

Book Review



Proceedings from the medical workshop on pesticide-related illnesses from the international conference on pesticide exposure and health.

ANA MARIA OSORIO & LYNN R. GODMAN, 95 pp. Price: US\$ 85. Publisher: The Haworth Press, Inc. Date of Publication: 2007. Place of Publication: United States of America. ISBN: 978-0-7890-3578-3.

This 95 page book consists of 8 selected chapters including a preface. The first chapter gives a brief background to the book. Pesticides are chemical, biologic, and other types of agents used to kill or inhibit the growth of pests of economic importance. Pesticides provide benefits to human welfare by contributing to agricultural productivity, and industrial production. At the same time, pesticides have been of particular concern for health due to their biological activity. The following chapter deals with contact dermatitis in agriculture, focuses dermatitis, and urticaria secondary to various agricultural chemicals. The neurotoxicity of pesticides, gives the myriad of poisons, which are directed at pests but have demonstrable toxicity in humans.

Reproductive disorders associated with pesticide exposure, gives an overview of men and women exposed to certain pesticides at sufficient doses that may increase the risk of sperm abnormalities, decreased fertility, a deficit of male children, spontaneous abortion, birth defects, and fetal growth retardation. Carcinogenicity of agricultural pesticides in adult and children, convincingly demonstrates the carcinogenic potential of most pesticides. Surveillance for pesticide-related disease, illustrates the importance of vital records in population-based, or hospital-based disease monitoring. Managing pesticide chronic health risks: U.S. policies, provides an overview of U.S. government pesticide risk management efforts in recent years.

This reasonably priced book addresses the current status of knowledge in pesticide health effects upon the major body organ systems, including the role of pesticides in carcinogenesis, and pesticide related illnesses. All the chapters are well written by reputed authors in the field. This book will certainly aid in the ongoing effort to improve health care providers, knowledge in this topic area, particularly in the scientific community, and it is a highly recommended buy as a medical library reference book.

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Statistics

Excerpts from the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals updated November 2003.
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Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results. When possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals). Avoid relying solely on statistical hypothesis testing, such as the use of P values, which fails to convey important information about effect size. References for the design of the study and statistical methods should be to standard works when possible (with pages stated). Define statistical terms, abbreviations, and most symbols. Specify the computer software used.