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Unravelling the Mystery of Drug Absorption

Bradbury Ray*
Department of Pharmacology, University of Humber, Canada

DESCRIPTION

Oral administration is the most common route for drug delivery, offering convenience, patient compliance, and flexibility in dosing regimens. Upon ingestion, drugs encounter the harsh environment of the gastrointestinal tract, where factors such as gastric pH, gastrointestinal motility, and intestinal permeability influence absorption kinetics. Absorption may occur via passive diffusion, facilitated transport, or active transport mechanisms, with absorption typically occurring in the small intestine due to its large surface area and rich blood supply. Parenteral routes, including intravenous, intramuscular, and subcutaneous injection, bypass the gastrointestinal tract and deliver drugs directly into the bloodstream. As such, absorption is rapid and complete, bypassing the barriers encountered during oral administration. Intravenous injection offers the most immediate and precise control over drug concentrations, making it ideal for emergency situations or drugs with low oral bioavailability. Inhalation, transdermal, and rectal routes offer alternative pathways for drug absorption, each with its unique advantages and limitations. Inhalation delivers drugs directly to the lungs, where they are rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, making it an effective route for treating respiratory conditions. Transdermal patches deliver drugs through the skin, offering sustained release and avoiding first-pass metabolism. Rectal administration provides a route for drug absorption that bypasses hepatic metabolism, offering an alternative for patients unable to tolerate oral medications. Drug absorption is influenced by a multitude of factors, including physicochemical properties of the drug, formulation characteristics, physiological factors, and patient-specific variables. Key factors influencing drug absorption include. The solubility and lipophilicity of a drug influence its ability to traverse biological membranes and enter systemic circulation. Lipophilic drugs tend to diffuse more readily across cell membranes, while hydrophilic drugs may require transporter proteins for absorption. Formulation factors such as dosage form, excipients, and drug-release profiles can impact drug absorption kinetics. Controlled-release formulations, for example, offer sustained drug delivery and prolonged therapeutic effect, while immediate-release formulations provide rapid onset of action. Physiological factors such as gastrointestinal pH, gastric emptying time, intestinal transit time, and surface area for absorption play crucial roles in determining drug absorption rates and extents. Variability in gastrointestinal physiology among individuals can lead to differences in drug absorption and pharmacokinetics. Concomitant administration of multiple drugs can influence drug absorption through mechanisms such as competition for transporters, alteration of gastric pH, or modulation of gastrointestinal motility. Drug-drug interactions can result in changes in drug concentrations, efficacy, and toxicity, highlighting the importance of medication reconciliation and monitoring. Understanding the principles of drug absorption has significant clinical implications for drug therapy, dosage optimization, and patient care. As we continue to unravel the mysteries of drug absorption through research and innovation, we pave the way for safer, more effective drug delivery strategies that meet the evolving needs of modern medicine. Drug absorption, the process by which pharmaceutical substances enter the bloodstream and reach their target sites of action, is a pivotal step in the journey of a drug through the body. Understanding the intricate mechanisms of drug absorption is essential for optimizing drug delivery, enhancing therapeutic efficacy, and minimizing adverse effects. From oral ingestion to transdermal patches, drug absorption encompasses a diverse array of pathways and considerations that shape the pharmacokinetic profile of medications.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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Corresponding author Bradbury Ray, Department of Pharmacology, University of Humber, Canada, E-mail: bradbury@gmail.com

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