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A. Ross Lorimer · W. Stewart Hillis

Cardiovascular Disease

With 19 Figures

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A. Ross Lorimer, MD, FRCP
Consultant Cardiologist, Royal Infirmary,
Castle Street, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

W. Stewart Hillis, MB, FRCP
Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology
and Consultant Cardiologist,
Stobhill General Hospital,
Glasgow G21 2UW, Scotland, UK

Series Editor:

John L. Reid, MD, FRCP
Regius Professor of Materia Medica,
University of Glasgow, Scotland

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Series Editor's Foreword

'Cardiovascular Disease' is the fourth monograph in the series on management and treatment in major clinical subspecialties or patient groups. Each book is complete in its own right and has been prepared by practising physicians with specialist experience and a particular interest in treatment and management. The series has been prepared to fill a gap between standard textbooks of medicine and therapeutics and research reviews, symposia and original articles in specialist fields. The volumes aim to give authoritative, up-to-date advice on treatment and management which will be of use to both specialists and non-specialists and allow recent advances and developments to be seen in the context of contemporary clinical practice. The first three volumes dealt respectively with gastrointestinal diseases, rheumatic diseases and treatment in the elderly. Cardiovascular disease covers the range of common diseases affecting the heart and the circulation. In view of the importance of coronary heart disease as a cause of death and morbidity a substantial part of the book is devoted to description of the factors associated with coronary artery disease (hyperlipidaemia and hypertension) and their management by drug and non-drug means. A further five chapters are devoted to the clinical syndromes associated with coronary heart disease and their management. These not only consider acute 'in hospital' management, including surgery, but also address epidemiological questions, including approaches to secondary prevention of myocardial infarction. Other chapters deal with cardiac arrhythmias and the modern management of heart failure. In both of these areas, particularly the latter, there have been recent major therapeutic developments. Further chapters review the present status of rheumatic heart disease with regard to both acute rheumatic fever and chronic valvular disease and infective endocarditis. Finally cardiomyopathies and cor pulmonale (including pulmonary thromboembolism) complete the volume.

The authors are both active practising cardiologists in Glasgow. Dr. Lorimer is a consultant physician at the Royal Infirmary and honorary lecturer in the Department of Medical Cardiology in the University of Glasgow while Dr. Hillis is Pollok Senior Lecturer in the Department of Materia Medica and Therapeutics and honorary consultant cardiologist at Stobhill Hospital and the Royal Infirmary. They are well qualified to cover aspects of pathogenesis, investigation, management and drug treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease. The volume should provide not only a useful guide to treatment but also an easy reference to drug interactions and adverse reactions. It should be particularly useful for the young hospital doctor in training for higher qualifications and the more experienced general physician or general practitioner who wishes to keep up to date with developments in cardiology.

Glasgow, August 1985

John L. Reid

Preface

Cardiovascular disease ranks high as a worldwide cause of death and disability. Advances in treatment have emphasised the need for an appreciation of basic aspects of pharmacokinetics and their modification by disease.

Treatment of established disorders is important but there are now increasing areas where prevention has become feasible. For this reason this book presents our views as clinical cardiologists on aspects of primary prevention in terms of lipid disorders as well as reviewing and outlining the management of many cardiac problems. Sudden death has been considered both as a primary event and as a sequel to acute myocardial infarction. There are now exciting areas of possible myocardial salvage after infarction and these have been dealt with in detail.

The management of angina and heart failure has changed dramatically in recent years. The advent of new therapeutic strategies involving β -adrenoceptor blocking compounds, calcium channel blockers and now converting enzyme inhibitors has resulted in major changes in our pharmacological approach to these problems.

The considerable developments in cardiac surgery have made close co-operation between physician and surgeon even more important. The timing of surgery and the rate of medical therapy before and after operation have been considered in detail and the need for a joint approach emphasised.

Rheumatic heart disease is less prevalent but remains a considerable clinical problem and we have felt it important to review both its management and that of complications such as infective endocarditis. The management of some rarer conditions such as the cardiomyopathies has also been included since current treatment requires detailed consideration of the clinical pharmacology of various treatment regimes.

In each chapter we have tried to define pathophysiology with an emphasis on a logical pharmacological approach.

We regard this book as suitable for registrars anxious for background information in pharmacology, as an update for practising physicians and as a useful aid for primary care practitioners looking for a text to provide helpful background to the logical treatment of cardiovascular disease.

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A. Ross Lorimer
W. Stewart Hillis

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