinson's Disease in the Older Patient* is relevant not just to the older patient, but to younger patients with few if any co-morbidities and different needs, of which I as a neurologist have many.

There are five sections: background, diagnosis and assessment, non-motor dysfunction, motor dysfunction, and therapy and management. The book emphasizes Parkinson's disease as a 'multi-system' disorder and the importance of interdisciplinary working, with updated and expanded sections on non-motor symptoms particular the neuropsychiatry of Parkinson's disease. Each of the 20 chapters is contributed by an expert in the respective area of interest. The chapter on diagnosis and differential diagnosis was particularly thorough and helpful.

*Parkinson's Disease in the Older Patient* contains a wealth of useful information written and presented in an accessible way. I can heartily recommend it not only to the Parkinson's disease specialist, but also to the general physician, trainee and GP.  
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