

**JACQUES DESCOTES**

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**IMMUNO-  
TOXICOLOGY  
OF DRUGS  
AND  
CHEMICALS**

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# IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY OF DRUGS AND CHEMICALS

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IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY OF  
DRUGS AND CHEMICALS

This book is dedicated to Christiane,  
Jérôme and Aurélie

## Foreword

This book by Doctor J. Descotes represents an ambitious attempt to catalogue the published literature on the immunomodulatory action of xenobiotics (e.g. drugs, chemicals and biologicals). Dr. Descotes has attempted to catalogue the material in such a manner that the reader can quickly find pertinent information about the known immunological effects of almost any agent. A unique table format was selected which includes the species and strain of the test animal; route, dose and duration of exposure; endpoints measured and percent alteration of a particular function reported; and the statistical significance of the data. This type of format provides any scientist using this volume with sufficient information to quickly evaluate the validity of the data in the context of other studies using the same endpoint(s) and a reference to the original manuscript for a more detailed and critical evaluation of the data.

It should be cautioned that the information listed in this volume on immune alterations resulting from xenobiotics exposure has not been critically evaluated by a panel of experts, as is done during the preparation of the World Health Organization's IARC monographs. Thus the reader will have to make his/her own judgements regarding the appropriateness of doses selected; route and length of exposure; general or specific toxicities; morbidity or mortality encountered; reproducibility and sensitivity of immunological endpoints selected; and the statistical methods utilized for analysis.

This book should provide a valuable reference and laboratory aid for immunologists and toxicologists involved in both basic research on and safety evaluation of xenobiotics.

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## Preface

Over the last few years, Immunotoxicology has turned out to be an important and fully recognized subdiscipline of Toxicology. A steady flow of scientific papers have demonstrated that a wide array of pharmaceutical drugs and environmental chemicals are indeed likely to alter the immune responsiveness of exposed individuals, the potential health consequences of which are a matter of growing concern.

The aim of this book is to bring together published data regarding the possible or established immunotoxicity of these compounds. Basic mechanisms and methodological approaches are covered but briefly, since several recent reviews and symposia have dealt extensively with these aspects of Immunotoxicology. This is therefore an attempt to encompass those toxic effects on the immune system, the endpoint of which is either an increased, a decreased or a qualitatively abnormal immune response. Whenever possible, correlations between experimental data and human clinical findings are offered tentatively despite our poor knowledge of many fundamental aspects of the problem at the moment. Such an indication should therefore be considered as a mere attempt to delineate some of these issues likely to deserve further investigation. Drug allergy per se is beyond the scope of this book and will be covered only when clear correlates can be found between animal and human reports.

I hope that this volume will be of some help to those specialists who still lack an extensive coverage of published information in the field of Immunotoxicology, by providing quick and easy access to such data. Finally, I wish to thank Dr. J.H. Dean and Dr. J.G. Vos for having contributed the introductory chapter.

JACQUES DESCOTES  
Lyon, St. Jean d'Avelanne  
May 1, 1985

# Contents

Foreword	vii
Preface	ix

## PART I METHODS AND CONCEPTS IN IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY

### Chapter 1

#### **An introduction to immunotoxicology assessment**

*by J.H. Dean and J.G. Vos*

1. Introduction	3
1. The scope of immunotoxicology	3
2. Health significance of immunotoxicity	3
2. Approaches to immunotoxicity assessment	5
1. A place for immunotoxicity assessment in preclinical toxicology	5
2. Practical considerations in developing immunomodulation assessment protocols	6
1. Exposure protocol	6
2. Clinical observations	7
3. Organ weights, cellularity, histopathology and immunocytochemistry	7
4. A tiered approach to immunotoxicity assessment	8
5. Serum analysis and humoral immunity	10
6. Cell-mediated immunity (CMI)	11
7. Natural killer cells and mononuclear and polymorphonuclear phagocytes	12
8. Host resistance models	13
9. Hypersensitivity models	14
3. Practical considerations in assay design and data analysis	15
1. Selection of controls	15
2. Quality control procedures	16
3. Data analysis and reporting parameters	16
4. Experiences with immunotoxicity assessment in routine toxicology	17

### Chapter 2

#### **Health consequences of immunotoxicity**

1. Definition and historical backgrounds	19
2. Aims and scope	19
3. The immune system	20



## Contents

4. Health consequences of the immunotoxicity of chemicals	21
1. Decreased resistance to infection	21
2. Increased incidence of cancer	22
3. Other possible health consequences	23
1. Auto-immune disorders	23
2. Hypersensitivity reactions	24
3. Alteration of drug metabolism	24
<b>References</b>	26

