

*Textbook of
Pharmacology for Dental and
Allied Health Sciences*

Textbook of Pharmacology for Dental and Allied Health Sciences

SECOND EDITION

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***Dedicated to
My beloved mother
Mrs. Lalitha Narayan***

Foreword

It is a daunting challenge to a studious student of a subject to write a textbook. This is particularly so in case of pharmacology, a subject having tremendous potential for expansion.

Medicine is said to be the most dynamic amongst biological disciplines; pharmacology can be said to be so amongst health science disciplines. It has stupendously grown in its own right and on its own wicket. In addition, it has been quick in responding to advances in other disciplines. Ramification of pharmacology into various other disciplines has resulted in mutual sharing of knowledge and impetuous for further study. This has resulted in the continuing growth of both factual and conceptual knowledge-base, too rapid and huge to comprehend. These facts weigh on the mind of a studious student.

A textbook for undergraduate students has to be clear, lucid, comprehensive and concise. This requires a critical and shrewd sifting and sieving of the vast data, to pick-up those that are necessary and relevant in a given context. Such a job demands grit, knowledge, ability and prudence. Dr (Mrs) Padmaja Udaykumar, a young pharmacologist has gratifyingly demonstrated these in her venture of writing a textbook in pharmacology for students of dental, physiotherapy and allied branches of health sciences.

Most textbooks on this subject contain data and information that suit medical students. But many student-groups of other streams of health sciences require knowledgeable in the subject pharmacology in a way that is meaningful and relevant to their respective field. Indeed pharmacology is one of the core-subjects in these courses. This point in view, the author has made a commendable attempt in this direction.

Need for condensation of the vast data inevitably makes the text and approach more catalogic and less thematic. Yet there is enough factual data as well as sufficient thematic message synchronized, a very important point in a text for undergraduates.

Dr Padmaja Udaykumar has brought out a concise book in pharmacology with clear and comprehensive coverage of the topics in a systematically organized manner and presented in a simple—'easy to read and grasp' style. This book though primarily meant for dental, physiotherapy and nursing students, it contains enough material to be useful even for medical students, particularly for quick revision.

Teacher, like parent, gets proud pleasure at the progress and deserving achievements of the next generation. I did derive such pleasure while going through the text of this nice book by Dr Padmaja Udaykumar and say a few words about it.

Prof DR Kulkarni

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BM Patil Medical College, Bijapur

Former Principal, DY Patil Medical College, Kollapur
Former President, Indian Association of Pharmacologists

Preface to the Second Edition

Pharmacology is a subject that has been rapidly growing. To keep pace with it, books in pharmacology need to be updated frequently. The book has been thoroughly revised with appropriate additions, deletions and tailored to the needs of a dental student. In response to the feedback received, wherever applicable, the relevance of the topic to a dentist has been highlighted. More figures, charts and tables have been added and the book is brought out in multiple colours, all of which make it more student-friendly. Many universities have introduced 'Compare and Contrast', between related drugs in the question papers. Therefore a series of 'Compare and Contrast' have been given in all relevant chapters. Keeping in mind the burden on students, efforts have been made to include only the necessary things and prune the unwanted ones. A chapter on **emergencies in dental practice** has been included as required by some universities.

The First edition of the book was titled 'Short Textbook of Pharmacology for Dental and Allied Health Sciences' and has been renamed in the second edition as *Textbook of Pharmacology for Dental and Allied Health Sciences*.

I hope the book makes learning pharmacology a pleasurable experience.

Please send your feedback to raaguday@rediffmail.com.

Padmaja Udaykumar

Preface to the First Edition

Pharmacology is a science that forms the basis for modern medicine. It is a rapidly changing field with new drugs being constantly introduced. The knowledge of pharmacology is important for all those who deal with drugs apart from medical practitioners. But the depth could vary. The need was felt for a short textbook for Dental, Nursing, Physiotherapy and other health science students. Hence this book was brought out, keeping in mind the size of the book and information required.

General pharmacology has been discussed in detail as it forms the basis for understanding pharmacology. Similarly chemotherapy, particularly general chemotherapy, analgesics, anaesthetics and corticosteroids are dealt with in adequate depth. Mechanisms of action have been discussed in brief. In each chapter, the prototype drug has been discussed in detail while the differing features of others are then mentioned. Simple figures have been used wherever necessary. Common drug interactions are given in the Appendices. Accepted abbreviations have been used. References for further reading are mentioned at the end of the text. The chapter on Dental Pharmacology is included. Adequate importance has been given to essential drugs.

