

# Drug Interactions

Alena Máchalová



# Agenda

- Drug interactions (DDI) - terminology
- Pharmacokinetic DDI – examples
  - Absorption
  - Distribution
  - Metabolism
  - Elimination
- Pharmacodynamic DDI - examples
- Pharmaceutical DDI - examples
- Drug interactions with food, beverages, herbs
- Recommendation
- Summary

# Definitions and Terms

**Drug Interactions:** “The pharmacologic or clinical response to the administration of a drug combination different from that anticipated from the known effects of the two agents when given alone ”

1Tatro DS (Ed.) Drug Interaction Facts. J.B. Lippincott Co. St. Louis 1992.

Positive?

Negative?

Clinically significant

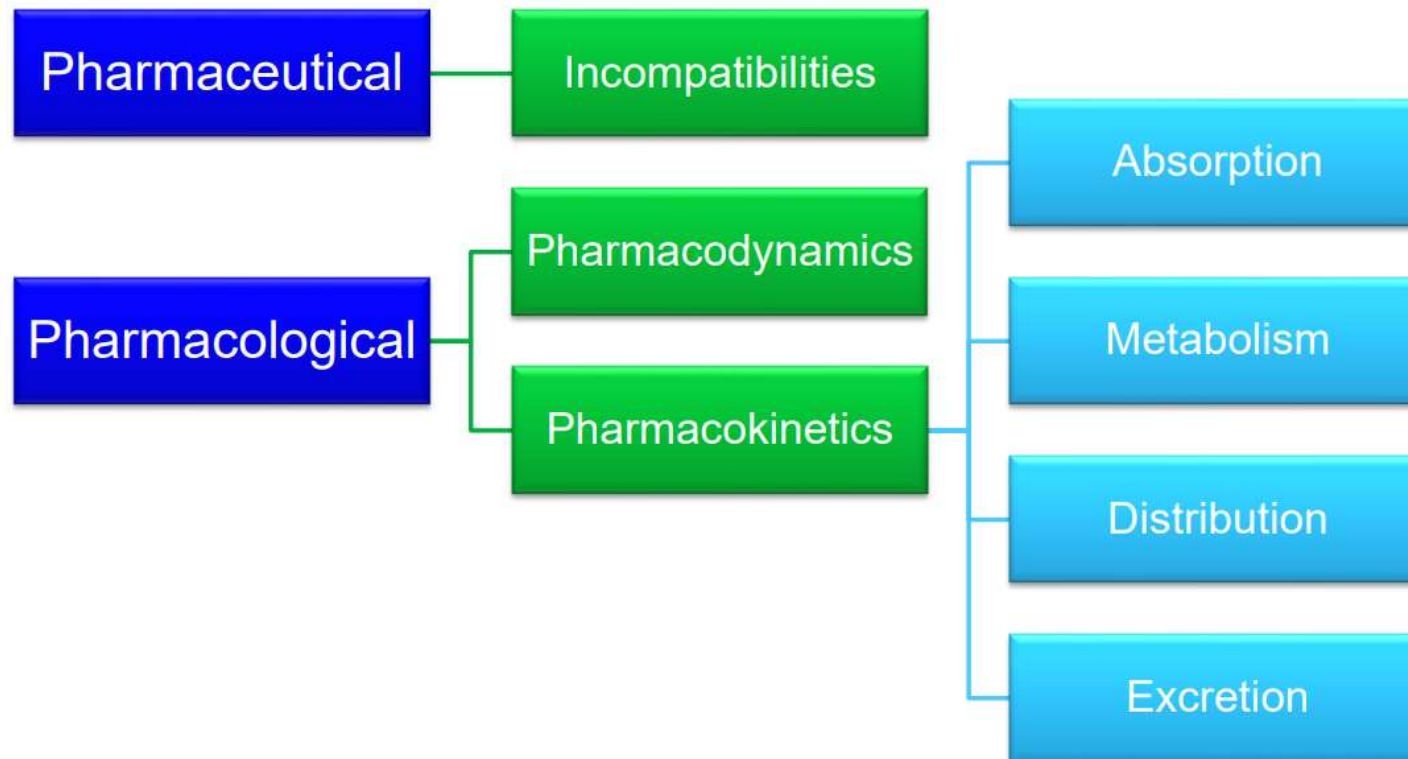
# Definition of drug-drug interaction

- Interactions of two or more different drugs that affect the action and effects of at least one of them
  - **One-sided**
    - combination of levodopa and carbidopa
    - combination of 5-fluorouracil and leucovorin
    - combination of glucocorticoids and setrons
  - **Double-sided**
    - combination of sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim

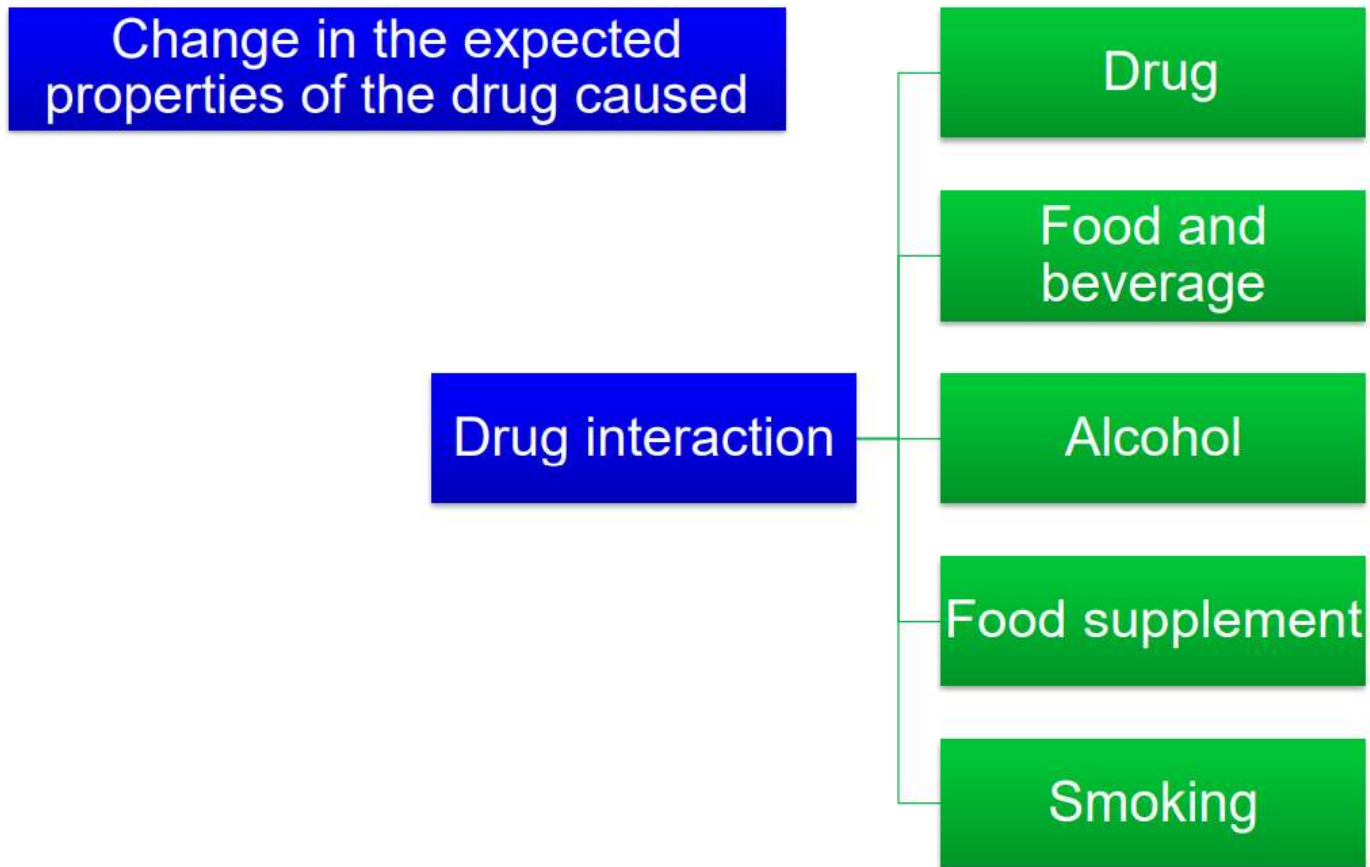
# Definition of drug-drug interaction

- **Antagonism** is the opposite effect of two or more drugs administered (NSAIDs and ACEIs, methotrexate and leucovorin, heparine and protamine)
- **Receptor antagonism** - naloxone with fentanyl
- **Synergism** - The effects are magnified many times over (opioids and benzodiazepines, sulfamethoxazole with trimethoprim, amoxiciline and gentamicine)
- **Addition** - the resulting effect corresponds to the sum of the effects of both substances (summation) (amoxicillin and clavulanic acid)
- **Potentiation** – one drug has an effect, the other one not, but enhances effect of the first one (probenecid + penicillin).