## PART II IMMUNOTOXICITY OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS

### Chapter 1

#### Immunotoxicity of antimicrobial agents

1. Introduction	35
2. Antibiotics	35
1. Penicillins	36
2. Cephalosporins	43
3. Aminoglycosides	55
4. Tetracyclines	64
5. Polypeptides	73
6. Rifamycins	74
7. Sulphonamides	80
8. Chloramphenicol and its derivatives	86
9. Macrolides	89
10. Lincosamines	91
11. Antileprosy agents	93
12. Miscellaneous derivatives	94
3. Antifungal agents	98
4. Antiviral agents	104

### Chapter 2

#### Immunotoxicity of antiparasitic agents

1. Introduction	110
2. Imidazole derivatives	110
3. Antimalarials	119
4. Miscellaneous compounds	123

### Chapter 3

#### Immunotoxicity of drugs acting on the nervous system

1. Introduction	125
-----------------	-----

2. Psychotropic drugs	126
1. Major tranquilizers	126
2. Lithium	135
3. Tricyclic antidepressants	137
4. Monoamine oxidase inhibitors	140
5. Benzodiazepines	140
6. Miscellaneous derivatives	142
3. Drugs for Parkinson's disease	143
4. Antiepileptic drugs	144
1. Carbamazepine	144
2. Ethosuccinimide	145
3. Mesantoin	145
4. Pheneturide	145
5. Phenobarbital	146
6. Phenytoin	146
7. Primidone	149
8. Trimethadione	149
9. Valproate	149
5. Anesthetic drugs	150
1. Introduction	150
2. Narcotic analgesics	150
3. Anesthetic gases	151
4. Intravenous anesthetics	155
5. Local anesthetics	157

## Chapter 4

### Immunotoxicity of drugs acting on the cardiovascular system

1. Digitalis heterosides	161
2. Antihypertensive agents	162
1. Introduction	162
2. Beta-adrenergic blocking agents	162
3. Diuretics	167
4. Centrally-acting antihypertensive drugs	168
5. Peripherally-acting antihypertensive agents	169
6. Angiotensin-I converting enzyme inhibitors	172
7. Miscellaneous antihypertensive drugs	172
3. Anti-anginal drugs	174
1. Calcium antagonists	174
2. Miscellaneous anti-anginal drugs	176
4. Antiarrhythmic drugs	177

**Chapter 5**

**Immunotoxicity of drugs acting on the gastrointestinal tract**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Histamine H <sub>2</sub> -receptor antagonists | 180 |
| 2. Miscellaneous compounds                        | 185 |

**Chapter 6**

**Immunotoxicity of hormones and hormone antagonists**

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Introduction                  | 187 |
| 2. Antithyroid drugs             | 187 |
| 3. Antidiabetics                 | 189 |
| 4. Sex hormones                  | 190 |
| 1. Introduction                  | 190 |
| 2. Androgens                     | 190 |
| 3. Estrogens                     | 191 |
| 4. Progesterone and progestagens | 198 |
| 5. Oral contraceptives           | 201 |

**Chapter 7**

**Immunotoxicity of drugs acting on the respiratory tract**

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Bronchodilating agents | 202 |
| 2. Antiallergic drugs     | 203 |

**Chapter 8**

**Immunotoxicity of drugs acting on blood clotting and fibrinolysis**

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Introduction                 | 206 |
| 2. Anticoagulants               | 206 |
| 1. Heparin                      | 206 |
| 2. Oral anticoagulants          | 207 |
| 3. Drugs acting on fibrinolysis | 209 |
| 4. Blood expanders              | 209 |

**Chapter 9**

**Immunotoxicity of anti-inflammatory drugs**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Introduction                          | 210 |
| 2. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs | 210 |
| 1. Introduction                          | 210 |
| 2. Salicylates                           | 210 |
| 3. Anilide derivatives                   | 213 |
| 4. Pyrazolone derivatives                | 214 |
| 5. Indomethacin                          | 216 |

6. Fenamate derivatives	218
7. Propionate derivatives	219
3. Corticosteroids	220
4. Antirheumatismal drugs	220
1. Introduction	220
2. Gold salts	221
3. Penicillamine	221
4. Miscellaneous compounds	221
5. Drugs used in the treatment of gout	222

## Chapter 10

### Immunotoxicity of immunodepressive and immunoenhancing drugs

1. Introduction	224
2. Immunodepressive drugs	224
1. Anticancer drugs	225
2. Cyclosporine	225
3. Immunomodulating agents	225

