

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, Volume 1

REFERENCE: Baselt, R. C., *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, Volume 1*, Biomedical Publications, Canton, Conn., 1977, 304 pages, no price listed.

This first volume of a two-volume series presents pertinent toxicological information on more than 100 drugs ranging from ethanol to nitrous oxide. The drugs are presented alphabetically within general sections. A brief review format with citations current through 1977 includes pertinent data on drug history, metabolic parameters, structure, tissue distribution, and analytical methods. In particular, plasma concentrations, drug half-life, and urinary excretion rate following low or therapeutic doses are well delineated for most drugs. This type of reference information will be especially useful for clinical toxicologists who provide interpretive assistance to clinicians. In addition, each review includes current information on postmortem blood and tissue concentrations following overdose that will assist forensic toxicologists in their evaluations of antemortem drug abuse. Although details of methods are not included in the review, the author does provide a variety of current references to published methods for each drug.

This volume undoubtedly will become a major addition to the reference library of toxicologists as well as clinical chemists and pharmacologists. Its concise and efficient format permits a rapid and well-documented review of the drugs that these professionals most often encounter. This kind of presentation has long been needed and I welcome the second volume of this series.

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