# Drug interactions



# Drug interactions



# Why are the drug interactions so important?

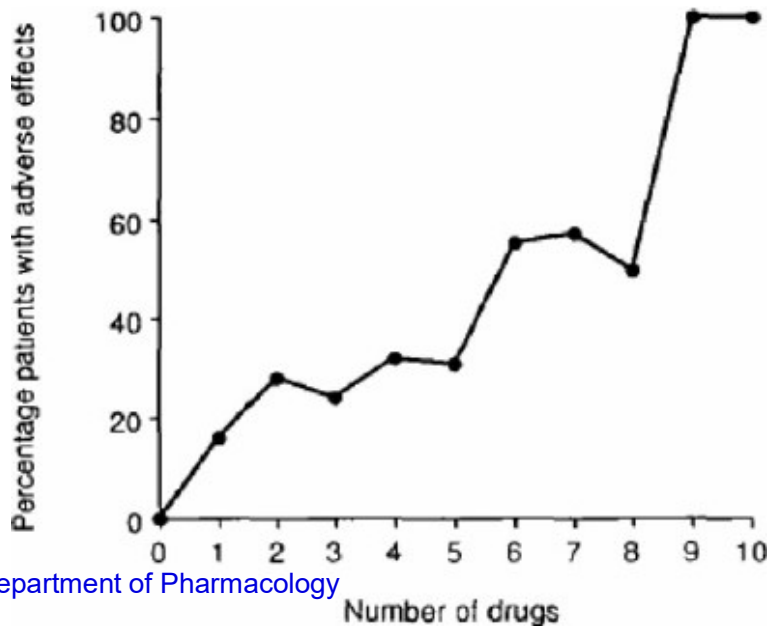
- The side effects of the drugs are 4.-6. the most common cause of death (analysis of national registers of ARs, Lazaru J., JAMA, 1998)
- Two-thirds of side effects are caused by drug interactions (US National Register Analysis, Philips KA, JAMA, 2001)
- Behind most serious interactions is the background of polymorphism in the metabolism of several dozen "problematic" drugs (analysis of serious emergencies, McNamara, Circulation, 2001)
- The risk of drug interactions increases with the number of drugs
- Frequent polypharmacy in gerontological practice



# The risk of polypharmacy

- Polypharmacy - unjustified and irrational overuse of pharmacotherapy

Drugs with a narrow therapeutic index and therapeutic range. Drugs that are metabolised via CYP3A4



Cresswell, Kathrin & Fernando, Bernard & Mckinstry, Brian & Sheikh, Aziz. (2007). Adverse drug event in the elderly. British medical bulletin. 83. 259-74. 10.1093/bmb/ldm016.

# Classifying drug interactions

|  | Risk rating | Description   | Action            |
|--|-------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>Non-relevant</b>                    | A           | Data have not demonstrated either pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic interactions between the specified agents  | No interaction    |
| <b>Minor</b>                           | B           | Data demonstrate that the specific agents may interact with each other, but there is little to no evidence of clinical concern resulting from their concomitant use                           | No action needed  |
| <b>Moderate</b><br>(use with caution)  | C           | Data demonstrate that the specific agents may interact with each other in a clinically significant manner. The benefits of concomitant use of these two medications usually outweigh the risk | Monitor therapy   |
| <b>Major</b><br>(should be avoided)    | D           | A patient-specific assessment must be conducted to determine whether the benefits of concomitant therapy outweigh the risks   | Modify regimen    |
| <b>Contraindicated</b><br>(prohibited) | X           | The risks associated with concomitant use of these agents usually outweigh the benefits   | Avoid combination |

# Significance of drug interactions

- **Desirable** (beneficial for the patient) drug combination

**potentiating drug effect and decreasing the toxicity**

- combination of:
  - cytostatics
  - analgesics
  - antihypertensives
  - ATBs
  - drugs for asthma...

# Significance of drug interactions

- **Desirable** (beneficial for the patient) - combination of the active substance suppressing/inhibiting the effect of another drug in the **treatment of intoxication/poisoning** organism

| ANTIDOTES                             |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Coumadin</b> .....                 | Vitamin K                                    |
| <b>Benzodiazepines</b> .....          | Romazicon (Flumazenil)                       |
| <b>Magnesium Sulfate</b> .....        | Calcium Gluconate                            |
| <b>Heparin</b> .....                  | Protamine Sulfate                            |
| <b>Tylenol</b> .....                  | Mucomyst                                     |
| <b>Opiates</b> .....                  | Narcotic analgesics, heroin morphine, Narcan |
| <b>Cholinergic Meds</b> .....         | Atropine, pralidoxime (2-PAM)                |
| <b>Digoxin</b> .....                  | Digiband                                     |
| <b>Acetaminophen</b> .....            | n-Acetylcysteine                             |
| <b>Iron</b> .....                     | Deferoxamine                                 |
| <b>Alcohol Withdrawal</b> .....       | Librium                                      |
| <b>Anticholinergics</b> .....         | Physostigmine                                |
| <b>Beta Blockers</b> .....            | Glucagon                                     |
| <b>Methotrexate</b> .....             | Leucovorin                                   |
| <b>Anticoagulants</b> .....           | Vitamin K, FFP                               |
| <b>Aspirin</b> .....                  | Sodium bicarbonate                           |
| <b>CCB</b> .....                      | Calcium, glucagon, insulin                   |
| <b>Cyanide</b> .....                  | Tyhydroxycobalamin, sodium thiosulfate       |
| <b>Hydrofluoric acid</b> .....        | Calcium Gluconate                            |
| <b>Insulin</b> .....                  | Glucose                                      |
| <b>Isoniazid</b> .....                | Deferoxamine                                 |
| <b>Methanol</b> .....                 | Ethanol                                      |
| <b>Ethylene glycol</b> .....          | Fomepizole, ethanol                          |
| <b>Methemoglobin</b> .....            | Methylene blue                               |
| <b>Tricyclic antidepressant</b> ..... | Sodium bicarbonate                           |

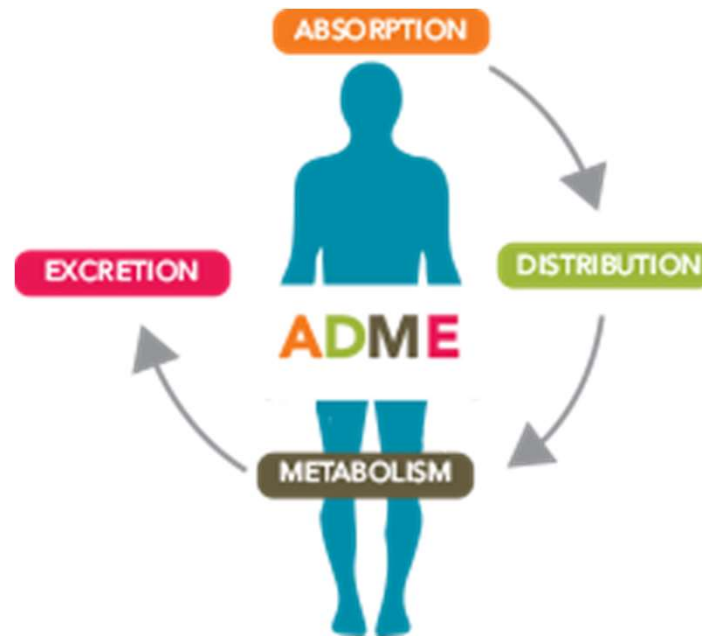


# Significance of drug interactions

- **Undesirable** (for the patient harmful, potentially dangerous)
- This may result in:
  - increase or decrease (loss) effect
  - increasing or reducing the incidence of side effects
  - other changes in effect
  - injury or even death

**Always evaluate clinical significance**

## 2. Pharmacokinetic DDIs



# Pharmacokinetic interactions - Absorption

1. altered pH
2. altered bacterial flora
3. formation of drug chelates or complexes
4. drug induced mucosal damage
5. altered GIT motility

# 1. Altered pH

- The non-ionized form of a drug is more lipid soluble and more readily absorbed from GIT than the ionized form does.

