

Chromatographic Analysis of Pharmaceuticals, 2nd edition

J.A. Adamovics (Editor), Marcel Dekker, New York; 1997 ISBN 0-8247-9776-0

In the 'Chromatographic Science Series' of Marcel Dekker, 74 volumes had been published and from this the volume on 'Chromatographic Analysis of Pharmaceuticals' edited by J.A. Adamovics is now published in a second, revised and expanded edition. This book deals with the whole field of chromatographic analysis from regulatory considerations and sample pretreatment to the chromatography itself. Five techniques are presented in special chapters (TLC, GC, HPLC, CE and SFC).

The first chapter on regulatory considerations presents the related parts of the USP and includes a review on the guidelines of ICH (international commission of harmonisation) in respect to impurities in drugs. But this review is not critical, for also in chromatographic analysis there is no specificity but only selectivity or discrimination power. Furthermore well known terms as asymmetry, column efficiency and capacity are repeated once more.

The chapter on sample pretreatment gives a review on sample preparation techniques as liquid–solid extraction, liquid–liquid extraction, column liquid extraction with respect of different pharmaceutical dosage forms. Some pretreatments are shortly reviewed and given as references.

A very big problem of this book are the chapters dealing with the different chromatographic techniques. These chapters are too short and not sufficient nor efficient. Planar chromatography has only 16 pages, two of these are a table of nomenclature of TLC plates and a table of old fashioned silica plate impregnation materials used from 1980 to 1985. Multiple development is given only in ten lines and quantification is only one page. Although from the same authors, the chapter on GC is more reliable and contains more information.

The last chapter is dealing with applications. Within 150 pages there are given as table nearly 1200 methods of chromatographic analysis of pharmaceuticals. There is given the drug with application (bulk, pharmaceutical preparation), the mode (TLC, GC, HPLC, ...), a short description of sample preparation, stationary phase

(sorbent), mobile phase (eluent) and detection. Further on there are some comments and the cited literature. But there is a very strong restriction: it is only a very personal choice of methods. For instance in the case of acetaminophen (paracetamol) there are five methods listed, but all five are referring to the same origin, i.e. the USP. Looking to CAS there are more than 100 reliable papers. If looking to a chromatographic application in drug analyses the reader is normally well informed about pharmacopoeial methods.

This book is not very efficient and not necessary.

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Ebel

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Pharmaceutical Manufacturers: a Comprehensive International Directory

Medpharm GmbH, Stuttgart; 1997. 372 pages, hardcover, DM198; ISBN 3-88763-044-0

The directory lists over 5700 pharmaceutical manufacturers worldwide giving each company's name, address and in most cases telephone and fax numbers.

The companies are listed by country and at the end one can find a comprehensive index list of all companies in alphabetical order. The directory is a useful tool at a reasonable price for everyone wishing to contact pharmaceutical manufacturers for scientific or medical information or for product orders in over 46 countries. A practical feature is the possibility of direct photocopying the addresses on address labels. We do hope that the information will soon be available also on CD-ROM with even more detailed information.

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