

***Metals and the skin: topical effects and systemic absorption*** by R. Guy et al. (ISBN: 0-8247-9385-4)

This book fills a gap in dermatology as well as in environmental protection affairs.

The authors cover very carefully data concerning the pharmacological effects and the penetration properties of metals and metal-based chemical moieties.

After the introduction, the second chapter is focused on special aspects of metal reactivity, and gives information about granulomatogenic metals, metals in adjuvants, and metallothioneins. Each of the following chapters deals with a certain metal and is divided into: (A). general comments; (B). skin absorption, elimination and reactivity; (C). quantitative absorption data; (D). Immunology; (E). summary and relevant references.

The items (C). contain data concerning both test systems

and species and, if available, the influence of vehicle systems on the systemic absorption of the metal.

The items (D). (immunology) are focused on the allergenic potential of the metals.

The items (E). summarize shortly and precisely the toxicological importance of the metal after acute or chronic dermal exposure.

This book should not be missed not only in each laboratory dealing with environmental and dermatotoxicological problems, but also in pharmacies, because it gives valuable information for advising patients and customers.

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