Antacids  
H2 antagonists (acidic)  
PPI



Decrease the tablet dissolution of p.o. azole antimycotics (e.g. Ketoconazole)



Therefore, these drugs must be separated by at least 2h in the time of administration of both.

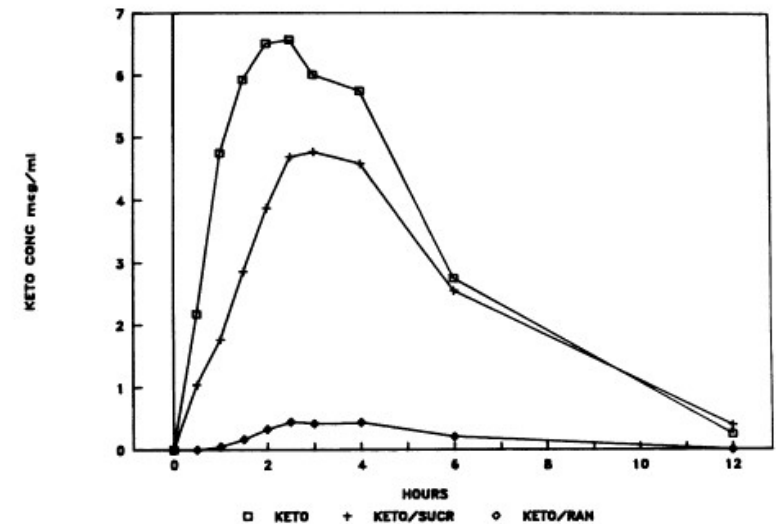


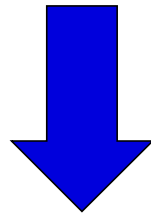
FIG. 1. Mean ketoconazole serum concentration for each study phase.

Effects of ranitidine and sucralfate on ketoconazole bioavailability. Piscitelli S., [Antimicrob Agents Chemother.](#) 1991 Sep; 35(9): 1765–1771.



## 2. Altered intestinal bacterial flora

- 40 % or more of the administered **digoxin** dose is under physiological conditions metabolized by the intestinal flora. **Antibiotics** kill a large number of the normal flora of the intestine



Increase digoxin concentration and increase its toxicity

# 3. Formation of drug chelates or complexes

## DDIs Can Occur in the GI Tract

- Sucralfate, some milk products, antacids, and oral iron preparations → Block absorption of quinolones, tetracycline, and azithromycin
- Medical coal (charcoal) → Reduces absorption of p.o. drugs (e.g. Metoprolol, delavirdine...)
- Didanosine (given as a buffered tablet) → Reduces ketoconazole absorption
- Cholestyramine → Binds raloxifene, thyroid hormone, and digoxin

# Complexation or chelation

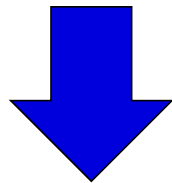
- **Tetracyclines, Quinolones** interact with **iron, calcium, magnesium, aluminium preparations** (antacid - aluminum or magnesium hydroxide)

or

**milk (Ca<sup>2+</sup>)**



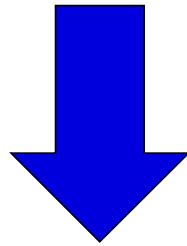
**Unabsorbable complex**



Decrease absorption of ciprofloxacin by 85% due to chelation carbo medicinalis (coal), diosmectin – reabsorption of other drugs

## 4. Drug-induced mucosal damage

**Antineoplastic agents** cyclophosphamide, vincristine, procarbazine



Inhibit absorption of several drugs such as digoxin

## 5. Altered motility

### Increased motility (diarrhea)

- Prokinetic drugs - metoclopramide, domperidone, itopride



Reduced absorption

### Decreased motility (ileus, constipation)

- Opioids, diphenoxylate, loperamide



Increase in AUC of drugs, toxicity

# Pharmacokinetic interactions - Distribution

The major plasma proteins to which most drugs bind are

**albumin** - typically binds acidic, anionic drugs

**$\alpha$ 1-acid glycoprotein** - typically favors basic drugs

Competitive protein binding by another drug will result in increase **concentration of free drug**, and that will yield more drug response

| Maximum Fraction Bound in Plasma ( $f_{max}$ ) | Fraction of Total Drug Bound in the Body | Maximum Possible Increase in Pharmacodynamic Effect Due to Complete Binding Displacement |
|--|--|--|
| 50%  | 10%                                      | 10%  |
| 90%  | 49.6%                                    | ~ two-fold   |
| 99%  | 91.5%                                    | ~ 12-fold  |



# Displaced protein binding

- Depends on the **affinity** of the drug to plasma protein. The most likely bound drugs are capable to displace others. It is clinically important if displaced drug is highly **PP binding , with LONG T ½, small Vd, narrow therapeutic range.**

- **Aspirin, Phenylbutazone, Clofibrate** displace:

Oral Anti-coagulants (Dicumarol, Warfarin)



Oral Hypoglycemics (Tolbutamide)



Bilirubin in Neonate.



Bleeding

Hypoglycemia

Jaundice & Kernicterus

**Table**

## Examples of medications that are >90% protein-bound (not inclusive)

| Category        | Medication(s)  |
|-----------------|--|
| Antibiotics     | Ceftriaxone, doxycycline, ertapenem                                  |
| Antidepressants | Duloxetine, fluoxetine, nortriptyline, sertraline                    |
| Antipsychotics  | Chlorpromazine, clozapine, haloperidol                               |
| Anxiolytics     | Chlordiazepoxide, diazepam, lorazepam                                |
| Cardiac         | Amiodarone, bumetanide, furosemide, nicardipine, verapamil, warfarin |
| Chemotherapy    | Paclitaxel, tamoxifen  |
| Diabetes        | Glipizide  |
| Pain            | Bupivacaine, buprenorphine, ibuprofen                                |
| Seizure         | Phenytoin, valproic acid   |

**Source:** Reference 1



# Distribution

- **glycoprotein P** - most important - works in tandem with CYP3A4  
(mutual substrates, **inductors and inhibitors**)

**reduced activity of P-gp**  
(present in a quarter of the population)



Increased  
absorption of drugs

- OATP (organic anion transport protein) significant system ensuring the transfer of org. anions - risk of **inhibition or competition or induction**

# Distribution

## Useful mnemonics:

### **P** glycoprotein

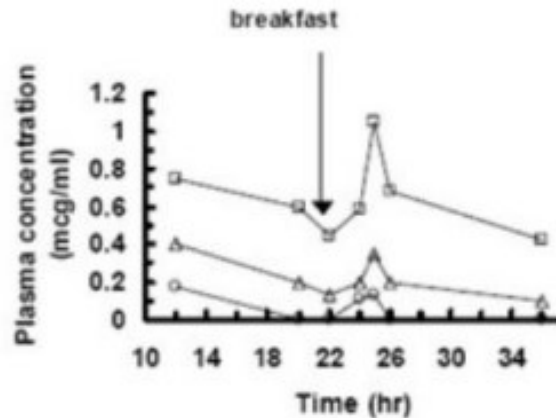
Increase **Q**uantitative **A**bsorption **V**ery **E**ffectively

