

## Book review

### **A Manual of Adverse Drug Interactions Fifth Edition**

This is a wholly pragmatic reference text. In this 5th Edition, the authors have deliberately produced a book which concentrates on the fifty drugs which have a major clinical use (as classified by number of prescriptions and number of patients exposed in 1994) in the UK. The resulting review is presented in a format which continues to appeal to the scientist and practitioner.

The first part of the text provides a commentary on the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms of drug interactions, including interactions at receptor site, in vitro interactions, the influence of age, genetic factors and herbal remedies and interference with laboratory tests.

The second part employs tables with the format of itemised drug combinations with descriptions of the interactions. The individual chapters are

organised around the various physiological systems of the body, each with sensible subsections which are either drug or condition specific. Where possible, the descriptions of the interactions are quantitative and, pleasingly for practitioners, often provide advice for the avoidance or management of the interaction in the clinical setting.

The remaining chapters discuss drug interactions with herbal remedies, medicinal plastics, alcohol and foods and the last chapter captures recent and unconfirmed drug interactions.

This expert text is comprehensively referenced and should prove popular with its fine layout and prudent content.

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