
BOOK REVIEW

Sociology of Health & Illness

[S5] H/2.2/92, H/2.2/91, H/34/128

ROHYPNOL®

Components:

FLUNITRAZEPAM 2 mg

Indications:

Tablets: sleep disturbances, whether occurring as an isolated functional disturbance or as a symptom of an underlying chronic disease.

Ampoules: pre-anaesthetic medication; induction of anaesthesia; maintenance of anaesthesia.

Dosage/Administration:

Treatment of insomnia. Adults: 1 – 2 mg; elderly patients: 0,5 – 1 mg, immediately before going to bed.

Anaesthesia:

Adults:

Premedication: 1 – 2 mg i.m.

Induction of anaesthesia: 1 – 2 mg by slow i.v. injection.

Maintenance of anaesthesia: if the amount used for inducing anaesthesia is inadequate, further small doses may be injected slowly. Children:

For premedication and induction of anaesthesia: 0,015 – 0,030 mg per kg by i.m. or slow i.v. injection.

Contra-indications:

Severe chronic hypercapnia.
Hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines.

Precautions:

General: elderly patients with organic cerebral changes. Avoid alcohol during treatment.
Pregnancy.
Discontinue breast feeding.

Packs:

Tablets 2 mg: 30's, 100's.
Ampoule pack containing:
5 ampoules with 2 mg of active ingredient in 1 ml solution;
5 ampoules with 1 ml of sterile water for injections as diluent, to be added prior to i.v. or i.m. injection.

Title:

Sociology of Health & Illness

Author:

RK Jones

Publisher:

Juta & Co (Ltd), 1990

Specifications:

494 Pages, soft cover

Price:

R69,00 exclusive of GST

Availability:

From all leading booksellers countrywide

Although this book contains a lot of valuable information, I found it to be slow going much of the time. It is written from a sociological perspective, often with vocabulary that would be more familiar to social scientists than to many medical practitioners, and came across to me as a bit "text-bookish".

Having said this, I want to emphasise that much of the material presented is important for the medical profession to be aware of and to apply.

The author not only gives a broad introduction to sociology but also goes to some length to relate his material to the practice of medicine. The book consists of 12 well set-out chapters with subheadings that allow for identification of areas of special interest. The end of each chapter has a summary, a list of important terms, and a number of self-assessment questions. One thing I particularly liked was the use of newspaper reports to highlight specific topics.

The sections I found most thought-provoking included a discussion of the process of medicalization and its

consequences, a detailed analysis of the relationship between class, occupation and socioeconomic status and morbidity, and a chapter which explores a number of different medical ideologies and discusses marginal medicine and medical sects.

In contrast, a chapter on the organization and evaluation of health care I found to be very disappointing. It has subsections titled "The Structure of the Hospital", "The Primary Health Care Team", "Health Services in South Africa", and "A Critique of Health Services". Doctors are not even mentioned in the latter 3 sections and the nurse is stated to be "the mainstay of PHC." Likewise, the final chapter called, "Sociology of Medicine: An Overview", with sections labelled, "The Exploitation of Health", and "Towards a Radical Sociology of Medicine", misses the mark by simply giving a list of recommendations (including the abolition of all profits and the breakdown of medical stratification) without an appropriate discussion of the many complex issues involved.

In conclusion, this is a book containing important information and ideas, but the manner in which it is presented is perhaps more appropriate for students of the Social Sciences than for medical practitioners.

RJ Henbest