- **I**traconazole
- **Q**uinidine
- **A**midarone
- **V**erapamil – most potent Pg inhibitor
- **E**rythromycin

# Distribution of drugs in relation to P-glycoprotein

| Medications that act as substrates, inhibitors or inducers of P-gp                          |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Substrate   | Inhibitors  | Inducers   |
| Cyclosporine<br>Dipyridamole<br>Digoxin<br>Diltiazem<br>Losartan<br>Quinidine<br>Tacrolimus | Amiloride<br>Amiodarone<br>Atorvastatin<br>Carvedilol<br>Cyclosporine<br>Digoxin<br>Diltiazem<br>Dipyridamole<br>Doxazosin<br>Felodipine<br>Lidocaine<br>Lovastatin<br>Nifedipine<br>Propafenone<br>Propranolol<br>Quinidine<br>Simvastatin<br>Spiroanlactone<br>Verapmil | Aspirin<br>Cyclosporine<br>Paclitaxel<br>Reserpine |

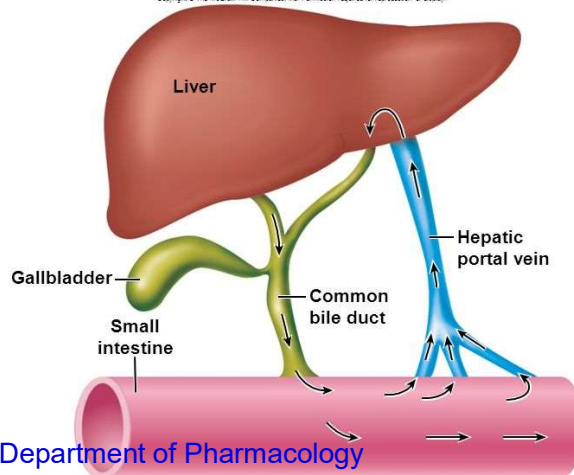
# Influence of enterohepatic recirculation



## Effect of Interruption of Enterohepatic Cycling on Drug Elimination

| <u>Condition</u>           | <u>Half-life</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Digitoxin                  | 6 days           |
| Digitoxin + cholestyramine | 4.5 days         |
| Dapsone                    | 20.5 hr          |
| Dapsone + charcoal         | 10.8 hr          |

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## EXAMPLES OF XENOBIOTICS EXCRETED INTO BILE AND SUBJECT TO ENTEROHEPATIC RECIRCULATION

| <u>Compound</u> | <u>Species in bile</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Cefoperazone    | unknown                |
| Estradiol       | conjugates             |
| Valproic acid   | glucuronide            |
| Chloramphenicol | glucuronide            |
| Digitoxin       | conjugates             |
| Spironolactone  | metabolites            |
| Imipramine      | parent and desmethyl   |

# Pharmacokinetic interactions - Metabolism

- The effect of one drug on the metabolism of the other is well documented. The liver is the major site of drug metabolism but other organs can also do e.g., WBC, skin, lung, and GIT.
- **CYP450 family** is the major metabolizing enzyme in phase I (oxidation process). Therefore, the effect of drugs on the rate of metabolism of others can involve the following examples

# CYP P450

- a key enzyme in the metabolism of xenobiotics mainly responsible for Phase I biotransformation processes occurring in the liver, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, small intestine and other organs

- **Substrates P450**

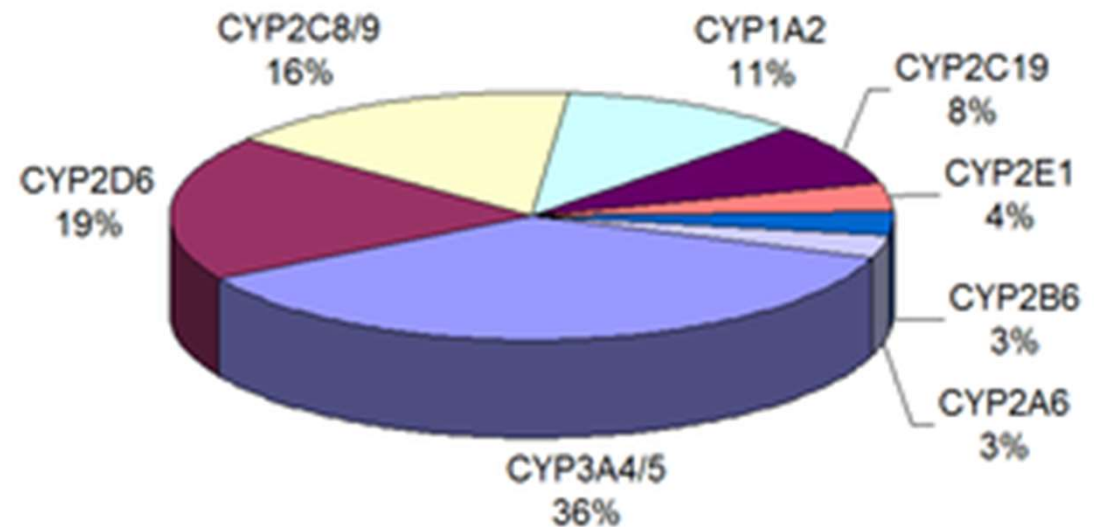
- drug metabolizing using this enzyme

- **Inducers of cytochrome P450**

- increased degradation of the drug from the organism
- subtherapeutic plasma levels of the drug
- reduce the effect of drugs

- **Inhibitors of cytochrome P450**

- accumulation of the drug in the body
- increased plasma levels
- Increased toxicity

