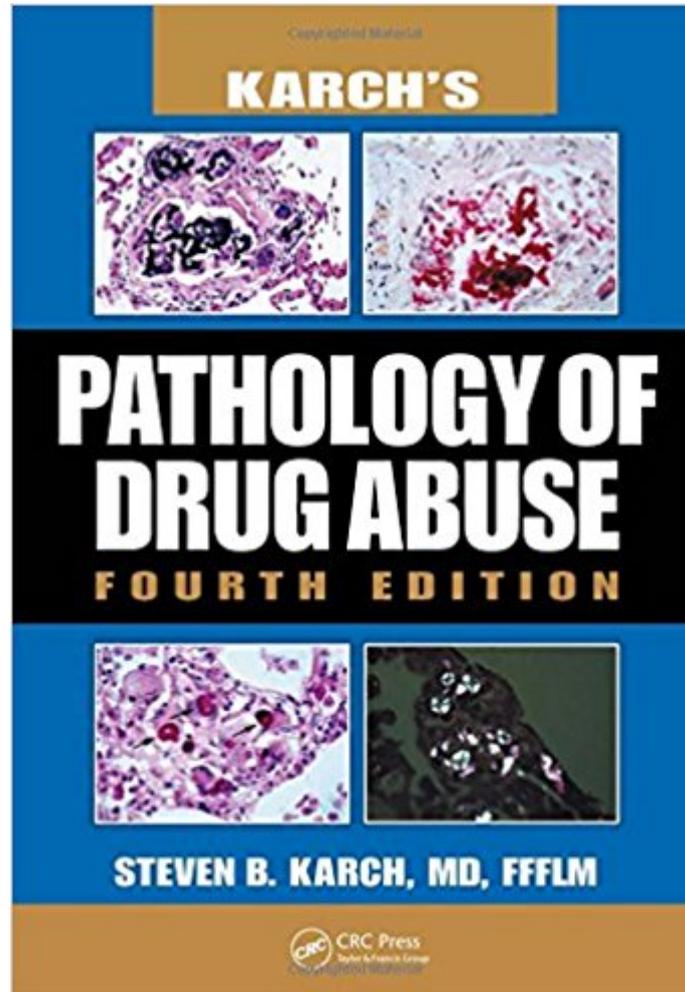


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# Karch's Pathology Of Drug Abuse, Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

Written for practitioners in the field, this critically acclaimed bestseller provides authoritative information focused on the investigation of drug-related deaths and practical approaches to the detection of drug abuse. Organized to provide forensic investigators and pathologists with ready access to the authoritative and comprehensive information they need, Karch's Pathology of Drug Abuse, Fourth Edition includes:

- 171 new color photos and microphotographs
- 46 tables of comparative information
- 2,000 new references to the literature

Authored by a World-Renowned Forensic Pathologist Steven B. Karch is a fellow in several forensic and toxicological societies and has served many years as consultant to both the legal community and the pharmaceutical industry in the United States and the United Kingdom. His bestselling resources can be found on the bookshelves of forensic experts and pathologists across the world. They include the classic Drug Abuse Handbook, and A Brief History of Cocaine, both in their second editions, available from CRC Press.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"... the best and most readable book I have seen on the subject ..."  
• Jason Payne-James in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine  
"... truly comprehensive and useful ..."  
• Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
"... the best work ever written on drug abuse."  
• Charles L. Winek, Toxicology editor, Forensic Science International  
"This edition is significant in the sense that

it adds to the knowledge of drug abuse which has come to us as a result of our mastering of DNA technology and molecular biology. | This book should be very useful to forensic toxicologists, forensic pathologists, medical examiners and law enforcement officers." •Anil Aggrawal's Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology

Consultant Cardiac Pathologist & Toxicologist, Berkeley, Cal

Without a doubt this is the most complete, well referenced book on the toxicological effects of drugs on human organs. If you have anything to do with postmortem analysis, this book is a must for your library. In my opinion this book should be mandatory reading for all persons involved in forensic pathology and toxicology. Looking forward to the 5th edition.

Authoritative well researched and sensible. A must- have resource for anyone with a requirement for a reliable reference on this topic, especially in a forensic setting. A new edition is on its way.

REFERENCE: Karch SB. Karch's pathology of drug abuse, 4th ed. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2009, 709 pp. Dr. Karch brings us the fourth edition of his indispensable text on drug abuse, 7 years after the publication of the third edition. Many of the photographs are now printed in color, but the real prize is an additional 168 pages of information. The fourth edition contains a new chapter on marijuana. Other topics are presented with new or augmented information; the chapter on solvents, for example, includes a useful section with information on proper procedures for collecting and storing specimens in cases of solvent abuse. With the fourth edition each section on an individual drug begins with a helpful display of that drug's pharmacological data, its molecular formula, molecular weight, method of metabolism, volume of distribution, elimination half-life, known drug interactions, and so on. Much of the increase in the fourth edition is due to the addition of discoveries in molecular biology and genetics that have altered our scientific understanding of the mechanisms by which drugs of abuse cause damage and death. In his Preface to the Fourth Edition, Dr. Karch summarizes the changes in forensic toxicology that have occurred in the past 20 years, specifically citing the role of genetic polymorphism in contributing to deaths related to methadone. The fourth edition includes information on deaths related to cocaine and other drugs as well, all succinctly summarized by Dr. Karch, with references for additional study by the reader. Reading the fourth edition of Karch's Pathology of Drug Abuse is an occasion for both despair and hope. The despair comes as Karch repeatedly shows that determining the cause of death in a given case is

never as simple as looking at a blood concentration of a drug to see whether it is within some published reference range for lethality. Indeed, Karch shows that the overlap between lethal and nonlethal concentrations of drugs of abuse is often so broad as to be useless, taken purely by itself. This means that those who certify causes of death must always consider a given case in its entirety to determine the cause of death for that case, an appropriate way to practice medicine, but one with no hope for easy determinations of death caused by drugs of abuse. The hope comes from the promise of a better understanding of how drugs of abuse cause deaths. Sections 1.10 on the Electrophysiology of Sudden Death in Cocaine Abusers and 5.9.7 on Methadone provide a better understanding of how these drugs cause death and why death occurs in some individuals but not others. Clearly the day is coming when testing for genetic polymorphism will occur as part of the evaluation for a death related to drugs of abuse. Karch ends his Preface by stating that the role of DNA technology and molecular biology will become ever more important in understanding the pathology of drugs of abuse. We are fortunate to have Karch's Pathology of Drug Abuse to help in that understanding.

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