**Handbook of the Medical Consequences of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2nd edition**


What is the difference between Wernicke encephalopathy and Korsakoff amnesia? What is the mechanism of alcohol-induced liver disease? Are there any medical consequences of hallucinogen use? Does prenatal cocaine exposure have any developmental consequences?

You can find the answers to these and many other questions in the second edition of the *Handbook of the Medical Consequences of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*. This book is part of The Haworth Medical Press series in neuropharmacology and was written with the goal of bringing the most recent findings in this field to scientists, physicians, other clinicians, and advanced students. The chapters provide in-depth and well-referenced reviews of the medical consequences of substance abuse. The book covers the acute and chronic effects of alcohol, its effects on brain structure and function and on brain neurochemistry, and the effects of prenatal exposure. Other substances covered include cannabis, opioids, hallucinogens, nicotine, and a variety of nonprescription drugs such as antihistamines, caffeine, dextromethorphan, and ephedrine. One chapter focuses on the interactions between alcohol and medications, and another on the special issues that arise for people who have both substance-use disorders and other mental health disorders. The contributors have taken a scholarly approach, providing evidence to support associations between health problems and substance use, explaining the pathophysiology, and supplying prevalence estimates. Each chapter concludes with a summary section that provides a concise overview.

Most textbooks on substances of abuse focus on the problems of abuse and dependence, including aspects of loss of control over the substance, harms to the individual’s ability to function, harms to family and society, and treatment approaches for these problems. This book is unique in its orientation toward the health effects of substance abuse. Although this book is not a treatment guide, the extensive information compiled in this work will be valuable to both researchers and medical clinicians working with people with substance use problems in any setting.

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**Pediatric Epilepsy: Diagnosis and Therapy, 3rd edition**


Epilepsy is a complex and common disorder that often begins in infancy and childhood. The third edition of *Pediatric Epilepsy: Diagnosis and Therapy* is a comprehensive reference text about epilepsy in the pediatric population. In the preface, the editors, all eminent child neurologists, state that the goal of this book continues to be assisting all professionals involved in the care of pediatric patients with seizures and epilepsy. I believe that the editors and authors have accomplished this goal. The book is an excellent resource for developing a strong understanding of current practice in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric epilepsy.

This book differs from other child neurology texts because of its focus on pediatric epilepsy. The book is well organized into 7 main sections. The first 3 sections create the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of the diagnosis of epilepsy in infancy and childhood. The section on basic mechanisms explains the pathophysiology of seizures and epilepsy in the immature brain. This section covers topics that pediatric practitioners will find particularly useful, such as channel mutations in epilepsy. This is a rapidly evolving field, and the book helped me to understand several hereditary forms of epilepsy. Section II comprehensively reviews the classification, epidemiology, etiology, and diagnosis of epilepsies in childhood. The chapter on the first of these topics offers an interesting discussion about the history of epilepsy classification and sets out the current accepted classification of epileptic seizures and the various forms of epilepsy. This is important because the selection of drug therapies is based on their efficacy for particular seizure types and/or syndromes. The 14 chapters in Section III are dedicated to the presentation of age-related syndromes, from the newborn period to adolescence. The chapter authors are international authorities in caring for patients with these epilepsy syndromes. This section will be useful to pharmacists because it discusses specific syndrome-related treatments. Knowledge about specific types of epilepsy will also enhance the pharmacist’s ability to communicate with the patient and family.

Sections IV to VI cover the general principles of therapy, specific anticonvulsant medications, ketogenic diet, and epilepsy surgery. Chapters such as “Treatment Decisions in Childhood Seizures” are key to helping the novice practitioner understand