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Book review

Drug Therapy in Rheumatology. Ed. Sanford H Roth. Pp. 239. £23.50. PSG Publishing Company: Littleton, Massachusetts. 1985.

This text aims to provide a structured, organised guide to the use of drugs for the treatment of rheumatic disorders. The book comprises five chapters by different authors. The longest (66 pages) by Dr Calabro is an excellent, well illustrated review of the diagnosis and management of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and the seronegative spondyloarthropathies. The other chapters include an extensive review of the pharmacology of antirheumatic drugs and a very readable introduction reviewing the various forms of rheumatic diseases and the possible factors such as HLE typing that may affect treatment. Dr Huskisson, the only English author, provides a sound practical framework on

which to base drug prescribing for patients. These four chapters are then used in the final chapter as a basis for an orderly approach to treatment.

The editor stresses 'that answers sought for effective pharmacotherapy of the major rheumatic diseases will not be found quickly and simply' in this book and it is certainly not a glorified formulary for quick reference.

Although orientated to the American reader, this book is recommended reading to those rheumatologists who are seeking a more rational approach to prescribing for their patients, and to the members of the pharmaceutical industry who produce the drugs themselves.

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