

Introduction

Research on the alkali metals in general, and on lithium salts in particular, continues to yield findings of potential relevance for management of certain medical conditions other than affective disorders. This proceedings has been structured to facilitate integration of experimental findings into clinical concepts. The general perspective on the subject is provided through a combination of literature reviews with reports of original unpublished data. Individual contributions came from participants of the 2nd Annual Toxicology Conference and from a few invited experts on cesium research. The findings on cesium presented are perhaps the most striking and challenging data reported so far. They provide both practical and theoretical aspects which contribute to relevant assessment of the subject. This is reflected by the first report on the effect of CsCl on a human volunteer and on cancer patients. The content of the present volume reflects the place intended for Li and Cs salts in the growing body of both therapeutic and toxicologic knowledge. The need for more information relevant to the safety and medicinal uses of cesium in this complex and rapidly changing field is indicated.

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