

# Stockley's Drug Interactions 2003

Stockley IH, editor. Pharmaceutical Press, London, UK, 2003. CD-ROM. ISBN 0853695423. \$419.95 (CD-ROM and book version of 6th edition).

This CD-ROM is the electronic version of the 6th edition of the textbook *Stockley's Drug Interactions*. The 5th edition, published in 1999, was reviewed in these pages in 2001.<sup>1</sup> The user guide for the CD-ROM states that the database covers interactions involving prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, herbal remedies, foods, beverages, pesticides, and some drugs of abuse.

Stockley's electronic database can be searched by selecting a chapter (pharmacologic class) or by entering one or more individual drug names (e.g., warfarin, clopidogrel) or multiword phrases (e.g., serotonin syndrome). Each individual interaction monograph contains 5 sections: summary, clinical evidence, mechanism, importance and management, and references. Additional material is also included, such as general information on mechanisms of interactions, overview of drug classes, and tables of CYP 450 drug metabolism.

In assessing Stockley's on CD-ROM, I compared it with 2 widely used hard-copy drug interaction references (referred to here as "standard references").<sup>2,3</sup> The first difference noted is that the hard-copy references are updated quarterly, whereas for Stockley's text, from which the CD-ROM is derived, at least 3 years has elapsed between recent editions. This constitutes a major weakness for a drug interactions database. In addition, the standard references use a numeric ranking to quickly indicate the significance of interactions (for



example, a ranking of 1 or 2 means avoid the combination, and a ranking of 4 or 5 means no action required). Users of the standard references will likely miss this simple but effective feature, which is not part of the CD-ROM.

In the standard references, information on the interaction potential of 2 drugs can be simply and quickly retrieved. However, my brief experience with Stockley's on CD-ROM was not as favourable. A few text-word searches retrieved dozens of links to interaction monographs that were displayed in nonalphabetical order, and many of these were not highly relevant. Locating the appropriate link was a tedious process, and reformulation of the search strategy was sometimes necessary. Searching by chapter (drug class) proved no easier. It became apparent that Stockley's has deficiencies in cross-referencing among agents within a single class. Examples include the listing of an interaction between monoamine oxidase inhibitors and fluoxetine or sertraline, but not the other selective serotonin release inhibitors; between midazolam and saquinavir, but not the other protease inhibitors; and between grapefruit juice and lovastatin but not simvastatin.

An important component of a drug interaction reference is the advice provided on management, such as monitoring, dosage adjustment, or selection of a safer alternative agent. Stockley's provided analysis and an opinion as to the clinical

importance of the interactions, but I found that it was not as helpful in addressing the suitability of other agents as potentially safe alternatives.

In summary, on the basis of my brief review, I would not recommend Stockley's on CD-ROM as a first-line reference, and therefore it should not be the only drug interaction database used by pharmacists. However, it would be a useful complement to the standard references because of the ancillary drug information provided and the extensive literature citations in the references section of each monograph.

#### References

1. Bartle WR. Book review of *Drug Interactions*, 5th edition. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 2001;54:46-7.
2. Hansten PD, Horn JR. *Drug interactions: analysis and management*. St Louis (MO): Facts & Comparisons; 2004.
3. Tatro DS, editor. *Drug interaction facts*. St Louis (MO): Facts & Comparisons; 2004.

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## 2004 Canadian Investigational and Special Access Drug List

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The content of each entry in the list includes generic name, strength or concentration, dosage form, pharmacology and therapeutic use, trade and code names, source (manufacturer or distributor), and comments.

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