

Clinical Management of POISONING and DRUG OVERDOSE

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To our patient wives,

Marilyn Haddad and Patricia Winchester

and to our lively and hopeful children,

Craig and Jane Winchester and
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PREFACE

Perhaps the most rapidly developing area in medicine today is the burgeoning field of clinical toxicology. With an annual 5 million accidental ingestions in children alone, poisoning constitutes the most common pediatric emergency. The advent of the "drug culture" in the 1960s was primarily confined to the "young and disenchanted;" however, "social" drug abuse has now permeated the very fabric of our society, as typified by the widespread usage of alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and prescription tranquilizers.

The prevalence of mental illness and depression in our fast-paced world has made drug overdose an event that has become commonplace. Moreover, workers have become concerned about the long-range toxic effects of chemicals to which they are exposed in the workplace, and not without good reason. The specter of nuclear radiation at Three Mile Island, the environmental disaster of Love Canal, and the use of chemical warfare in Afghanistan have raised the consciousness, fears, and interest of not only the American public but also the world at large.

The need to address the explosive growth in knowledge and interest in this subject has led us to develop this textbook. Moreover, we felt that it was relevant to bring toxicology out of the forensic and chemistry laboratories into the clinical arena. This was motivated by the fact that patients present only with symptoms, and, as is too often the case, the particular intoxicating agent is unknown. Even when the intoxicant is known, the need to balance "the latest" with traditional views and clinical experience has made itself apparent.

Although we have strived to maintain a uniformity of opinion in patient management, this has not always been possible; however, the controversial viewpoints within this textbook do highlight the ever-changing and exciting nature of clinical toxicology.

For these reasons, this textbook is orga-

nized into two parts. The first part gives a general approach to the toxicologic patient. Chapter One presents a summary approach of the basic emergency management of poisoning and also serves as an outline to the material that will be presented in detail throughout the succeeding 15 chapters of this first part.

The second part addresses the management of specific agents. Each chapter has been cross-referenced to other chapters and sections throughout the book, and this is followed by a comprehensive index. Should the index (which includes the commercial names of common household products) or the Physicians' Desk Reference not identify the chemical basis of a poison, readers can call the poison information center in their area.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge those who played a supportive role in the development of the textbook. In particular, we wish to express our thanks to all contributors, and to our colleagues for their many helpful suggestions and overall support for our efforts.

We are especially grateful to Lester M. Haddad, Sr., for his research efforts at the National Library of Medicine. We wish to thank our dedicated secretaries for their help. This text would not have been brought to fruition without the unstinting efforts of Carroll Cann, Medical Editor, Wynette Kommer, Carolyn Naylor, Bill Preston, and the entire Saunders staff, who extended themselves beyond the call of duty in the preparation of this book.

Finally, we extend to our readers the simple hope that this text will benefit them in their pursuit of knowledge and in their clinical practice of medicine.

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