## Chapter 11

### Immunotoxicity of vitamins and miscellaneous drugs

1. Vitamins	227
2. Lipids	227
3. Ginseng	227

References	228
------------	-----

## PART III IMMUNOTOXICITY OF CHEMICALS

### Chapter 1

#### Immunotoxicity of heavy metals

1. Introduction	279
2. Aluminium	279
3. Arsenic	280
4. Beryllium	281
5. Cadmium	281
6. Chromium	286
7. Cobalt	287
8. Copper	287
9. Germanium	288
10. Gold	288
11. Iron	289

## Contents

12. Lead	290
13. Magnesium	295
14. Manganese	296
15. Mercury	296
16. Nickel	299
17. Selenium	302
18. Tin	303
19. Vanadium	311
20. Zinc	312

## Chapter 2

### Immunotoxicity of pesticides

1. Introduction	314
2. Insecticides	314
1. Organochlorine insecticides	314
2. Organophosphate insecticides	319
3. Carbamate insecticides	323
4. Pyrethroid insecticides	324
5. Miscellaneous	325
3. Herbicides	326
4. Plant growth regulators	326
5. Fungicides	328

## Chapter 3

### Immunotoxicity of industrial chemicals

1. Introduction	333
2. Aliphatic hydrocarbons and derivatives	333
1. Simple aliphatic hydrocarbons	333
2. Nitrogen derivatives	334
3. Haloalkanes	334
4. Amide derivatives	337
3. Aromatic hydrocarbons and derivatives	339
1. Monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	339
2. Polycyclic hydrocarbons	340
3. Biphenyls	342
4. Isocyanates	348
4. Alcohols, phenols and derivatives	349
1. Alcohols	349
2. Phenols	350
3. Dioxin	352
5. Miscellaneous compounds	356

**Chapter 4**

**Immunotoxicity of airborne pollutants**

1. Introduction	359
2. Dust particles	359
1. Asbestos	359
2. Silica	360
3. Volcanic ash	361
3. Gaseous air pollutants	361
1. Nitrogen dioxide	361
2. Ozone	361
3. Sulfuric acid	362

**Chapter 5**

**Immunotoxicity of addictive chemicals**

1. Introduction	363
2. Cocaine	364
3. Narcotics	364
4. Marijuana	365
5. Ethanol and alcoholism	367
6. Cigarette smoking	369

**Chapter 6**

**Immunotoxicity of food and food contaminants**

1. Introduction	371
2. Food additives	371
3. Food contaminants	374

<b>References</b>	377
-------------------	-----

<b>Concluding remarks</b>	395
---------------------------	-----

<b>Index</b>	397
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## **PART I**

### **METHODS AND CONCEPTS IN IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY**



## Chapter 1

# An introduction to immunotoxicology assessment

J.H.DEAN<sup>1</sup> AND J.G.VOS<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>*National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene, Bilthoven, The Netherlands.*

## 1.INTRODUCTION

### 1.THE SCOPE OF IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY

Immunotoxicology can best be defined as the discipline concerned with the study of the adverse effects on the immune system resulting from the interaction of xenobiotics (i.e., chemicals, drugs and biologicals). These adverse effects may result as a consequence of: 1) a direct or indirect action of the compound (and/or its metabolites) on the immune system; or, 2) an immunologically-based host response to the compound or its metabolite(s), or to host antigens modified by the compound or its metabolite(s). Immunotoxicology can be subdivided into three main areas of research (Luxembourg, 1985): 1) the study of the altered immunological events associated with exposure of humans and animals to xenobiotics, including drugs not originally intended for immunotherapeutics or drugs developed for immunotherapeutics (whether synthetic, natural or biological); 2) the study of allergy and autoimmunity resulting from exposure to xenobiotics; and, 3) the implementation of immunological techniques (e.g., improved analytical methods including immunocytochemistry, ELISA, EMIT, and radio-immunoassays) into toxicology research.

### 2.HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE OF IMMUNOTOXICITY

The capacity of a large variety of xenobiotics to which man is exposed to cause different types of allergic sequelae (e.g., contact hypersensitivity, immunologic lung disease, hemolytic anemia, lupus erythematosus, other autoimmune syndromes) is well established (see 1,2). The frequency of such pathologies, as well as their importance in terms of human morbidity are well established. In addition, there is also ample evidence that a galaxy of xenobiotics to which humans and animals may be acutely or chronically exposed may potentially damage the immune system through a variety of distinct mechanisms. Given the sensitivity of the cells of