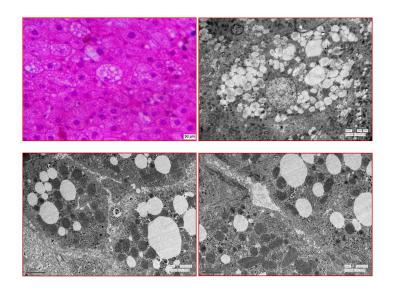
A Handbook on Hepatotoxicity



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Editors: Monika Bhadauria • Satendra Kumar Nirala Sadhana Shrivastava • Arvind Kumar Shakya • Neetu Sharma

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Contents

Chapters

•	I	Page no
1.	An Introduction to Toxicology Satendra Kumar Nirala and Monika Bhadauria	25
2.	Biochemical and Physiological Pattern of Hepatotoxicity Monika Bhadauria and Satendra Kumar Nirala	36
3.	Histological Pattern of Hepatotoxicity Monika Bhadauria and Satendra Kumar Nirala	51
4.	Xenobiotic metabolism and Hepatotoxicity Divya Bisht, Arvind Kumar Shakya and Monika Bhadauria	70
5.	Antioxidant Defence Mechanism against Hepatotoxicity Divya Bisht, Satendra Kumar Nirala and Arvind Kumar Shakya	86
6.	Acetaminophen induced Hepatotoxicity Monika Sharma, Chandra Kant Sharma, Neetu Sharma, Arvind Kumar Shakya, Sadhana Shrivastava and Bhadauria	Monika 99
7.	Acrylamide induced Hepatotoxicity Piyush Shukla and Satendra Kumar Nirala	111
8.	Aflatoxin induced Hepatotoxicity Shamli S Gupte, Sadhana Shrivastava and Monika Bhadauria	125
9.	Aspartame induced Hepatotoxicity Lipika Dash and Gita Mishra	148

10.	Carbon tetrachloride induced Hepatotoxicity Neetu Sharma, Banita Dhatwalia, Monika Sharma,	
	Monika Bhadauria and Sadhana Shrivastava	158
11.	Cyclophosphamide induced Hepatotoxicity Ankita Mukherjee, Asim Amitabh Sahu, Satendra Kumar Nirala and Monika Bhadauria	171
12.	Diethylnitrosamine induced Hepatitoxicity and Hepatocarcinogenesis Shubham Singh and Monika Bhadauria	180
	Shuonam Singh ana Monika Dhadaarta	100
13.	D-galactosamine induced Hepatotoxicity Samrat Rakshit	190
14.	Ethambutol induced Hepatotoxicity Amita Jaswal, Sadhana Shrivastava and Monika Bhadauria	200
15.	Ethanol induced Hepatotoxicity Hemeshwer Kumar Chandra	208
16.	Heavy Metal induced Hepatotoxicity: Cadmium Shahid Yousuf Ganie, Darakhshan Javaid, Syed Sanober Qo Satendra Kumar Nirala and Mohd Salim Reshi	adri, 226
17.	Heavy Metal induced Hepatotoxicity: Lead Samta Sharma, Shubham Singh, Satendra Kumar Nirala Sadhana Shrivastava	and 244
18.	Heavy Metal induced Hepatotoxicity: Mercury Pratima Dutta, Pavitra Behra, Piyush Shukla, Narottam Agrawal, Mohd Salim Reshi and Satendra Kumar Nirala	<i>Das</i> 261

	Hemeshwer Kumar Chandra, Gita Mishra, Nisha Sahu, Arvind Kumar Shakya, Piyush Shukla, Satendra Kumar	
	Nirala and Monika Bhadauria	273
20.	Isoniazid induced Hepatotoxicity	
	Nisha Sahu, Gita Mishra, Javid Ahmad Malik, Hemeshwer Ki	ımar
	Chandra, Amita Jaswal and Monika Bhadauria	295
21.	Lipopolysaccharide induced Hepatotoxicity	
	Samrat Rakshit and Satendra Kumar Nirala	304
22.	Light Metal induced Hepatotoxicity: Aluminum	
	Pavitra Behra, Gita Mishra, Narottam Das Agrawal, Pratime	
	Dutta, Satendra Kumar Nirala and Monika Bhadauria	318
23.	Light Metal induced Hepatotoxicity: Beryllium	
	Narottam Das Agrawal, Anjani Verma, Komal Singh Sun	man,
	Pavitra Behra, Pratime Dutta and Satendra Kumar Nirala	329
24.	α-Naphthylisothiocyanate induced Hepatotoxicity	
	Asim Amitabh Sahu, Ankita Mukherjee, Shubham Singh	and
	Monika Bhadauria	348
25.	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon induced Hepatotoxicity	
	Nisha Sahu	365
26.	Pyrazinamide induced Hepatotoxicity	
	Gita Mishra, Nisha Sahu, Javid Ahmad Malik, Hemeshwer	
	Kumar Chandra, Satendra Kumar Nirala and Monika	
	Bhadauria	373
27.	Rifampcin induced Hepatotoxicity	
	Gita Mishra	381

28.	Silica induced Hepatotoxicity		
	Shruti Saxena, Satendra Kumar Nirala and Sadhana		
	Srivastava	388	
29.	Thioacetamide induced Hepatotoxicity		
	Shubham Singh, Asim Amitabh Sahu, Ankita Mukherjee,	Pavitro	
	Behra, Satendra Kumar Nirala and Monika Bhadauria	402	
30.	Vanadium induced Hepatotoxicity		
	Sadhana Shrivastava and Satendra Kumar Nirala	414	

Chapter 8

Aflatoxin induced Hepatotoxicity

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Aflatoxin (AF), is a mycotoxin secreted by *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. These are naturally occurring mycotoxins and are responsible for contaminating various crops, food, nuts and dairy products. There are about 20 AF out which AFB1, B2, G1 and G2 are most prevalent and out of these four AFB1 is most lethal and is widely studied. According to IARC 1993, AFB1 is classified as class 1 carcinogen. Several studies have shown that people from tropical and sub-tropical countries are at high risk of AFB1 exposure. Exposure of AFB1 in humans causes aflatoxicosis, liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, multiple organ failure and stunted growth. Most of the countries have set a limit for AFB1 exposure to tackle the menace of AFB1 but due to lack of awareness and poor hygiene condition exposure to AFB1is unavoidable.

A brief history of Aflatoxin (AF)

AF was first discovered during the epidemic of "Turkey X Disease". In year 1960, over 1 lakh of turkey suddenly died. The