

Pharmacokinetics Modeling Course Introduction Pharmacokinetics



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By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:

- 1. **Define pharmacokinetics (PK)** and differentiate it from pharmacodynamics (PD).
- 2. **Explain the four ADME processes** (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion).
- 3. Understand the **importance of PK in therapy optimization** and **personalized medicine**.
- 4. Identify key **PK parameters** (e.g., AUC, half-life, clearance, volume of distribution).
- 5. Recognize **factors influencing drug disposition** (e.g., bodyweight, pharmacogenomics, organ function).





Pharmacokinetics of drugs



Pharmacokinetics (PK) & pharmacodynamics (PD)

- Pharmacokinetics is what the body does to the drug
 - study of the time course of drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion
 - drug disposition
- Pharmacodynamics is what the drug does to the body
 - desired (and adverse) effects





Tozer TN, Rowland M. Essentials of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Second edition

ADME



ADME processes determine pharmacokinetics

- Absorption
- **D**istribution
- Metabolization
- Elimination

ADME - Compartment Model

FIGURE 2-5 A drug is simultaneously absorbed into the body and eliminated from it by excretion and metabolism. The processes of absorption, excretion, and metabolism are indicated with arrows, and the compartments with ovals. The compartments represent different locations and different chemical species (color = metabolite). Metabolite elimination may occur by further metabolism (not shown) or excretion.



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Hours

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FIGURE 2-6 Time course of drug and metabolite in each of the compartments shown in Fig. 2-5. The amount in each compartment is expressed as a percentage of the dose administered. In this example, the dose is completely absorbed. At all times, the sum of the molar amounts in the five compartments equals the dose.

Therapeutic Window

- optimal dosing regime
- avoid adverse effects
- avoid ineffective therapy (efficacy)

FIGURE 1-4 When a drug is given repetitively in a fixed dose and at a fixed time interval (*arrows*), it accumulates within the body until a plateau is reached. With regimen A, therapeutic success is achieved, although not initially. With regimen B, the therapeutic objective is achieved more quickly, but the drug concentration is ultimately too high, resulting in excessive adverse effects.





https://www.icp.org.nz/drug-clearance





Pharmacokinetic Parameters

- **C**_{max}: Maximal concentration
- **T**_{max} : time of maximal concentration
- AUC : area under the curve
- **k**₁: elimination rate fitting linear part of terminal phase (log)
- $t_{1/2}$: half-life (= ln2/k_{el}) time for concentration to fall to half
- Vd: volume of distribution (= CL/k), dilution space
- **CL**: clearance (=Dose/AUC, =Dose/C(0)_{extrapolated})



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Pharmacokinetic Parameters

- Pharmacokinetic properties
 - determine route of administration
 - dose and frequency of dosing
 - onset of action
 - peak action time
 - duration of action





https://www.icp.org.nz/volume-of-distribution





https://www.icp.org.nz/the-half-life





Variability between drugs

- large differences in physico-chemical properties between compounds
- large differences in pharmacokinetic parameters



FIGURE 5-1 Drugs A (*black circle*) and B (*colored circle*) show the same initial (peak) exposure, but have different half-lives and total exposure-time profiles (AUC). Regular (cartesian) plot (*left*). Semilogarithmic plot (*right*). Doses of both drugs are the same.



FIGURE 5-2 Drugs C (*black circle*) and D (*colored circle*) have the same half-life but different initial and total exposure-time (AUC) profiles. Regular (cartesian) plot (*left*). Semilogarithmic plot (*right*). Doses of both drugs are the same.

Variability between drugs

 large variability in pharmacokinetics between drugs



FIGURE 5-8 Clearance (*ordinate*) and volume of distribution (*abscissa*) of selected acidic (*black circle*) and basic (*colored names*), as well as protein (*black triangle*), drugs vary widely. Diagonal lines on the fully logarithmic plot show the combinations of clearance and volume values with the same half-lives (hours). Note that drugs with very low clearance and very large volumes (*lower right-hand quadrant*) are uncommon; their half-lives are often too long for these drugs to be used practically in drug therapy. Note also that large protein drugs have volumes of distribution close to plasma volume (3 L) and that basic compounds tend to have larger volumes of distribution than acids. Digoxin and dutasteride are neutral compounds, while amphotericin B is both a weak acid and a weak base.