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## What is the merck manual

The Merck Manual, first published in 1899, is widely regarded as the most extensively used medical information resource globally. We firmly believe that access to health information should be a fundamental right for everyone, and that accurate and accessible medical information is essential for informed decision-making. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and share the best available medical information, fostering better collaboration between healthcare professionals and patients, and improving global healthcare outcomes. To achieve this, we provide free online versions of our manual in multiple languages, targeting professional healthcare workers and patients worldwide. ### The Merck Manual is the world's best-selling medical textbook and oldest continuously published English language medical textbook. First published in 1899, the current print edition was released in 2018 as part of the 20th Edition. Initially digital-only from 2014 to 2017, the publication returned to print with the release of the 20th Edition the following year. The Merck Manual is one of several medical textbooks published by Merck Publishing, a subsidiary of pharmaceutical company Merck Co., Inc. in the United States and Canada, and MSD (The MSD Manuals) internationally. The first edition was titled Merck's Manual of the Materia Medica, with 192 pages sold for US \$1.00. It featured three sections: Part I listed compounds thought to be therapeutic; Part II compiled symptoms, signs, and diseases with treatments; and Part III classified therapeutic agents by their method of action or drug classification. Many terms used are now considered archaic, including abasia, astasia, errhines, and rubefacients, while some agents listed were previously considered useful but are no longer standard. The original edition included remedies for indigestion, such as alcohol, arsenic, cocaine, and mercury, as well as treatments for various illnesses like anemia, diarrhea, and impotence. Notably, the manual did contain drugs still in use today for similar purposes, including digitalis for heart failure, salicylates for headache and rheumatism, nitroglycerin for cardiac angina pectoris, and bismuth salicylate for diarrhea. The Merck Manual's evolution was marked by significant changes, starting from its second edition in 1901. This version included new sections on poisons and antidotes, tables, conversion charts, and a detailed explanation of the metric system. It expanded to 282 pages, surpassing its initial edition. However, the publication schedule faced disruptions due to global events - World War I caused paper shortages for the fifth edition (1923), while the Stock Market Crash in 1934 led to delays in releasing the sixth edition. The editor of that time, Dr. M. R. Dinkelspiel, played a crucial role in organizing and restructuring the manual to discuss specific diseases, diagnosis, treatment options, and external specialists' reviews. Subsequent editions also faced challenges - World War II delayed the eighth edition until 1950, while the thirteenth edition (1977) marked the first time it was produced using magnetic tape and IBM punch cards. The Centennial Edition (17th), released in 1999, included a facsimile version of the original 1899 edition. The manual's impact extended beyond medical circles; notable figures like Admiral Richard E. Byrd and Albert Schweitzer carried it with them on expeditions to remote locations. Its dosing recommendations were also significant - unless stated otherwise, doses in the 1901 edition applied to adults only. To calculate pediatric doses, a formula was provided, which involved adding 12 to the child's age and dividing by their age. Here is a list of editions published: 1899 1901 1905 1911 1923 1934 1940 1950 1956 1961 (two printings) 1962 1963 1966 1972 1977 1982 1984 1992 (sold 2 million copies) 1999 (Centennial Edition) 2006 2011 2018 The manual is organized into organ systems, discussing major diseases within each system. It covers diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment options in a comprehensive yet concise manner, spanning about 3500 pages. The Merck Manual Professional Edition encompasses a wide array of medical topics, encompassing 24 sections that cover essential medical information. This comprehensive textbook features various resources such as drug interactions, pill identifiers, and clinical calculators to aid healthcare professionals in their daily practice. The manual is characterized by its concise yet thorough approach, updated regularly through an independent editorial board and peer reviewers, ensuring its relevance and accuracy. The Merck Manual is a pocket-size reference guide intended for medical students and healthcare professionals in training, covering symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment. It has undergone several revisions, with the first edition published in 1997 as a simplified version of the Professional manual, and later editions sold over 4 million copies. Since 2015, consumer content is available only online. The Merck Veterinary Manual has been published since 1955 for professional veterinarians and is widely used, with translations into seven languages and an online version. A joint publication between Merck and Merial released in 2007 provided a consumer-oriented version of pet health information. Merck's Materia Medica Manual: A Comprehensive Resource for Medical Professionals The Merck & Co.'s Manual of the Materia Medica is a seminal work in the field of medicine, first published in 1899. This manual provides a detailed classification of medicaments and their therapeutic indications, making it an essential reference for medical professionals. The Merck Manual has undergone several revisions, with notable editions including the 1901 edition and The Merck Manual of Geriatrics (3rd ed.). The latter, published in 2000, is a comprehensive guide to geriatric medicine, while The Merck Manual Home Health Handbook provides guidance on patient symptoms and treatment. Throughout its editions, The Merck Manual has received recognition for its excellence, including the Internet Awards and eHealthcare Leadership Awards. The manual's enduring popularity is a testament to its value as a trusted resource in the medical community. The Merck Manual of Women's and Men's Health, published in 2014, offers guidance on health issues affecting women and men. Additionally, The Merck Veterinary Manual (11th ed.), released in 2016, provides information for veterinarians. Overall, The Merck Manual remains a vital resource for medical professionals, offering accurate and reliable information on various aspects of medicine. The Merck Veterinary Manual is a widely used medical information resource first published in 1899, now known as MSD Manuals outside of the US and Canada, aimed at providing accessible current medical information to healthcare professionals and patients globally.

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