



Principles and Practices of Pharmacology for Anaesthetists

By Norman Calvey, N.E. Williams

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Anaesthesia is applied pharmacology with the aim of producing unconsciousness, abolishing sensitivity, to pain, reducing muscle tone and maintaining the vital functions of heart rate, blood pressure and respiration during a surgical operation. The tools of the anaesthetist are drugs and it is, therefore, central to the training of any anaesthetist to understand the principles of drug action, disposition and elimination, as well as the administration of drugs in anaesthetic practice. This book provides the wherewithal to acquire such knowledge and is the standard textbook for the trainee anaesthetist preparing for part II of the FCAnaes. examination. The authors are both senior clinical tutors with long experience of teaching pharmacology to anaesthetists. This edition ensures that all the recent developments in terms of drugs and anaesthetic practice have been taken into account. Since the first edition there have also been advances in pharmacology and in a number of instances, accepted explanations for the mechanism of action of drugs have been altered. There are three completely new chapters: variability in drug response, antihypertensive agents and anticoagulants. The first five chapters of the book cover basic principles of pharmacology: drug absorption, distribution and elimination; pharmacokinetics; drug action; drug interaction; variability in drug response. The larger part of the book is devoted to a systematic treatment of the mode of action, pharmacokinetics, clinical use and unwanted effects of all drugs in use in modern anaesthesia. There is also coverage of the means of selecting the right drug for a particular case.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This fifth edition ... continues to provide a comprehensive scientific basis and a readable account of the principles of pharmacology, as well as practical guidance in the use of drugs that is relevant to clinical anaesthesia. This book presents valuable insight into anesthetic pharmacology and reinforces essential concepts. It offers an excellent overview of the basic pharmacologic principles and their practical applications." (*Doodys Reviews*)

Review

'The book continues to deserve a strong recommendation as an up-to-date reference for both trainees and practising anaesthetists and intensivists.'

J. of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, vol. 25 no. 24, 1997 on the third edition.

'...an excellent book and the standard pharmacological text for the FRCA examination.'

Today's Anaesthetist, vol 12, no. 5, 1997 on the third edition.

From the Back Cover

The aim of this well established textbook is to provide a comprehensive, scientific account of pharmacology and a practical guide to the use of drugs as they relate to the practice of clinical anaesthesia. This book is now in its fourth edition and all chapters have been thoroughly updated with these aims in mind.

Approximately 100 pages shorter than the third edition, it continues to be a concise and usable reference. The purely scientific information has been reorganised so that it relates much more to the use of drugs in the clinical setting and throughout the text the authors have used international non-proprietary names (rINNs) in preference to British approved names (BANs).

Principles & Practice of Pharmacology for Anaesthetists will be invaluable for candidates sitting the FRCA examination, and will also be of use to any practising anaesthetist wishing to brush up their pharmacological knowledge.

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