Platelets, Drugs and Thrombosis

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Platelets,
Drugs and Thrombosis

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Anticoagulants were introduced into clinical practice over 30 years ago with the hope that they might decrease the morbidity and mortality of thromboembolic
disease. It is now apparent that anticoagulants are effective in the management of venous thromboembolism but at best are only of marginal value in the management of arterial thrombosis. The last few years have seen the development of a new approach to the treatment of arterial thromboembolism - the use of drugs which suppress platelet function. Developments in this somewhat complex field were the subject of a recent symposium on Platelets, Drugs and Thrombosis held at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The individual contributions to the symposium are published in this book.

The contributions fall into three categories. The first category deals with basic aspects of the role of platelets in thrombosis and vessel injury (chapters 1-10). The chapters in the second category discuss the pharmacology of the various platelet-active drugs which have been used clinically and experimentally and outline their effects on platelet function and experimental thrombosis (chapters 11-21). The third category is concerned with the current status of platelet-active drugs in the clinical management of thrombosis and of a variety of disorders to which thromboembolism is thought to contribute (chapters 22-33).

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