

Book Review

Stockley's Drug Interactions

Ivan H Stockley, (Ed.) ISBN 0 85369 504 0. Binding Hardback Extent 960pp, October 2002, Price £95/US\$135, Pharmaceutical Press, London.

In this 6th edition of *Stockley's Drug Interactions*, the standard text relating to the importance of drug interactions, Dr Ivan Stockley has continued to build on the success achieved with previous releases of the book. Although, Dr Stockley is no longer the sole author of the book, being joined by a team of experienced reviewers responsible for the production of *Martindale*, the structure and format of the book remains largely unchanged. This movement in authorship has enabled a substantial increase in new drug monographs to be included (approximately 10%), with most of the previously included material being updated and re-validated. There also exists in tandem the electronic version (*e-Stockley*) which receives regular updates when new evidence becomes available.

The book is organised into 23 chapters, the first of which explains the basic concepts of the more common mechanisms of interaction. There follows subsequent chapters dealing with drug-drug, drug-drink, drug-herb, and drug-food interactions. One of the most useful facets of the text is the provision of the clinical importance of the interaction in question. Linked with this, the authors

also provide practical alternative solutions to circumvent potential problems.

The approach adopted follows a familiar evidence based pattern with anecdotal reports given less importance than larger clinical trials. Each monograph is clearly and concisely constructed, with a summary paragraph at the start to provide practitioners with a quick guide to the significance of the interaction in question. Clinical evidence, where available is then presented, with an easy to understand explanation of the mechanism of action. The monograph ends with the importance and management of the interaction and a list of references for further reading.

In summary, this text still remains the standard work when searching for explanation and evidence for a wide range of interactions. It is invaluable to pharmacists, doctors and students alike, and the new editorial board has made a successful transition from single writer to expert group collaboration.

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