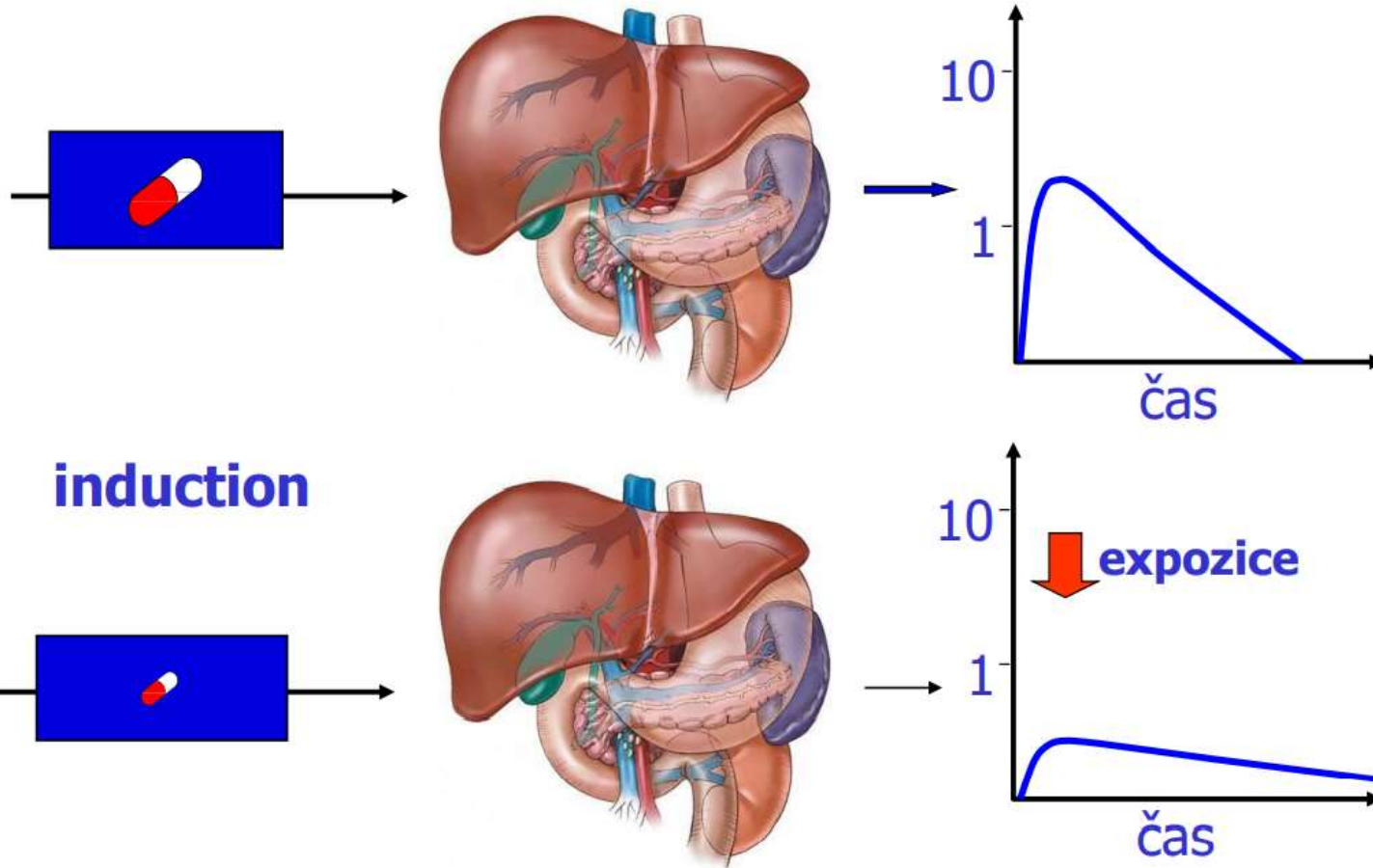


# Polymorphism of enzymes

- **slow** metabolizer - all defective alleles
- **medium** metabolizer - an intact allele
- **rapid** metabolizer - all intact allele (wild type)
- **ultrarapid** metabolizer - multiplication of a gene or a higher enzyme activity

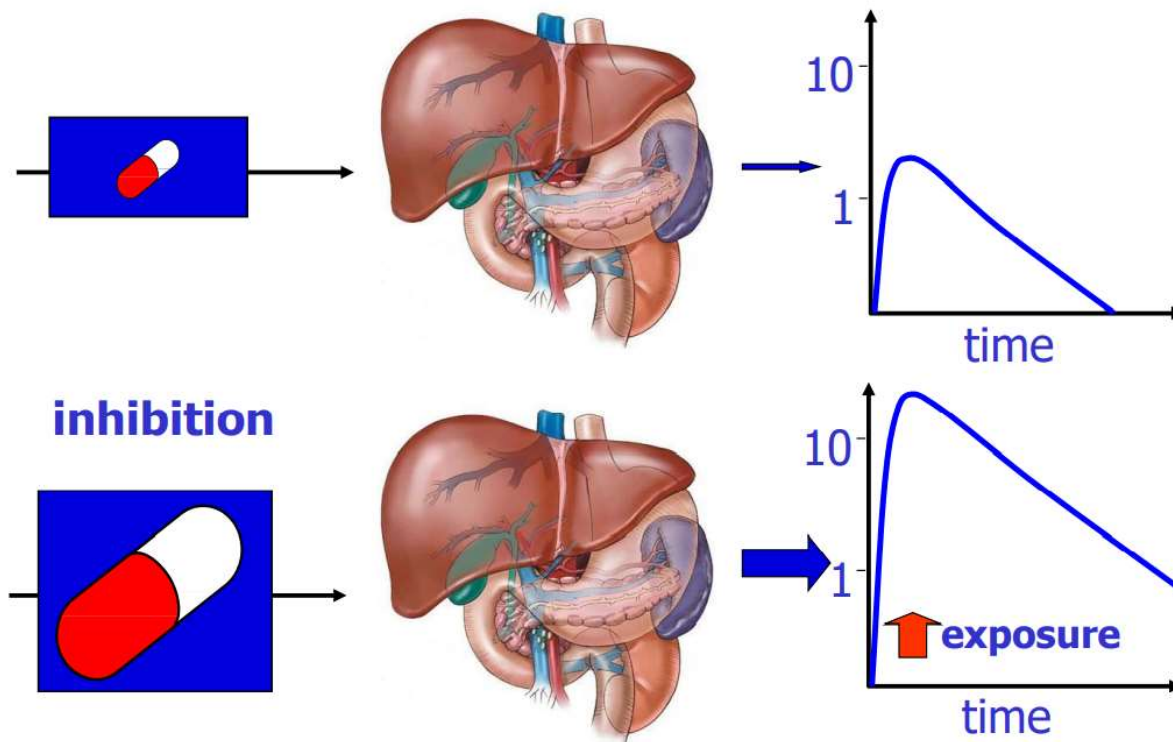
# Drug interactions - induction

- It may take seconds up to weeks in case of enzyme induction (weeks for protein synthesis), while enzyme inhibition occurs rapidly.





# Basic mechanisms - inhibition



# Mnemonics

**Barb's:** Phe**NO**Barbital  
**Funny:** Phenytoin  
**Mom:** Modafinil

**Refuses:** Rifampin  
**Greasy:** Griseofulvin  
**Carb:** Carbamazepine  
**Shakes:** St. John's wort

**Liver P450 INDUCERS**

## P450 Inhibitors

SICKFACES.COM Group

Sodium valproate  
Isoniazid  
Cimetidine  
Ketoconazole  
Fluconazole  
Alcohol..binge drinking  
Chloramphenicol  
Erythromycin  
Sulfonamides  
Ciprofloxacin  
Omeprazole  
Metronidazole  
Grapefruit juice

## P450 Inducers

CRAP GPS induce me to madness!!

Carbamazepines  
Rifampicin  
Alcohol (chronic)  
Phenytoin

Griseofulvin  
Phenobarbitone  
Sulphonylureas

## CYP450 inducers

BullShit CRAP GPS induces my rage!

Barbituates  
St. John's wort  
Carbamazepine  
Rifampin  
Alcohol (chronic)  
Phenytoin  
Griseofulvin  
Phenobarbital  
Sulfonylureas

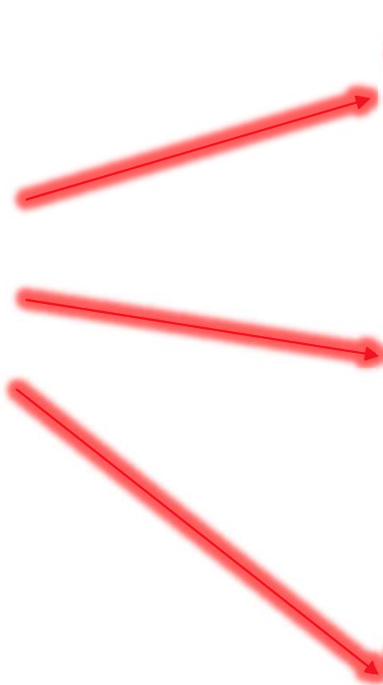
## CYP450 inhibitors

VICK'S FACE All Over GQ stops ladies in their tracks.

Valproate  
Isoniazid  
Cimetidine  
Ketoconazole  
Sulfonamides  
Fluconazole  
Alcohol (acute)  
Chloramphenicol  
Erythromycin (macrolides)  
Amiodarone  
Omeprazole  
Grapefruit juice  
Quinidine

High interindividual variability

| Enzyme          | Becomes active at | Substrates  | Inhibitors                         | Inducers                         |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>CYP 1A2</b>  | 1–3 months        | Caffeine<br>Paracetamol   | Ciprofloxacin                      | Tobacco<br>Insulin<br>Omeprazole |
| <b>CYP 2D6</b>  | Hours, days       | Amphetamines<br>Codeine<br>Flecainide<br>Lignocaine<br>Metoclopramide | Cocaine<br>Methadone<br>Ranitidine | Phenobarbitone<br>Phenytoin      |
| <b>CYP 2C9</b>  | First weeks       | Ibuprofen<br>Phenytoin  | Fluconazole<br>Sulfamethoxazole    | Rifampicin                       |
| <b>CYP 2C19</b> | First weeks       | Omeprazole<br>Phenytoin<br>Indomethacin                               | Omeprazole<br>Indomethacin         | Carbamazepine<br>Prednisone      |
| <b>CYP 3A4</b>  | First weeks       | Steroids<br>Clarithromycin<br>Midazolam                               | Fluconazole<br>Grapefruit Juice    | Phenobarbitone<br>Phenytoin      |
| <b>CYP 2E1</b>  | Hours             | Ethanol<br>Paracetamol  | disulfiram                         | Ethanol<br>Isoniazid             |

