

Book Review

Bedside Clinical Pharmacokinetics: Simple Techniques for Individualizing Drug Therapy (Revised Edition). By Carl C. Peck, Dale P. Conner, and M. Gail Murphy. Applied Therapeutics, Inc., Vancouver, WA, 1989, viii + 95 pp., \$13.00 (paper).

Bedside Clinical Pharmacokinetics is a teaching aid and clinical reference for physicians and clinical pharmacists. In keeping with its title, this book truly is a bedside guide, from its small size, which enables it to fit nicely into a clinician's hospital coat, to its appendices, which contain the most commonly used equations for bedside calculations. Comprehensive coverage is neither provided nor intended by the authors. The authors' only intent is to provide "a handy, brief summary of essential concepts and practical techniques for applying simple pharmacokinetic principles to dosage regimen management at the bedside." This book is expected to reinforce and enhance information presented in formal clinical pharmacokinetic courses, and the reader is referred elsewhere for further explanations and examples of the techniques that are presented.

The book is divided into four well-written parts. Important phrases and sentences are italicized. Key points in the text are reinforced with graphics. Part One covers basic con-

cepts of clinical pharmacokinetics (definitions, an overview of drug disposition, factors which influence drug effects, and pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic relationships). Part Two covers basic techniques that are essential for therapeutic drug monitoring (iv and oral pharmacokinetic profiles and equations for single and multiple-dose situations). Part Three covers simple techniques for individualizing drug therapy (analyzing, designing, and modifying a dosing regimen and pharmacokinetic sample collection). Part Four covers two special topics (active metabolites and special considerations in newborns). The book concludes with five appendices: blood sampling times for monitoring drug concentrations, estimation of ideal body weight, estimation of creatinine clearance, pharmacokinetic characteristics of commonly monitored drugs (amikacin, cimetidine, digoxin, gentamicin, procainamide, theophylline, and tobramycin), and pharmacokinetic equations.

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