Preface

Drug-induced Hepatotoxicity...A Topic Where We Don’t Know Enough!

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Editor

Americans filled 4.3 billion prescriptions and spent nearly $374 billion on medicines in 2014. Therefore, it is important that clinicians (and others) have a recognition of drug-induced hepatotoxicity. The LiverTox database maintained by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases is an important resource in this arena and will become increasingly so. As of the end of 2013, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had approved 1453 drugs, and only a handful had received approval prior to creation of the FDA in 1938. Among that handful were morphine in 1827 and aspirin in 1899.

In this issue, we attempt to cover the state-of-the-art explaining epidemiology, clinical findings, pathology, and mechanisms. There are important articles on management and the specialized situation encountered in living donor liver transplants. The final article introduces clinicians to newer experimental models of hepatotoxicity, including zebrafish and a “human on a chip.”

The contributors have done an excellent job, and I hope you enjoy their hard work.

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