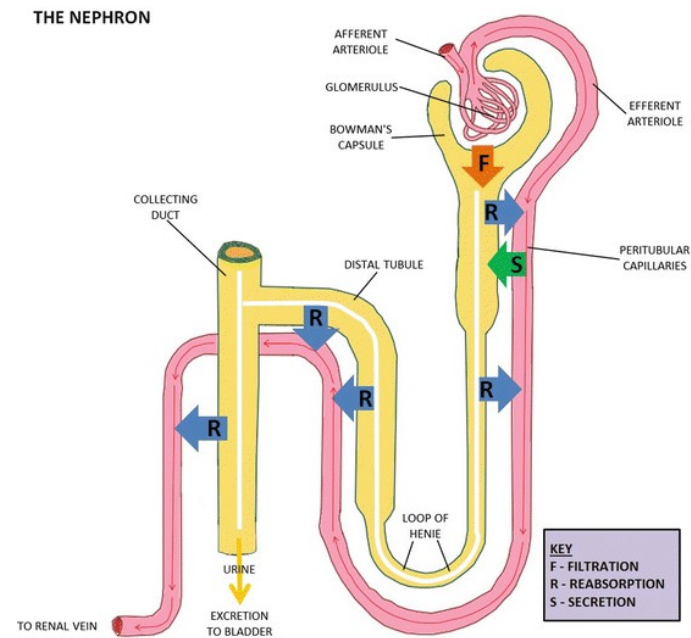


# Elimination

- **glomerular filtration** has only a limited effect on protein-bound substances
- **active tubular secretion** - active transport of strong acids and bases in the proximal tubule
- **passive tubular resorption** - is possible only for non-ionized forms
- **competition** - reduction of the capacity for excretion of drugs eliminated exclusively by the kidneys
- **urine pH** - alcalinisation / acidification

**Hepatic clearance** - Enterohepatic recirculation

Elimination by **lungs, breast milk, sweat...**



# Elimination

## Example:

co-administering **methotrexate** and

nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), probenecid (Probalan, generics), penicillins, proton pump inhibitors, vitamin C, sulfa, and some other antibiotics



**Toxicity** (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mucositis, stomatitis, esophagitis, elevated hepatic enzymes, renal failure, rash, myelosuppression (leukopenia, pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia), acute lung injury, tachycardia, hypotension, and neurologic dysfunction (depression, headache, seizures, motor dysfunction, stroke-like symptoms, encephalopathy, coma)

## Why?

Renal excretion is the major route of elimination for methotrexate (~80% ); the drug being actively secreted in the renal tubule by the general organic acid transport system. The renal clearance of methotrexate is decreased by the co- administration of (organic) acids.

## Solution?

With high dose methotrexate, routine administration of fluid and/or bicarbonate is recommended to prevent intratubular precipitation of the drug.

The renal clearance of methotrexate is correlated with endogenous creatinine clearance which may provide a guideline to dosage adjustments according to renal function and age.

# Summary of PK DDIs

| Pharmacokinetic property | Example changes with age                                       | Drug effects  | Example pharmacodynamic complication   |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Absorption               | Decreased gastric blood flow                                   | Decreased bioavailability   | Chronic salicylate toxicity (aspirin requires acidic gastric pH; decreased absorption may lead to delayed drug accumulation with daily dosing) |
|                          | Decreased gastric acid secretion, increased gastric pH         |   |  |
|                          | Prolonged gastric emptying (e.g. due to anticholinergic drugs) |   |  |
| Distribution             | Decreased muscle mass  | Volume of distribution (Vd) of fat-soluble drugs increases; Vd of water-soluble drugs decreases; increased free (non-protein bound) drug levels | Benzodiazepine accumulation in tissues with chronic use (fat-soluble); increased bleeding with warfarin use (highly protein bound)             |
|                          | Increased body fat   |   |  |
|                          | Decreased protein binding                                      |   |  |
| Metabolism               | Decreased hepatic mass   | Decreased clearance of drugs that undergo considerable first-pass metabolism (leading to increased bioavailability)                             | Beta blocker toxicity (e.g. metoprolol, propranolol)   |
|                          | Decreased hepatic blood flow                                   |   |  |
|                          | Reduced cytochrome P450 enzyme activity                        |   |  |
| Excretion                | Decreased renal blood flow                                     | Reduced drug clearance  | Digoxin toxicity (narrow therapeutic index, primarily renally excreted)  |
|                          | Decreased glomerular filtration rate (GFR)                     |   |  |
|                          | Decreased tubular secretion                                    |   |  |

[emDOCs.net](http://emDOCs.net) – Emergency Medicine Education  
 Common ED Medication Errors: Polypharmacy - [emDOCs.net](http://emDOCs.net) -  
 Emergency Medicine Education

# Pharmacodynamics drug interactions

= alteration of the drug action without change in its serum concentration by pharmacokinetic factors.

Additive effect :  $1 + 1 = 2$   
Synergistic effect :  $1 + 1 > 2$   
Potentiation effect :  $1 + 0 = 2$   
Antagonism :  $1 - 1 = 0$



# Receptor antagonism

Opioids x naloxone

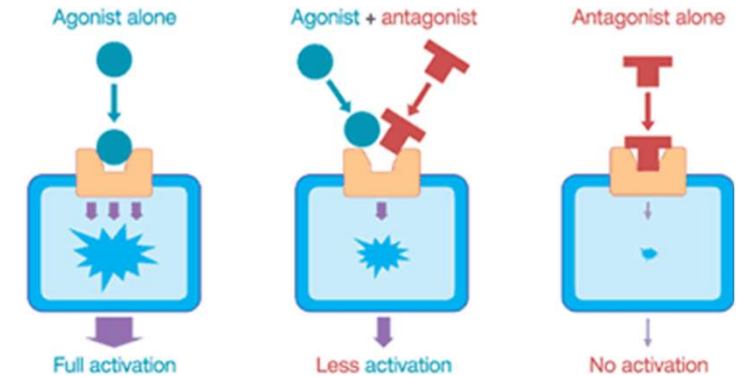
BDZ x flumazenil

Tubocurarium x neostygmine

## Agonists and Antagonists

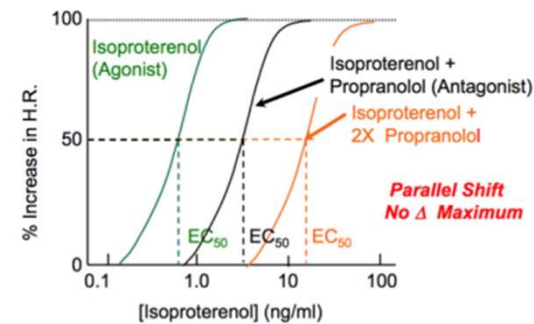
**Agonists** Drugs that occupy receptors and activate them.

