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A Review of: “Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Toxicology by HPCL, (Chromatographic Science Series Vol 32), Steven H. Y. Wong, ed., Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1985, 500pp”

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BOOK REVIEW

"Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Toxicology by HPLC,"
(Chromatographic Science Series Vol 32), Steven H. Y. Wong, ed.,
Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1985, 500pp.

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) is firmly established as a subspecialty of clinical medicine. Recently, major advances in clinical laboratory instrumentation have greatly enhanced and simplified measurements in TDM. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) has played a major role in the development of TDM techniques. Today, due to major technological advances, most drug analyses by HPLC can be readily performed by the same laboratory personnel who previously conducted therapeutic drug monitoring by radioimmunoassay and enzyme microassay.

This book is the first comprehensive and dedicated work on TDM and toxicology by HPLC. The book is divided into three sections. The first section covers the fundamentals of liquid chromatography as applied to TDM. There is an introduction to the general principles of therapeutic drug monitoring, including chapters on pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics. There is also a chapter, written by the editor, which describes not only HPLC, but also several other techniques currently being used for drug analysis. Finishing off this section are chapters covering sample preparation and blood collection, computer control of HPLC analyses, LC-mass spectrometry of drugs, fluorescence detection and LCEC. These chapters are all well written; they offer thorough descriptions of these important techniques.

The second section is dedicated to the major classes of drugs currently being analyzed by LC. Particularly well written and useful are the chapters on antidepressants and antihypertensives, two widely used classes of drugs. The chapters do a fine job of introducing the reader to the techniques for efficiently monitoring them.

The final section of this volume deals with medicolegal guidelines and laboratory management. Helpful hints on quality control and personnel management are given for those who are setting up new laboratories for drug analysis. Finally, the editor comments on some new non-LC instrumentation for TDM and offers future prospects for TDM by liquid chromatography.

Overall, the book is well organized. There is comprehensive coverage of the principles and methodologies of HPLC, as well as applications to TDM and toxicology. All of the material is presented in a manner that can be readily understood by a novice to the field. Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Toxicology by HPLC is an indispensable reference guide for anyone involved in or who intends to become involved in this rapidly expanding area of clinical medicine.

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