Book review

Drug Interactions in Infectious Diseases, 3rd Edition

Stephen C. Piscitelli, Keith A. Rodvold & Manjunath P. Pai. Published by Humana Press, an imprint of Springer Science+Business Media, New York, 2011, price \$99.00, ISBN 978-1-61779-212-0

I have reviewed the Third Edition of Drug Interactions in Infectious Diseases from my perspective as a consultant physician practicing in the management of patients with community and hospital acquired infection and blood borne viruses. Potential drug interactions are common in the practice of infection management and the first chapters deliver both an introduction to the principles of interactions and a detailed description of the different mechanisms of drug interactions. The evolving evidence base for the role of enzymes and the contribution of transport proteins in drug interactions is explained in the clinical context with examples relevant to current practice.

The role of food in the absorption of drugs is described in detail with emphasis on those interactions that are likely to affect clinical outcome. The often overlooked area of interaction between complementary medications, such as St John's Wort, and prescribed medications is reviewed with particular reference to prescribing in HIV care.

The role of cytokine production within the host response and the effect of cytokines on drug elimination and drug distribution is explored in the context of acute and chronic disease states. This area is identified as one where further research and evidence is required.

Interactions and their pharmacological basis relevant to the different antibiotic classes are described in detail as are the potential clinical consequences of such interactions. Tables are used to illustrate and quantitate the magnitude of important interactions within and between antibacterial classes.

There is a comprehensive description of the interactions relevant to the use of antiretrovirals in HIV care including the interactions relevant to the newer antiretroviral drugs. Interactions between the individual antiretroviral drugs and between antiretrovirals and other medications used in HIV care are both complex and commonly encountered in clinical practice. The detailed review presented here delivers strong foundations for understanding the fundamental mechanisms of interaction in this area but also detailed description of individual interactions such that the book can be used as a point of reference to address concerns that arise.

The challenge of managing the potential drug interactions in patients co-infected with HIV and tuberculosis is

explored and explained with documentation of the magnitude of effect of antituberculous drugs on protease inhibitor concentrations.

Clear and colourful illustrations are used to explain complex mechanisms of interaction.

Overall the Third Edition of Drug Interactions in Infectious Diseases covers all drug interactions relevant to the management of infectious diseases in a systematic, comprehensive and clear way. It will be a useful point of reference for infectious diseases clinicians, clinical pharmacologists and clinical pharmacists managing patients in this complex area of practice.

Competing Interests

There are no competing interests to declare.

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