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BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, Volume II*

REFERENCE: Baselt, R. C., *Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, Volume II,* Biomedical Publications, Canton, Conn., 1978, $22.50.

The objective of the two-volume series *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* is to provide reference information on the pharmacokinetics and metabolism of drugs commonly encountered in forensic and clinical practice as well as to provide useful interpretative and diagnostic information for the toxicologist. Volume I provides this information on commonly encountered centrally acting drugs while Volume II provides information on peripherally acting drugs and toxins not commonly requested in toxicology laboratories. Because these drugs are not frequently encountered, Volume II is a valuable reference source. For example, the pharmacokinetics, toxicity, and analysis of pancuronium is well described and in a brief study one can adequately review its pharmacology. Other peripheral toxins that are well referenced include anions (such as cyanide and nitrate), metals (such as arsenic and thallium), pesticides (such as aldrin, lindane, and paraquat), and volatiles (such as ethylene glycol and fluorocarbons). The data for each toxin include pharmacokinetics, metabolism, postmortem concentrations, and analytical approaches. While this information is provided in a brief format, adequate references are included. A very useful addition to Volume II is an appendix that contains a list of the therapeutic and toxic concentrations of common drugs in a format similar to that published by Baselt et al in *Clinical Chemistry,* Vol. 21, 1975, pp. 44-62. This list relates drug dose to blood and tissue concentrations and provides the clinical conditions associated with blood concentrations.

In summary, this volume contains easily accessible, concise, and generally complete information on a variety of peripheral toxins that together with Volume I is a useful reference source on most drugs and toxins with which both clinical and forensic toxicology laboratories are concerned.

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