

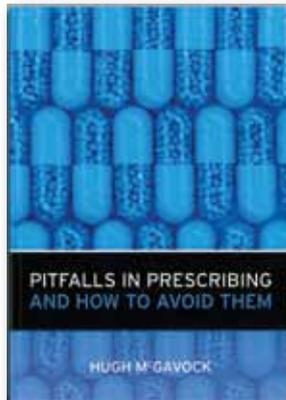
## Pitfalls in Prescribing and How to Avoid Them

Hugh McGavock

United Kingdom:  
Radcliffe Publishing,  
2009

ISBN 13 978 1 84619 332 3,  
\$34.00

Pitfalls in Prescribing and How to Avoid Them is a small volume book of 141 pages that is easy to read. It provides clinically useful guidance and information about commonly occurring problems with prescribed medications. Drug interactions and pharmacokinetics are very well explained throughout. I was particularly impressed by the author's emphasis for frequently faced scenarios



in primary health care: grapefruit juice as a cause of drug toxicity, increased potency of warfarin due to interacting medications and amiodarone, just to name a few. There is also an excellent table on monitoring for adverse effects of drug treatments.

It is unfortunate that the author often refers to the British National Formulary for details, as the British National Formulary is not widely used in Australia. There is however, also some reference to international data. The key messages from this book are very important, and they are pointed out in a very clear and structured way.

The clinical quizzes at the end of the book are an enjoyable and effective method for readers to check up how much of the information provided has been retained and understood. These quizzes

are very helpful for primary health care providers, trainees of medical specialties, medical students and any member of the medical profession.

Pitfalls in Prescribing and How to Avoid Them is a concise book that highlights how common drug prescribing adverse effects are. The explanations of drug interactions are easy to understand and very well phrased.

I recommend this book as a good review tool for drug prescribing related problems, not only for medical practitioners working in general practice, but also in emergency medicine. It raises awareness to any general practitioners how important caution with medication is and how common mistakes with prescription drugs are avoided.

Heinz Tilenius  
Melbourne, Vic

## The Art of General Practice

John Murtagh

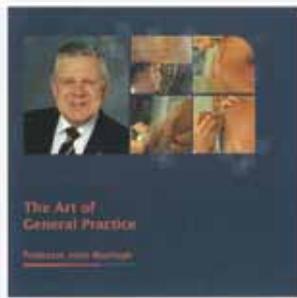
Australia: medi+WORLD  
International

Available from [www.mediworld.com.au](http://www.mediworld.com.au)  
\$165.00

This DVD, The Art of General Practice by Professor John Murtagh, is a pleasure to view, in particular the sections involving the upper and lower limbs and the back.

The Art of General Practice is very relevant, informative and interesting. The format is clear, with the author logically and systematically working from proximal to distal in each section.

The clinical focus on common general practice presentations makes this DVD very relevant to general practice training. Professor Murtagh uses basic and universal examination techniques



that can be used for all clinical examinations.

The importance of all components of clinical assessment, including history, examination and investigation, was made clear throughout the viewing. While it would appear a difficult task to encapsulate so much information into a short running DVD, Professor Murtagh is able to keep his points concise and relevant. The content is

obviously not comprehensive, but nor is it meant to be. Its focus is clearly on common ailments in general practice, rather than exhaustive lists, and it does this well.

John Murtagh is renowned in general practice training circles as a doyen of general practice education. His years of experience are obvious in The Art of General Practice, and are an important resource for trainees. The DVD would be very relevant to general practice registrars in

particular, who are trying to make the transition from hospital based patient presentations to general practice patient presentations. The skills taught in The Art of General Practice, for example involving sports injuries and joint disorders, are ones which are often poorly taught during hospital based medical training and are difficult skills to study from a textbook alone. In this way, The Art of General Practice fills an important gap, which currently exists. They could be combined well with relevant chapters from John Murtagh's 'General Practice' textbook, or could be used by training providers in combination with small group tutorials.

Of course, all of this would also be relevant for use by medical students during their general practice rotations.

Deepa Daniel  
Melbourne, Vic