

## **Guidelines for Antithrombotic Therapy.**

Hirsh J. BC Decker Inc., Hamilton, Ontario, 1999.  
Softcover, 72 pages.

This monograph is a summary of the recommendations for antithrombotic therapy that were published by the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) in November 1998 (in a supplement to *Chest* 114[5]). It provides an abbreviated review of all anticoagulants and antiplatelet agents, as well as recommendations for their use in all of the common thromboembolic disorders. Specific chapters cover various conditions associated with thrombosis (such as atrial fibrillation and treatment of deep vein thrombosis), and the recommendations for antithrombotic management of each disorder are summarized in a table at the end of the relevant chapter for quick and easy reference.

Although the information in this monograph will certainly be invaluable for hospital pharmacists, I consider this a potentially useful reference for community pharmacists as well. Specific information is provided on choice of drugs and dosage regimens for various indications. Particularly useful are the guidelines on prevention of deep vein thrombosis and choice of an agent for prophylaxis in various situations, target anticoagulation levels of warfarin for different indications, and indications for combined treatment with antiplatelet and anticoagulant drugs. All of the

recommendations for antithrombotic agents are graded according to the level of supporting scientific evidence and the strength of the recommendation with regard to risk and benefit of treatment.

An important limitation of this monograph is that its recommendations date from 1998, whereas standards of practice may have since changed as a result of new evidence from ongoing research. Thus, the onus is on the reader to keep abreast of the recent scientific literature to confirm the validity of the recommendations and the drug dosing regimens. In addition, the monograph lacks both a detailed review of the clinical trial evidence and references, for which the reader must refer to the full report of the ACCP recommendations.

Overall, this monograph is an attractive item for the white-coat pockets of clinical pharmacists and pharmacy students.

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