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Book Review

Riechert C., Kimbel K.H., Krieglstein G.K. *Extraokulare Nebenwirkungen lokal applizierter Ophthalmika*, Kaden Verlag, Heidelberg, 1991; 96 pp.

This book gives a summary of the systemic side effects of drugs used in the eye, i.e. locally applied as eye drops, as reported between 1976 and 1988 to the German "Arzneimittel-Kommission der deutschen Ärzteschaft" (AK d A), between 1968 and 1987 to the WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring in Uppsala (Sweden) and between 1976 and 1985 to the National Registry of Drug-Induced Ocular Side Effects in Portland (U.S.A.). The reported side effects due to various groups of ocular drugs have been counted and are summarized, but it remains unclear which reports were derived from each one of the registration centers involved and how many side effects had been reported to more than one center. The summarized side effects are followed by a short discussion, in which case reports are sometimes mentioned. It is a pity, however, that the authors omitted to make a subdivision within certain groups of drugs. For example, it is unclear for the 2454 side effects due to local beta-blocking agents how many and which adverse reactions were caused by cardio-selective beta-blockers, how many and which by non-cardioselective beta-blockers. The physician who is looking for systemic side effects due to local ocular therapy might be disappointed by the fact that the lists of adverse reactions are not related to a specified drug and that indices of drugs and reported side effects are missing. Reading of the book, however, may be recommended to anyone interested in ocular pharmacology and data on the reported side effects of ocular drugs.

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