I hope this book serves to make pharmacology easy for the students of Health Sciences.

Padmaja Udaykumar

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I owe a special note of thanks to my husband Prof. Udaykumar K. for his constant encouragement, valuable suggestions and support in this endeavor.

I thank Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers, New Delhi for bringing out this colourful book.

Contents

SECTION 1

General Pharmacology

1. Introduction and Sources of Drugs	1
2. Routes of Drug Administration	3
3. Pharmacokinetics	10
4. Pharmacodynamics	24
5. Adverse Drug Reactions and Drug Interactions, Drug Nomenclature and Essential Drugs Concept	36

SECTION 2

Autonomic Nervous System

6. Introduction to Autonomic Pharmacology	42
7. Cholinergic System	46
8. Anticholinergic Drugs	56
9. Skeletal Muscle Relaxants	60
10. Adrenergic System	66
11. Adrenergic Drugs (Sympathomimetics)	69
12. Adrenergic Antagonists	76

SECTION 3

Drugs Acting on the Kidney

13. Diuretics and Antidiuretics	82
---------------------------------------	----

SECTION 4

Cardiovascular System

14. Cardiac Glycosides and Treatment of Cardiac Failure	90
15. Calcium Channel Blockers	96
16. Antiarrhythmic Drugs	99
17. Drugs Used in Angina Pectoris and Myocardial Infarction	104
18. Antihypertensive Drugs	110
19. Plasma Expanders and Pharmacotherapy of Shock	120

SECTION 5**Central Nervous System**

20. General Anaesthetics	122
21. Local Anaesthetics	130
22. Sedative Hypnotics	137
23. Alcohols	143
24. Antiepileptics	146
25. Drugs Used in Parkinsonism	155
26. Opioid Analgesics	158
27. Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)	172
28. Drugs Used in Rheumatoid Arthritis and Gout	185
29. Drugs Used in Psychiatric Disorders	190
30. CNS Stimulants	201

SECTION 6**Autacoids**

31. Autacoids	
• Histamine	203
• 5-Hydroxytryptamine	207
• Ergot Alkaloids	208
• Eicosanoids	210
• Other Autacoids	212

SECTION 7**Respiratory System**

32. Drugs Acting on Respiratory System	
• Drugs Used in the Treatment of Bronchial Asthma	214
• Drugs Used in the Treatment of Cough	220

SECTION 8**Blood**

33. Haematopoietic System	
• Haematinics	222
• Drugs Used in the Disorders of Coagulation	226
• Hypolipidaemic Drugs	235

SECTION 9**Gastrointestinal Tract**

34. Drugs Used in Gastrointestinal Disorders	
• Drugs Used in Peptic Ulcer	237
• Prokinetic Agents	243
• Emetics and Antiemetics	244
• Drugs for Constipation and Diarrhoea	247

SECTION 10**Chemotherapy I**

35. General Considerations	252
36. Sulfonamides, Cotrimoxazole and Quinolones	262
37. Beta-lactam Antibiotics	267
38. Broad Spectrum Antibiotics	276
39. Aminoglycosides	280
40. Macrolides, Other Antibacterial Agents and Chemotherapy of Urinary Tract Infections	284

SECTION 11**Chemotherapy II**

41. Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis and Leprosy	291
42. Antifungal Drugs	299
43. Antiviral Drugs	305
44. Chemotherapy of Malaria	312
45. Drugs Used in Amoebiasis, Leishmaniasis and Trypanosomiasis	319
46. Anthelmintics	324
47. Cancer Chemotherapy	328

SECTION 12**Hormones**

48. Hypothalamus and Anterior Pituitary Hormones	337
49. Thyroid Hormones and Antithyroid Drugs	342
50. Corticosteroids	347
51. Oestrogens, Progestins and Hormonal Contraceptives	355
52. Androgens and Anabolic Steroids	362
53. Insulin and Oral Hypoglycaemics	364
54. Agents Affecting Bone Mineral Turnover	372

SECTION 13**Miscellaneous Drugs**

55. Miscellaneous Drugs	
• Immunopharmacology	376
• Antiseptics and Disinfectants	378
• Chelating Agents	382
• Vitamins	383
• Gene Therapy	387

SECTION 14**Dental Pharmacology**

56 Dental Pharmacology	389
<i>Appendix 1- Important Drug Interactions</i>	<i>405</i>
<i>Apendix 2-Prescription Writing</i>	<i>408</i>
<i>Further Reading</i>	<i>411</i>
<i>Index</i>	<i>413</i>