

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man

REFERENCE: Baselt, R. C., *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man*, second edition, Biomedical Publications, Davis, CA, 1982, 800 pp., \$49.50.

This second edition of *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* will be a welcome addition to the reference library of those involved in the analytical and interpretative aspects of forensic toxicology. It has been four years since the first edition and during that time an overwhelming number of studies have appeared in the literature on the fate of drugs and other toxic chemicals in man as well as on new methods for the analysis of these substances and their metabolites from biofluids. Dr. Baselt has thoroughly reviewed the literature and critically selected the essential information to include in each monograph.

This new, completely revised, and greatly expanded edition of the 1978 text presents in a single convenient source the essential information on the drugs and chemicals most frequently encountered in human poisoning. Data on more than 300 substances relate to the body fluid concentrations in normal and therapeutic situations, concentrations in fluids and tissues in toxic situations, and the known metabolic fate in man. Specific analytical procedures, applicable to the determination of each substance and its metabolites in biological specimens, are briefly reviewed.

In this second edition, I was pleased to find that volume of distribution, fraction bound to plasma protein, plasma half-life, and pKa value had been included wherever possible to aid in the evaluation of substance concentrations in biological specimens.

This book will be of particular interest to toxicologists, pathologists, criminalists, medical examiners, and others who have need to conduct assays for drugs and other toxic materials in specimens of human origin and to interpret analytical data resulting from such tests. I find this book essential in my daily activities and keep a copy on my desk for immediate reference.

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