



Reviews/Testimonials

Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy: A Point-of-Care Guide

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Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy: A Point-of-Care Guide is a pocket-sized volume intended to help in the provision of care at the bedside and to serve as a quick reference for various cardiac disease states. The book is directed specifically to pharmacists, with a focus on evidence-based pharmacotherapy, with contributions from well-established pharmacists who have published previously in the field of cardiology. The book provides a comprehensive summary of all commonly encountered disease states in cardiology. Acute care topics such as acute decompensated heart failure and acute coronary syndromes are covered, as well as ward-based topics such as arrhythmias, chronic stable angina, dyslipidemia, and hypertension. As such, this book will have broad appeal to a wide range of clinical pharmacists.

The book is divided into 18 chapters and 3 appendices, all of which provide relevant point-of-care drug information. Each chapter includes an introduction and sections on pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and diagnosis as background for the reader. The strength of this book is its succinct and clinically focused sections on pharmacotherapy and its tabular summaries. Much of the pharmacotherapy section of each chapter is based on the latest guidelines of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, and the pharmacotherapy recommendations are ranked according to the strength of the evidence. Landmark trials that have affected clinical practice are mentioned throughout. Each chapter finishes with a section discussing current clinical controversies, which is a practical feature for clinical pharmacists. Each chapter is well referenced, and resource lists are available through the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists website (www.ashp.org/cardiovascular; click on “Bonus content”). Each chapter nicely encapsulates all of the latest cardiology guidelines in an easy-to-read and visually appealing format. Tables are abundant, which helps with readability, and each chapter is long enough to provide a comprehensive review without the onerous feeling of a textbook chapter.

This book is aimed at practising pharmacists and may cover topics beyond the skills of undergraduate pharmacy students. Pharmacists practising in cardiology would find this book helpful as a quick reference, whereas noncardiology pharmacists would find it useful for updates on the latest practices and trends in cardiac pharmacotherapy. This book was designed to be used at the point of care, and its content and format make it easy to use at the bedside. Given that few cardiology reference books specifically for pharmacists are available, this book would be a valuable addition to any practising pharmacist’s reference library.

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Reviews/Testimonials

Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy: A Point-of-Care Guide

Crouch, Michael A., PharmD, FASHP, BCPS

REVIEWER'S EXPERT OPINION

Anna M Wodlinger, Pharm.D., BCPS (Temple University School of Pharmacy)

Description

This book summarizes numerous cardiovascular disease states and their treatment recommendations so that it can be used by students, residents, and clinical pharmacists as a point-of-care guide to retrieve essential information quickly.

Purpose

It is intended as an easy-to-use reference that incorporates guideline recommendations, recent literature, and essential drug facts for cardiovascular disease states and medications. This is a worthy objective, as the literature supporting the treatment of cardiovascular disease states is voluminous and this reference summarizes it well.

Audience

This book is designed to be used by students, residents, clinical pharmacists, and other healthcare practitioners. The scope of information is broad enough that practitioners at various levels of their careers will find it helpful. The editor and authors of the chapters are clinical pharmacists with expertise in cardiovascular pharmacotherapy.

Features

In addition to commonly seen diseases (i.e. heart failure, hypertension), the book covers many disease states that are not often found in textbooks (drug induced cardiac disease, pericarditis, valvular disorders). Each chapter provides a thorough yet concise summary of the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of disease states and includes guideline recommendations when applicable. Chapters have many helpful tables, pictures, and algorithms and the appendix includes a summary of specific drug recommendations.

Assessment

This is a useful reference for clinical pharmacy practitioners. It is unique in that it

includes several cardiovascular disease states and a comprehensive drug information table.

Weighted Numerical Score: 94 - 4 Stars!



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Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy: A Point-of-Care Guide

Crouch, Michael A., PharmD, FASHP, BCPS

BOOK REVIEWS

Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy: A Point-of-Care Guide

By Michael A Crouch PharmD FASHP BCPS (AQ Cardiology). Published by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Inc., Bethesda, MD, 2010. ISBN 978-1-58528-215-9. Paperbound, xi + 475 pp. (17.5 × 12.5 cm), \$39. www.ashp.org

Therapeutic Area: Cardiovascular pharmacotherapy

Format: Small softcover book about 1" thick and potentially pocket size.

Audience: Practicing clinical pharmacists who are not specialists in the cardiovascular area or pharmacy students on clinical rotations where patients with cardiovascular issues are common.

Purpose: To provide a point-of-care guide for non-cardiology clinicians or those just starting in the field in choosing therapy and monitoring cardiovascular diseases appropriately.

Content: After introductory chapters on cardiovascular testing and drug-induced cardiovascular disease, the book is arranged into chapters covering all of the common cardiovascular issues the clinician is likely to encounter. Each chapter is conveniently laid out with background information, pathophysiology, clinical presentation and diagnostic issues, pharmacotherapy, monitoring, clinical controversies, and future treatments. The pharmacotherapy sections are laced with well-thought-out algorithms that frequently integrate the best of 2 or 3 sources.

Usability: Overall, this book is very easy to use. Some sections are a bit wordy for a point-of-care guide; consequently, some of the clinical pearls take more time to read than is perhaps necessary.

Highlights: As mentioned, the algorithms for the majority of chapters are excellent. Likewise the sections on monitoring reflect the writing of clinicians with experience and provide the practical guidance the clinician would be seeking. The discussion of clinical controversies is truly a highlight of this book; clear, evidence-based evaluations of the most contemporary controversies are provided. Some chapters provide well-reasoned

conclusions, while others only present both sides of the controversy. Both approaches are very well done and helpful.

Limitations: The biggest limitation of this guide is the variable approach to evidence-based medicine from chapter to chapter. The author who wrote the chapter on hypertension was so dogmatic about evidence that he made the highly questionable statement, “Because of the overwhelming benefits of reduced risk of CV events, lifestyle modifications should rarely, if ever, be used in place of proven antihypertensive pharmacotherapy.” On the other hand, the lipid chapter focused almost exclusively on the assumptions of the lipid hypothesis rather than on the mortality and morbidity evidence. Another limitation is the wordiness of some sections that makes the book a bit cumbersome for point-of-care use.

Comparison with Other Related Books: The only book with similar content for a similar audience of which I am aware is *Quick Reference to Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy*, edited by Judy WM Cheng. That book was published in 2002 and is consequently not current enough to be very useful. That book contained more tables and quick references, as the title suggests. This reviewer would love to see the best of both of these guides combined in a future edition.

Reviewer’s Summary: This is a very well-constructed reference targeted to a very specific niche. It is a worthy reference addition for the discussion of clinical controversies alone.

Reviewer: John Jameson PharmD FASHP, Professor of Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI, and Grand Rapids Family Practice Residency

Conflict of interest: Author reported none Published Online, 29 Jun 2010, *theannals.com* DOI 10.1345/aph.1P156