

J. Beike

Disposition of toxic drugs and chemicals in man, 7th edn

**Randall C. Baselt, Biomedical Publications,
Foster City, CA, 2004,
ISBN 0-9626523-6-9**

Received: 15 June 2004 / Accepted: 13 August 2004 / Published online: 15 September 2004
© Springer-Verlag 2004

Randall C. Baselt's "Disposition of toxic drugs and chemicals in man" is one of the standard works in the fields of clinical and forensic toxicology. In the seventh edition, this convenient reference book was enlarged with an additional 139 substance monographs and contains now important data on body fluid concentration, metabolism and analysis of 737 relevant compounds, including primarily drugs, drugs of abuse, herbal medicines, drugs abused in sport, plant toxins, animal toxins, solvents, herbicides, pesticides, rodenticides, metals and chemical warfare agents.

As already known from the previous editions, the substance monographs are arranged in alphabetical order and each monograph is subdivided into the following sections:

- Occurrence and usage: gives the reader a brief introduction and review of the compound of interest.
- Blood concentrations: provides data on blood or plasma concentrations in normal or therapeutic situation.

- Metabolism and excretion: summarises the metabolic pathway and gives urine concentrations for several substances.
- Toxicity: certainly the most helpful section, reviews the symptoms of intoxication, concentrations of body fluids in cases of nonfatal and fatal intoxications and gives for several substances also advice for treatment.
- Analysis: summarises analytical procedures for the determination of active compounds and metabolites from biological specimens.
- References: current references are cited for the aforementioned sections. Also for most of the substances which were already present in earlier editions, recent references have been supplemented.

The clearly arranged structure enables the reader a fast access to the data of interest. Altogether, this standard work is highly recommendable for those engaged in clinical and forensic toxicology.