Book Review

Pocket Handbook of Psychiatric Drug Treatment
Fifth Edition

Editor: Benjamin J. Sadock, Virginia A. Sadock and Norman Sussman
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This is an excellent book which provides updated information about the whole spectrum of psychopharmacologic drugs available for use in everyday psychiatric practice. The drugs are mentioned in alphabetical order in the book in specific sections or chapters. Each section provides detailed information about drugs- drug name, preparation and dosages, pharmacological action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, indications for use and clinical applications, use in children, elderly persons, pregnant and nursing women, side effects, allergic reactions and drug-drug interactions.

The book interestingly avoids classifying the drugs into broad and ambiguous categories of antidepressants, antimanics, antipsychotics, anxiolytics, and mood stabilizers. Instead, the drugs are classified according to their pharmacological activity and mechanism of action.

A separate chapter describing nutritional supplements as well as herb and plant preparations with psychoactive properties is provided in the book. Each chapter ends with a reference to the ninth edition of Kaplan & Sadock’s Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry. This book gives lucid, comprehensive and updated information about all the available psychotropic agents and as such can be a useful and dependable reference for mental health professionals including psychiatrists, psychiatry residents and medical students. Primary Care Physicians will also find this book valuable in their clinical work. Overall, this book can be used as a very credible source of information about psychopharmacological agents and can be of immense value not only in clinical practice but also in research work. The editors and the publisher of this book deserve appreciation for coming out with this brilliant piece of work.

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