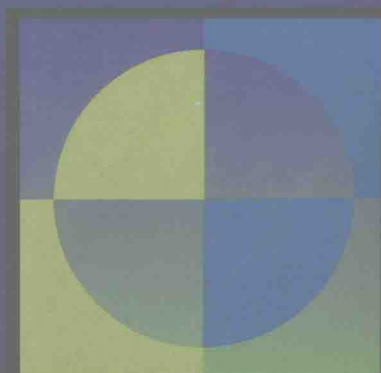


FIFTH EDITION

CLINICAL & NURSING IMPLICATIONS OF LABORATORY TESTS



TILKIAN
CONOVER
TILKIAN

CLINICAL & NURSING IMPLICATIONS OF LABORATORY TESTS

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Preface

The objective of this book is to help nurses and other health professionals meet the new challenges of managed and efficient care. Throughout this edition we have emphasized the practical and most used tests and deleted those tests that are rarely or no longer used.

In the practice of nursing and medicine, the patient is evaluated first with a history and physical examination, then with laboratory screening tests. When necessary, specialized laboratory tests are ordered to evaluate the particular organ system that is suspect. In this book we approach laboratory tests in the same way; first, with a general screening panel (Unit I), and then with a more in-depth evaluation of each organ system (Unit II). Each test is explained; its value and limitations are defined; clinical implications, nursing actions, and patient preparation are discussed. Throughout the book there are special highlighted sections that alert nurses to situations requiring immediate attention. Concluding most chapters of Unit II are brief descriptions of common diseases and a summary of the special diagnostic laboratory tests that the physician might order, along with the results expected in that particular clinical setting. An alphabetical list of all the tests in the book with their page numbers for rapid access appears in the front pages. To help the reader locate information, we have identified tests and disorders with the following logos:



Test



Disorder

Since the last edition, there have been many advances and changes in the way we evaluate patients and interpret the results of laboratory tests. Consequently, some chapters have been completely rewritten, new tests added, and obsolete ones deleted. Some tests have a new name or no longer serve the same purpose; this is pointed out and the test redefined. The result is a book that meets our objectives—practical and useful tests for managed and efficient care.

The value of this book for nurses and other health professionals in clinical practice lies in its logical clinical diagnostic approach and its practical sections on nursing actions and nursing alerts. Students will also find this approach valuable as they link the system they are studying with the appropriate chapter in this book. Everyone who uses the book has the reassurance that each chapter was written by a specialist in that particular discipline, and benefits from their expert guidance.

There are four chapters for diagnostic cardiology (general, noninvasive specialized, and invasive nuclear tests) and one chapter each for vascular diseases, pulmonary function, renal function, and gastroenterology. The multi-organ endocrine system is divided into four chapters for clarity and to enhance the reader-friendly goals of this book. Those chapters are thyroid and parathyroid, adrenal function, pituitary function, and pancreatic islet Beta cell function. Other chapters include the anemias, hemostasis and coagulation, gammopathies, oncology, neurology, rheumatology, infectious diseases, diagnostic immunology, nutrition, prenatal, and sleep disorders.

We believe that this book will be of continued value to all those who have the privilege and responsibility of caring for and making decisions regarding patient management and care.

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