**Antagonists** Drugs that occupy receptors but do not activate them. Antagonists block receptor activation by agonists.



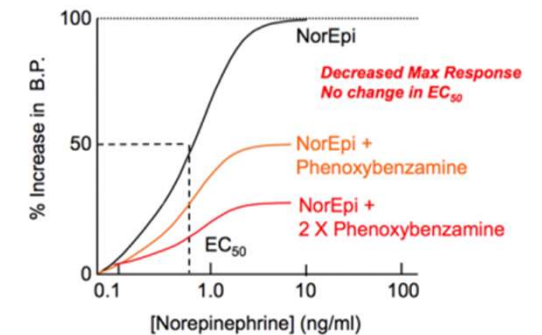
**A**

### Competitive Inhibition



**B**

### Noncompetitive Inhibition





# Opposing or antagonistic interactions

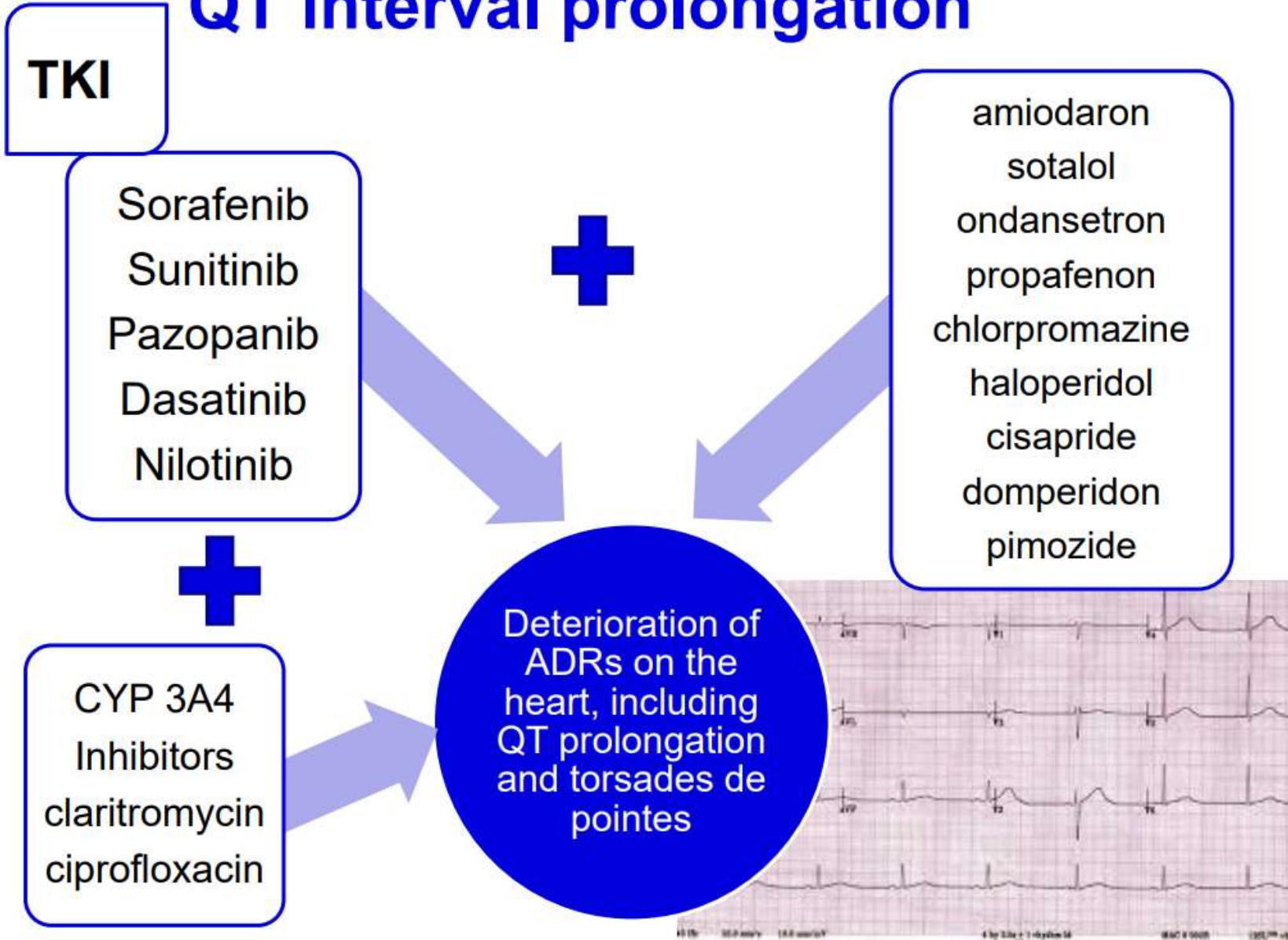
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| Drug affected        | Interacting drugs                                     | Results of interaction           |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Anticoagulants       | Vitamin K   | Anticoagulant effects opposed    |
| Carbenoxolone        | Spironolactone  | Ulcer-healing effects opposed    |
| Hypoglycaemic agents | Glucocorticoids                                       | Hypoglycaemic effects opposed    |
| Hypnotic drugs       | Caffeine  | Hypnosis opposed                 |
| Levodopa             | Antipsychotics (those with Parkinsonian side effects) | Antiparkinsonian effects opposed |

# Pharmacodynamics drug interactions

| Drugs   | Result of interaction   |
|---|---|
| Anticholinergics + anticholinergics (anti-parkinsonian agents, butyrophenones, phenothiazines, tricyclic antidepressants, etc.) | Increased anticholinergic effects; heat stroke in hot and humid conditions; adynamic ileus; toxic psychoses |
| Antihypertensives + drugs causing hypotension (anti-anginals, vasodilators, phenothiazines)                                     | Increased antihypertensive effects; orthostasis   |
| CNS depressants + CNS depressants (alcohol, antiemetics, antihistamines, hypnotics, etc.)                                       | Impaired psychomotor skills, reduced alertness, drowsiness, stupor, respiratory depression, coma, death     |
| QT prolonging drugs + other QT prolonging drugs (Amiodarone + Disopyramide)   | Additive prolongation of QT interval, increased risk of torsade de pointes                                  |
| Methotrexate + co-trimoxazole   | Bone marrow megaloblastosis due to folic acid antagonism  |
| Nephrotoxic drugs + nephrotoxic drugs (gentamicin or tobramycin with cefalotin (cephalothin))                                   | Increased nephrotoxicity  |
| Neuromuscular blockers + drugs with neuromuscular blocking effects (e.g. aminoglycoside antibacterials)                         | Increased neuromuscular blockade; delayed recovery, prolonged apnoea  |
| Potassium supplements + potassium-sparing diuretics (triamterene)   | Marked hyperkalaemia  |

# QT interval prolongation





# Important Drug Interactions in the Elderly

|                              | Example  | Mechanism of action  | Outcome                                     |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Drug–drug, PK                | Gatifloxacin+calcium and antacid   | Decrease in absorption of gatifloxacin                                   | Treatment failure <sup>26</sup>             |
|                              | Ciprofloxacin+olanzapine   | Ciprofloxacin inhibits CYP1A2 leading to an increase in Cp of olanzapine | Rigidity, falls                             |
| Drug–drug, PD                | Ciprofloxacin+glibenclamide  | Synergy (hypoglycaemic effect)   | Profound hypoglycaemia <sup>27</sup>        |
|                              | Anticholinergic drug+donepezil   | Antagonism   | Decreased effect of donepezil               |
| Drug–nutritional status      | Low albumin+phenytoin  | Increase in free phenytoin concentration                                 | Confusion, somnolence, ataxia <sup>28</sup> |
| Drug–herbal product          | Gingko+aspirin   | Decrease in platelet function and adhesion                               | Increased risk of bleeding <sup>29</sup>    |
| Drug–alcohol                 | Alcohol+chronic use of bromazepam  | Synergy  | Increased risk of falls                     |
| Drug–disease or drug–patient | Metoclopramide for gastric dysmotility in a patient with Parkinson’s disease | Increase in dopamine receptor blockade                                   | Worsening Parkinson’s disease <sup>30</sup> |

Cp=plasma concentration. CYP=cytochrome P450. PD=pharmacodynamic. PK=pharmacokinetic.

