

Book Review

Pesticide Dermatoses

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A review by Dirk M. Elston, MD

Although billed as a review of pesticide-induced dermatoses, this text also reviews broader topics of interest to dermatologists. The review of methods for testing the irritation and sensitization potential of chemicals should be of interest to physicians whose practice involves contact dermatitis; the discussion of epidemiology is a good primer for those who contribute to public health efforts; and the appendices include helpful questionnaires, a table of patch test concentrations, and cross-sectional data on skin disease prevalence in the United States.

Sections on reported skin reactions to pesticides by use and structural category and the international experience with pesticides reactions comprise the bulk of the text. Case reports, case series, and some prevalence studies are presented in a format that is fairly user-friendly.

The section on basic patterns in clinical dermatology is presented in a case-report format. It provides a fair overview of the topic, but the images are sometimes disappointing. In fact, images throughout the text are its weakest feature. The discussion of chloracne includes a section dedicated to histopathologic features, but other topics such as erythema multiforme and toxic epidermal necrolysis lack a discussion of histologic features. It also would be helpful if the sentence structure were more consistent. The diagnostic methods and therapy sections are well written but brief.

All in all, the text provides valuable information for those interested in epidemiology and skin disease prevention and for practicing physicians who treat contact dermatitis in an agricultural setting.