

BOOK REVIEWS

Pocket Handbook of GI Pharmacotherapeutics

Editors: George Y. Wu, M.D., Ph.D., and
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This soft cover, small pocket handbook provides instant access for the practicing gastroenterologist to therapeutic regimens for various gastrointestinal disorders. The book is small and thus could easily be placed in a physician's jacket. Major gastrointestinal disorders are represented in this book and include peptic disorders, gastrointestinal bleeding, general gastrointestinal motility disorders, specific gastrointestinal motility disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, and gastrointestinal infections. In addition, there are several chapters in the category of liver disease including hepatitis, cholestasis, hepatic encephalopathy, pruritus, nutrition, and enzyme deficiency. The book is written by seven authors, all of them from the University of Connecticut Health Center in Framingham, Connecticut. Each chapter usually starts with a management algorithm of a gastrointestinal disorder and subsequently proceeds with the different therapeutic modalities for this disorder. Under each medication, the author provides the trade name, manufacturer, dosage, contraindications, adverse effects, drug interactions, pregnancy category, lactation, and relative cost. The management algorithms are simple and easy to follow.

There are many advantages to this book that practicing gastroenterologists, fellows in training, and other healthcare personnel who take care of gastrointestinal disorders can find helpful in their everyday practice. As already mentioned, the management algorithms are relatively simple and easy to understand. There is clear information about doses of the same medication in different clinical scenarios as well as an easy access to contraindications and adverse effects. Unfortunately, many of the current textbooks do not provide therapeutic information in such detail. Compiling the different therapeutic modalities for the most common gastrointestinal disorders is a welcome initiative that is long overdue. The immediate access that this book provides to different therapeutic modalities will make it highly valuable for the very busy practitioner who has limited time to peruse through large

textbooks. This pocket book will definitely serve as an important addition to the physician's "peripheral brain" armamentarium. Some of the limitations of the book include absence of some therapeutic modalities from many of the chapters, limited coverage of gastrointestinal disorders, and references to support the algorithms that were locally developed. Regardless, the book will likely be highly valued by many physicians and thus is recommended as an essential contribution to everyday practice.

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