

Plasma Concentration



DISPOSITION OF DRUGS



The disposition of chemicals entering the body (from C.D. Klaassen, *Casarett and Doull's Toxicology*, 5th ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996).



BIOTRANSFORMATION

Plasma concentration vs. time profile of a single dose of a drug ingested orally





BIOTRANSFORMATION

Bioavailability

Definition: the fraction of the administered dose reaching the systemic circulation

for i.v.: 100% for non i.v.: ranges from 0 to 100%

e.g. lidocaine bioavailability 35% due to destruction in gastric acid and liver metabolism

First Pass Effect

Bioavailability



PRINCIPLE

For drugs taken by routes other than the i.v. route, the extent of absorption and the bioavailability must be understood in order to determine what dose will induce the desired therapeutic effect. It will also explain why the same dose may cause a therapeutic effect by one route but a toxic or no effect by another.



Drugs appear to distribute in the body as if it were a single compartment. The magnitude of the drug's distribution is given by the apparent volume of distribution (V_d) .

Vd = Amount of drug in body ÷ Concentration in Plasma

(Apparent) Volume of Distribution: Volume into which a drug <u>appears</u> to distribute with a concentration equal to its plasma concentration

Drug concentration in beaker:

With charcoal in beaker:

Dose = 10 mg , Cp^a = 20 mg/L Apparent Yolume = 500 ml



Examples of apparent Vd's for some drugs

Drug	L/Kg	L/70 kg
Sulfisoxazole	0.16	11.2
Phenytoin	0.63	44.1
Phenobarbital	0.55	38.5
Diazepam	2.4	168
Digoxin	7	490

Elimination of drugs from the body



Elimination by the Kidney

- Excretion major
 - 1) glomerular filtration
 - glomerular structure, size constraints, protein binding
 - 2) tubular reabsorption/secretion
 - acidification/alkalinization,
 - active transport, competitive/saturable, organic acids/bases
 protoin binding
 - protein binding
- Metabolism minor

Elimination by the Liver

- Metabolism major
 - 1) Phase I and II reactions

2) Function: change a lipid soluble to more water soluble molecule to excrete in kidney

3) Possibility of active metabolites with same or different properties as parent molecule

• Biliary Secretion – active transport, 4 categories

The enterohepatic shunt



Influence of Variations in Relative Rates of Absorption and Elimination on Plasma Concentration of an Orally Administered Drug



TIME (hours)

Elimination

- Zero order: constant rate of elimination irrespective of plasma concentration.
- **First order:** rate of elimination proportional to plasma concentration. Constant *Fraction* of drug eliminated per unit time.

Rate of elimination ∝ Amount Rate of elimination = K x Amount

Zero Order Elimination Pharmacokinetics of Ethanol

- Ethanol is distributed in total body water.
- Mild intoxication at 1 mg/ml in plasma.
- How much should be ingested to reach it? Answer: 42 g or 56 ml of pure ethanol (V_dxC) Or 120 ml of a strong alcoholic drink like whiskey
- Ethanol has a constant elimination rate = 10 ml/h
- To maintain mild intoxication, at what rate must ethanol be taken now?

at 10 ml/h of pure ethanol, or 20 ml/h of drink.

Rarely Done ---> DRUNKENNES ---> Coma ---> Death

First Order Elimination

dA/dt ∝A

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 $DC/dt = -k \cdot C$

 $DA/dt = -k \cdot A$



TIME (hours)



Plasma Concentration Profile after a Single I.V. Injection

Plasma Concentratior



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Elimination of drugs from the body usually follows first order kinetics with a characteristic half-life (t1/2) and fractional rate constant (K_{el}).

First Order Elimination

• **Clearance:** volume of plasma cleared of drug per unit time.

Clearance = Rate of elimination ÷ plasma conc.

- Half-life of elimination: time for plasma conc. to decrease by half.
 - Useful in estimating:
 - time to reach steady state concentration.
 - time for plasma concentration to fall after dosing is stopped.



Total Body Clearance = $CL_{liver} + CL_{kidney} + CL_{lungs} + CL_{x}$

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Rate of elimination = $K_{el} x$ Amount in body Rate of elimination = CL x Plasma Concentration

Therefore, **K**_{el} **x Amount** = **CL x Concentration** $\mathbf{K}_{el} = \mathbf{CL}/\mathbf{V}_{d}$ $0.693/t1/2 = CL/V_d$ $t1/2 = 0.693 \text{ x V}_{d}/CL$

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The half-life of elimination of a drug (and its residence in the body) depends on its clearance and its volume of distribution

t1/2 is proportional to V_d
t1/2 is inversely proportional to CL

 $t1/2 = 0.693 \text{ x V}_{d}/CL$

Multiple dosing

• On continuous steady administration of a drug, plasma concentration will rise fast at first then more slowly and reach a plateau, where:

rate of administration = rate of elimination ie. steady state is reached.

• Therefore, at steady state:

Dose (Rate of Administration) = **clearance x plasma conc.**

Or

If you aim at a target plasma level and you know the clearance, you can calculate the dose required.

Constant Rate of Administration (i.v.)





Time



Pharmacokinetic parameters

Get equation of regression line; from it get K_{el} , C_0 , and AUC

- Volume of distribution $V_d = DOSE / C_0$
- Plasma clearance $Cl = K_{el} \cdot V_d$
- plasma half-life $t1/2 = 0.693 / K_{el}$
- Bioavailability

 $(AUC)_x / (AUC)_{iv}$



 $dC/dt = CL \times C$ \downarrow $dC = CL \times C \times dt$

But C x dt = small area under the curve. For total amount eliminated (which is the total given, or the dose, if i.v.), add all the small areas = AUC. Dose = CL x AUC



Variability in Pharmacokinetics



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The absorption, distribution and elimination of a drug are qualitatively similar in all individuals. However, for several reasons, the quantitative aspects may differ considerably. Each person must be considered individually and doses adjusted accordingly.