Adverse Drug Interactions: A Handbook for Prescribers (2nd edn)

Edited by Lakshman Delgoda Karalliedde, Simon FJ Clarke, Ursula Gotel, Janaka Karalliedde
CRC Press 2016
Price £44.99. Pp 1089
ISBN 9781482236217

Rather than a 'handbook', this book is probably better classed as a desk reference, since it is not terribly portable.

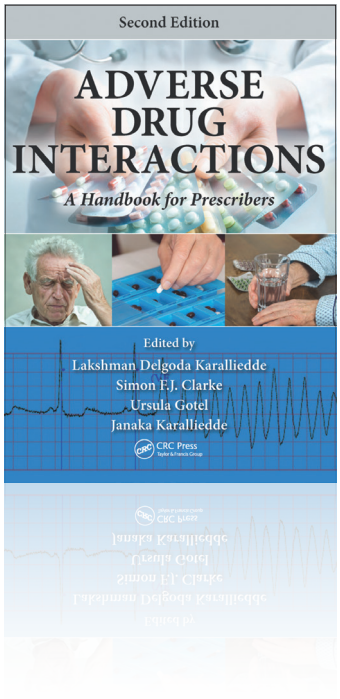
There is much to commend. There are useful preliminary sections on the complexity of drug–drug interactions and the emerging role of electronic decision support systems. Reviews of the mechanisms of drug metabolism and elimination, and the impacts of genetic variations, pathological states and high-risk populations, are up-to-date and pertinent.

The bulk of the remainder of the book comprises tables detailing each drug, the secondary drugs with which it interacts, the underlying mechanisms (necessarily concise), and practical precautions for prescribers. The range of pharmaceuticals covered is extensive. Interactions are considered in a binary fashion, although the real world can be much more complex.

I was particularly pleased to see the inclusion of interactions with herbal and common over-the-counter medications, alcohol, 'classic' recreational drugs, vitamins and minerals, and key food groups.

This is not a book for students, more a reference guide to support clinical practice. I can immediately appreciate its value as source material in pharmacies and in clinics where patients are prescribed specialist drugs with narrow therapeutic indices. It would be useful in emergency and acute medicine departments, when patients present out-of-hours without pharmacist scrutiny immediately available.

Daniel Marks, University College London Hospital, London



Orthogeriatrics

Edited by Paolo Falaschi, David R Marsh
Springer 2017
Price £66.99. Pp 211
ISBN 978 3 319 43248 9
ebook £52.99. ISBN 978 3 319 43249 6

As the population ages, the socioeconomic burden of fragility fractures is having an increasingly large impact on health-care systems across the world. Hip fractures in particular are a cause for concern as, despite medical advancements, these injuries have been associated with worryingly high morbidity and mortality. Although efforts have been made to standardize care, information has been somewhat scattered.

For the first time, this book brings together the collective experience of several international authors, each of whom has a plethora of experience in the management of hip fractures. This book packages their expertise and delivers it to the reader in a palatable form, relevant to health-care professionals of all levels of experience. The detailed chapters lay out evidence-based standards relating to every aspect of the patient journey, from emergency management, to perioperative optimization, to surgery and the aftercare.

The text is not littered with excessive references, classifications and lists. The writing flows well, with a seamless transition from one chapter to the next. Furthermore standards are contemporary and pertinent, making the information within each chapter relevant.

Thoroughly recommended.

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Cardiology Science and Technology

Dhanjoo N Ghista
CRC Press 2016
Price £114.00. Pp 531
ISBN 978 1 42008 806 9

This is neither a textbook nor is it particularly useful for cardiologists. It consists primarily of a collection of largely outdated and previously published thesis chapters, papers and book chapters by the main author, along with a variety of co-authors.

While this book might be useful if one were studying for an MSc or PhD in biomedical engineering, I think the maths is too detailed for physicians, certainly for clinical use. Furthermore, many of the experiments are based on clinical techniques which are over 10 years old, e.g. cineangiography, and so I fail to see the real world validity.

There is no consistency among the chapters in terms of reporting style, detail or length – these are essentially a series of experiments. While I do not doubt the veracity of the science, or its impact at the time, I am at a loss to explain the point in compiling such dated work as a 'new' textbook, when most of this work is already published and available online, and presumably at a significantly lower cost than £114.

If the book is designed for a budding student of science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM), then there is a lot of assumed knowledge that only a cardiologist would know, e.g. steady state free precession imaging, and which is not explained. Unfortunately there are also many inaccuracies, such as the limited usefulness of stem cell treatment for heart failure. I struggle to see any market for this book.

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