

# **Handbook of Pediatric Cardiovascular Drugs**

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# **Handbook of Pediatric Cardiovascular Drugs**

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(Eds.)**

 **Springer**

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# Foreword

The treatment of pediatric patients with congenital or acquired cardiac disease remains an important challenge for physicians in charge of these often precarious patients. It is well known that most of the drugs used in this field are either unlicensed or off-label. We have to face a very heterogeneous group of patients not only in pathologies but also in size, weight, and metabolism, particularly when we face problems in premature or newborns. Not only have very few studies offered evidenced-based data for our pediatric patients, but even simple pharmacokinetics data are lacking. This is, to a great extent, caused by the difficulties of conducting research in pediatrics, particularly large-scale double-blinded randomized and controlled studies. This may change in the close future as authorities throughout the world have clearly stated that they will support this type of study. However, for the time being, we must rely on the available pharmacological knowledge, on the rare clinical trials and case series, and, most of all, on the international cumulative clinical experience.

This comprehensive handbook on pediatric cardiovascular drugs offers a wide source of useful information for specialists in different fields, such as pediatricians, pediatric cardiologists, intensivists, neonatologists, anesthesiologists, cardiac surgeons, nurses, and others involved in the management of cardiovascular disorders. It presents the updated knowledge and experience regarding the use of the currently available therapies for pediatric patients with primary or secondary cardiac and circulatory disorders. All authors are recognized as worldwide experts in their field. This book will be an important tool for professionals in charge of these patients, instrumental in choosing the most appropriate drugs and the most appropriate dosages with minimal side effects. It may also lead to underlining the need of formal pharmacokinetics and adequate studies for our very special patients.

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# Preface

Our main purpose in editing this book is to provide the health care practitioner with general clinical practical guidelines regarding the use of pediatric cardiovascular drugs. We also intend to provide an overview of basic pediatric cardiovascular principles. We realize the need for a pocket reference handbook that is tailored to meet the daily challenges of practitioners that care for pediatric cardiac patients.

This book is not intended to provide an extensive review of all cardiovascular medications, but hopefully, this reference will compile the necessary information required to assist the practitioner involved in the care of pediatric patients with heart disease in their day-to-day practice.

We expect this manual to be helpful for physicians, fellows, residents, pharmacists, and nurses in the multiple disciplines of anesthesia, critical care, cardiology, and cardiac intensive care.

## Notice

The authors, editors, and publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that the information and dosages set forth in this handbook are accurate and in accordance with current recommendations at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, evolving information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, changes in drug labeling, as well as clinical experience, the reader is advised to consult the most current product information or other standard references for more detailed information, including changes in indication, dosage, interactions, and any added warnings or precautions prior to drug use. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be responsible for the continued currency of the information in the book or for any omissions, errors, or the application of this information, or for any consequences from application of the information in this book and make no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the currency, completeness, or accuracy of the contents. Therefore, the author(s) or editors shall have no liability to any person or entity with regard to claims, losses, or damage caused, or alleged to be caused, directly or indirectly, by the use of information contained in this handbook. The application of the information in a clinical situation is the professional responsibility of the practitioner.

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