
The *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* is among the most utilized reference books for forensic toxicologists and pathologists. For those unfamiliar with the text, it includes one to three page monographs of potential drugs and toxins presented in alphabetic order. Each description follows a common format, making it easy to locate critical information. The segment begins by listing the half-life, volume of distribution, bioavailability, pKa, blood to plasma ratio and a chemical structure. The narrative portion of the description is organized into Occurrence and Usage, Blood Concentration, Metabolism and Excretion, Toxicity, Analysis and References. It is one of few texts that presents expected postmortem blood and tissue concentrations when these have been published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

The ninth edition continues Dr. Baselt’s tradition of excellence, adding 280 more drugs or chemicals. The additional substances have emerged as important potential entities from new therapies, dietary supplements and environmental contaminants. A new nine-page segment entitled Guidelines for Interpretation of Analytical Toxicology Results was written by Robert J. Flanagan, himself the author of a toxicology textbook. This is an important addition that Dr. Baselt states was requested by many readers. It also debuts a necessary response to a warning given to many of us over the past years that our analytical accomplishments were far out-pacing our ability to interpret the results. The Guidelines address both clinical and postmortem toxicological interpretation.

The publisher states that the purpose of the book is to present, in a single convenient source, essential information on the most common drugs and toxins. The book accomplishes this purpose. The quality of the descriptions is excellent. Although necessarily brief, the descriptions are sufficiently comprehensive. A lone criticism is that the text is so encompassing that it would be helpful to have an electronic version available. The text is a constant companion to those who testify as experts in courts of law and an increasing cadre of scientists. This is the ninth edition of an iconic, quintessential text, possibly the most enduring work of its kind.

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