Effects of Drugs on Clinical Laboratory Tests


This text is a comprehensive and voluminous fifth edition of the reference textbook that compiles all significant information known and relevant on the matter of drugs affecting laboratory test results. This 2000 edition is also the most recent addition to the widely utilized “Effects of” series of reference texts in which the author, Donald Young, MD, PhD, has compiled and documented the effects of drugs, disease, or preanalytic variables on laboratory tests for interested readers.

This fifth edition comprises 2 volumes and, according to the author, contains more than 10000 additional entries in comparison to the fourth edition published in 1995. The first volume encompasses listings organized by the laboratory test under consideration, while the second volume encompasses listings organized by the drug under consideration. The overall format of this fifth edition is identical to that of previous editions. The directory is organized into 5 sections: an index of laboratory tests (including both common and uncommon names), an index of drug names (with nonsearchable, often proprietary drug names cross-referenced to the actual drug names), a sort by specific laboratory test, a sort by specific drug, and a listing of all the references for the documented information on the effects of specific drugs on selected laboratory tests.

As in previous editions, the sorted information by specific laboratory test is further broken down into separate categories, which are sorted by body fluid, whether the effect is thought to be analytical or physiological, and whether the effect results in an increase, decrease, or no effect on the concentration or activity of the analyte. This aspect is considered by this reviewer to be the most valuable contribution of the text. Although this edition is published as 2 volumes, the author has included the lists of references (nearing 6700 citations) in each volume for the convenience of readers.

This reference text is organized in a clear and logical manner. Regardless of where the reader may begin looking for information or an answer to a question (eg, regarding a particular analyte or a specific drug), the text is easy and straightforward to use. The quality of the printed material is excellent and is easily read, despite the necessity that some text must be of relatively small size due to the abundance of information contained in the more than 2100 pages of this 2-volume textbook.

Dr. Young must be commended for his tireless efforts in keeping this type of reference information current, particularly considering the scope of information embodied in the exhaustive listings of analytes, drugs, and pertinent references. This practical and useful information is compiled in a unique, but simple, manner. Like past editions, this detailed reference text should be a valuable addition to the book collections of most practicing laboratorians, particularly pathologists, clinical laboratory scientists, laboratory directors, managers, and supervisory personnel.

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Pathology and Pathogenesis of Human Viral Disease


A handful of virology textbooks currently serve as standard references for animal virus researchers, and some serve as course textbooks for students studying basic virology. Most emphasize basic and molecular aspects of viruses and offer synopses of the diseases these viruses cause. In general, these publications present only descriptive and general accounts of the lesions associated with specific viral diseases.

Pathology and Pathogenesis of Human Viral Disease fills a niche for biologists and physicians seeking a better medical understanding of viral diseases by providing what the aforementioned books lack, namely, photographs and illustrations of the structural alterations that occur in cells, tissues, or organs in response to specific viral infections.

This book is as much a pleasure to read as it is visually appealing. The writing style is both relaxed and technical. A sprinkling of anecdotes mingled with medical text makes it an interesting read and a very unique reference book.

The major strength of this book is in its clarity of presentation, pertaining to both text and illustrations. Clinical and medical passages are written in an instructive manner and are well researched and documented. Also, the breadth of topics is extensive, including some that are less familiar to many American physicians, such as hemorrhagic fever viruses and prion disease. The organization of subjects is different from that usually encountered in virology texts, which often separately group RNA and DNA viruses, then discuss the diseases they cause. Here, emphasis is on the diseases, followed by viral etiology.

It was not the author’s intention for this book to serve as a primary text for basic virology, and it should not be used for this purpose. Indeed, many molecular aspects of viral infections are described in layman’s terms. For example, in chapter 22, the complex T antigen of papovaviruses ‘‘quarterbacks events involved in production of the late proteins and RNA through the mechanism of a helicase and ATPase.’’ Such an explanation would not suffice for a beginning virology class, yet surprisingly, the gist of the message is understood.
By omitting certain details pertaining to known virus-induced molecular and biochemical changes that occur in cells during the progression of viral diseases, the author succeeds in keeping this work concise yet comprehensive. It is clinically relevant and represents the state of knowledge as of about 1997.

Few modern virologists, biological scientists, and physicians (who are not pathologists) have ample training in diagnostic morphology, and this book would appeal to them because the photographs and illustrations make the pathology of viral diseases more understandable. Nevertheless, a fundamental level of proficiency at evaluating stained tissue sections and other pathology specimens is required to fully appreciate this publication. With a little more work, this book would appeal to an even broader audience. This could be accomplished primarily by adding arrows to pinpoint the important elements of each photograph. Were this to be done, Pathology and Pathogenesis of Human Viral Disease could serve as a handy companion volume to many of the standard virology course textbooks. It is highly recommended.

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CAP members may order these and other books at a discount from the Stanford University Bookstore, 800-673-2348.