Pharmacokinetics

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Pharmacokinetics

Pharmacokinetics is the study of how the human body affects the drug, including: the processes of absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion - ADME).

Importance: Understanding pharmacokinetics is crucial for determining: drug dosage, timing, and potential side effects.





Key Processes of Pharmacokinetics • Absorption: How the drug enters the bloodstream.

- **Distribution**: How the drug spreads through the body's tissues.
- **Metabolism**: How the body breaks down the drug, usually in the liver.
- **Excretion**: How the drug or its metabolites are removed from the body.

Absorption

Definition: The process by which a drug passes from its site of administration into the bloodstream.

Factors Affecting Absorption: Route of administration (oral, IV, etc.) Drug formulation.

Blood flow to the absorption site. Gastric pH.



Distribution

Definition: The dispersion of a drug throughout the fluids and tissues of the body.

Factors Influencing Distribution:

Plasma protein binding.Tissue permeability.Blood flow to organs.Volume of distribution (Vd).



Metabolism

Definition: The chemical alteration of the drug in the body, often in the liver.

Phase I Reactions: Oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis (usually cytochrome P450 enzymes).

Phase II Reactions: Conjugation (glucuronidation, sulfation).

First-pass effect: Liver metabolism reduces the drug's concentration before it reaches systemic circulation



Excretion

Definition: The removal of drugs and their metabolites from the body, primarily via the kidneys.

Routes of Excretion:

Renal (urine).

Biliary (feces).

Others: sweat, saliva, exhalation.

