

Drug Interactions, 5th edition.

Stockley IH. Pharmaceutical Press, London, UK, 1999.

Hardcover, 948 pages.

The prevention and management of drug interactions should constitute an important part of the role of both pharmacists and physicians. It might be assumed that this area of practice has been made simple by electronic information systems, but much improvement is still possible in how practitioners use available data on interactions.

Stockley's fifth edition of *Drug Interactions* contains over 2500 monographs and a concise introductory chapter on mechanisms, which eliminates the need to repeat information about mechanisms with each

monograph. Each monograph starts with a summary statement, presented in bold type, and then concisely reviews the clinical evidence, mechanism, importance, and management of the interaction. The monographs include more references than sample monographs drawn from Hansten and Horn's *Drug Interactions: Analysis and Management*¹ and *Drug Interaction Facts*.² However, the font size used for the references is small and created a bit of strain on this reader's vision.

Management and prevention are important issues — in other words, What do you do with information



about drug interactions? Stockley appears to handle this question reasonably well. For example, the monograph on interactions between macrolides and lovastatin or pravastatin states that the statin could be temporarily discontinued while the antibiotic is given. This specific advice is not given in the aforementioned drug interaction texts.

The major limitation of this text is the frequency of publication, which is only every 3 to 4 years. For users that need to consult such a reference often, such as drug information centres, this is too infrequent. Hansten and Horn¹ and *Drug Interaction Facts*² both provide several updates annually. However, for libraries, academics, and practitioners who recognize this limitation and are willing to seek further up-to-date information for a particular clinical situation, it is a well-written and well-styled reference with a great deal of useful information.

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References

1. Hansten PD, Horn JR. *Drug interactions: analysis and management*. St Louis (MO): Facts & Comparisons; 2000.
2. Tatro DS, editor. *Drug interaction facts: 2001*. St. Louis (MO): Facts & Comparisons; 2001.

Books Received

Infectious Diseases Handbook, 3rd edition. Isada CM, Kasten BL Jr, Goldman MP, Gray LD, Aberg JA. Lexi-Comp and American Pharmaceutical Association, Hudson, Ohio. ISBN 0-916589-83-8. Softcover, US\$38.95.

Natural Therapeutics Pocket Guide. LaValle J, Krinsky DL, Hawkins E, Pelton R, Willis NA. Lexi-Comp and American Pharmaceutical Association, Hudson, Ohio. ISBN 0-916589-80-3. Softcover, US\$37.95.

Pediatric Dosage Handbook, 6th edition. Taketomo CK, Hodding JH, Kraus DM. Lexi-Comp and American Pharmaceutical Association, Hudson, Ohio. ISBN 0-916589-74-9. Softcover, US\$37.95.

Poisoning and Toxicology Compendium with Symptoms Index. Leikin JB, Paloucek FP. Lexi-Comp and American Pharmaceutical Association, Hudson, Ohio. ISBN 0-916589-61-7. Hardcover, US\$74.75.

Psychotropic Drug Information Handbook. Fuller MA, Sajatovic M. Lexi-Comp and American Pharmaceutical Association, Hudson, Ohio. ISBN 0916589-94-3. Softcover, US\$33.95.

