



Diuretics Basic, Pharmacological, and Clinical Aspects Proceedings of the International Meeting on Diuretics, Sorrento, Italy, May 26-30, 1986 Developments in Nephrology

By -

Springer. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 576 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.1in. x 1.4in. The need for adequate means by which to improve urine output is very old. Even in the Scuola Salernitana, the oldest medieval medical school in Western Europe, about 1000 years ago it was taught how to improve urine output. The list of known diuretics included herbs, plants, roots, vegetables, in particular asparagus, fennel and carrot. The first diuretic drugs, however, were mercurial compounds. Thus, calomel, mercurous chloride, was initially used as a diuretic in the sixteenth century by Paracelsus, being one of the ingredients of the so-called Guys Hospital pill. But calomel had a cathartic effect so that it was replaced by organic mercurial compounds. These diuretics were clearly toxic. After the discovery of the carbonic anhydrase, in the early 1930s, and the introduction of sulfanilamide as a chemotherapeutic agent, it was observed that this drug was inhibiting carbonic anhydrase in vitro and urinary acidification in vivo thereby causing metabolic acidosis; urine output, however, appeared to increase. Subsequent studies led to the synthesis of more potent analogs, in particular acetazolamide. Studies on carbonic anhydrase inhibitors led to the synthesis of benzothiadiazides which disclosed much less...

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