**Table: Examples of different types of drug interactions in elderly patients**

Louise Mallet, Anne Spinewine, Allen Huang, The challenge of managing drug interactions in elderly people, The Lancet, Volume 370, Issue 9582, 2007

# Clinically significant drug interactions

## Penicillins

Do not administer concomitantly with other **penicillins**

**Digoxin** - is metabolized by the intestinal microflora - TDM

**Oral contraceptives** - inform about the use of other contraceptive methods

## Metronidazole

**Alcohol** - disulfiram reaction

**Warfarin** - risk of bleeding, INR control, dose adjustment

**Lithium** - toxicity, do not administer simultaneously

# Clinically significant drug interactions

## Clarithromycine

**Theophylline** - risk of TDM toxicity, dose adjustment

**Carbamazepine** - choice of another ATB

**Digoxin** - TDM, dose adjustment

**Cyclosporine** - TDM, dose adjustment

**Statins** - choice of another ATB or replacement with lovastatin, pravastatin

**Oral contraceptives** - informing about the use of other contraceptives

**Warfarin** - risk of bleeding

**Midazolam** - increased sedation

# Clinically significant drug interactions

## Fluoroquinolones

**Antacids, minerals** - ↓ absorption of ATB, do not administer together

**Caffeine** - ↑ toxicity of caffeine

## Clindamycine

**Azole** antifungals

**Neuromuscular blockers**

prolongation of their effect, toxicity

# Clinically significant drug interactions

## Acetylsalicylic acid and NSAIDs

**Warfarin** - increased risk of bleeding

**ACE inhibitors, beta-blockers, sartans** - reduction of antihypertensive effect

**Furosemide** - reduction of diuretic effect

## Paracetamol

**Alcohol**

**Phenytoin, carbamazepine, isoniazid** - increased risk of hepatotoxicity









# Clinically significant drug - food interactions

- St. John's wort X immunosuppressants (tacrolimus, sirolimus, cyclosporine)
- Tyramine X MAOI
- Grapefruit juice X statins



# Drugs – food interactions

## Common Food-Drug Interactions

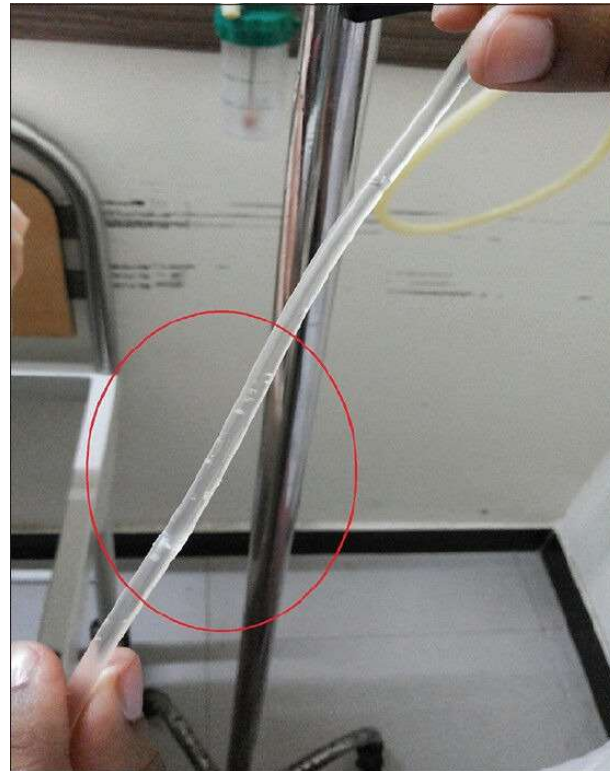
|   | Food                                | Drug   | What happens?   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|    | Kale, broccoli (vitamin K)          | <b>blood thinners</b> such as warfarin   | Foods that are rich in vitamin K can reduce the effectiveness of blood thinners.  |
|    | Grapefruit                          | <b>statins</b> such as atorvastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin   | Grapefruit can increase statin levels in your body, thereby increasing statin-related side effects.                         |
|    | Bananas (potassium)                 | <b>ACE inhibitors</b> such as captopril, enalapril and lisinopril  | ACE inhibitors increase potassium in your body. Too much potassium can cause an irregular heartbeat and heart palpitations. |
|   | Walnuts, soybean flour (high fiber) | <b>thyroid medications</b> such as levothyroxine   | High-fiber foods can prevent the body from absorbing thyroid medications.   |
|  | Dairy products (calcium)            | <b>quinolone antibiotics</b> such as ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin  | Calcium reduces the level of these antibiotics in your blood. Avoid eating dairy and calcium-fortified products alone.      |
|  | Salami, aged cheese (tyramine)      | <b>oxazolidinone antibiotics</b> (such as linezolid) and <b>MAOI-type antidepressants</b> (such as phenelzine) | Eating a tyramine-rich diet while taking certain meds can cause a sudden, dangerous increase in blood pressure.             |

# Drugs – food interactions

## Drug-Food interactions

- A drug-food interaction happens when the food you eat affects the ingredients in a medicine you are taking so the medicine cannot work the way it should.
- 1. Bisphosphonates+ Any drug      Reduced effectiveness of drug`
- 2. Benzodiazepines + grapefruit metabolism      Inhibit enzymes involved in drug
- 3. Digoxin + Oatmeal      Decreased adsorption of drug
- 4. Aspirin + Milk      Upset stomach
- 5. Acetaminophen + Alcohol      Liver damage
- 6. MAO Inhibitors + food(tyramine)      Severe headache
- 7. Tetracycline`s + calcium food      Reduced absorption of drug
- 8. Warfarin + Vitamin K      Reduced effect of drug
- 9. Celecoxib + Milk      Upset stomach
- 10. Naproxen + fatty food      Upset stomach
- 11. Oxycodon + Alcohol      Coma , asthma
- 12. Caffeine + food      Rapid heart beat

# Pharmaceutical drug interactions



# Incompatibility

- Administration of aminoglycosides and beta-lactams meeting in one of the lumens - inactivation of the free -NH<sub>2</sub> in the free aminoglycosides and -COOH in beta-lactams



do not mix in one fluid, split the route of administration, do not give in at the same time

- Amiodarone diluted in 5% glucose solution meets Norepinephrine reconstituted in saline solution - precipitation of amiodarone



dilute NE in 5% glucose solution

- Octreotide meets in one lumen with parenteral nutrition, octreotide is inactivated



separate pathways for parenteral nutrition and octreotide



# IV Drug Compatibility Chart

|                           | Acyclovir | Adrenaline | Amiodarone | Amphotericin B | Azithromycin | Calcium Gluconate | Cefepime | Cefuroxime | Dopamine | Fentanyl | Fluconazole | Furosemide | Heparin | Impipenem-Cilastatin | Insulin | Lidocaine | Linezolid | Magnesium Sulfate | Mannitol | Meropenem | Methyl Prednisolone | Metoclopramide | Midazolam | Morphine | Noradrenaline | Ondansetron | Pantoprazole | Phenytoin | Piperacillin - Tazobactam | Potassium Chloride | Sodium Bicarbonate | Vancomycin | Vasopressin | Vecuronium |   |   |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|------------|---|---|
| Acyclovir                 | C         |            |            | C              |              | I                 | C        | I          |          | C        |             | C          | C       |                      |         |           | C         | C                 |          | I         | C                   | C              |           | I        |               | I           |              |           | I                         | C                  | C                  | C          |             |            |   |   |
| Adrenaline                |           | C          | C          |                |              | C                 |          | C          | C        | C        |             | C          | C       |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           | C        | C             | C           |              | C         |                           |                    | C                  |            |             | C          | C |   |
| Amiodarone                |           | C          | C          | C              |              | C                 |          | C          | C        | C        | I           | I          | I       |                      | C       |           |           | I                 |          |           | C                   | C              |           | C        | C             | C           |              |           |                           | I                  | C                  | I          | C           | C          | C |   |
| Amphotericin B            | C         |            | C          | C              |              | I                 | I        |            | I        | C        | I           | C          | I       | I                    |         | I         | I         |                   | C        | I         | C                   | I              | I         | I        | I             |             | I            |           | I                         | I                  | I                  | I          |             | I          |   |   |
| Azithromycin              |           |            |            |                | C            |                   |          | I          |          |          |             | I          |         |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           |          |               |             | C            |           |                           |                    |                    |            |             |            |   |   |
| Calcium Gluconate         |           | C          | C          | I              |              | C                 |          |            |          |          | I           |            | C       |                      |         |           | C         |                   |          |           | I                   |                |           | C        |               |             |              |           |                           | C                  | C                  |            |             |            |   |   |
| Cefepime                  | I         |            |            | I              |              | C                 | C        |            | I        |          | C           | C          |         | C                    | C       |           |           | I                 | I        |           | C                   | I              | I         | I        | I             |             | I            |           | I                         | C                  |                    | I          |             |            |   |   |
| Cefuroxime                | C         |            | C          |                | I            |                   |          |            |          |          | I           |            |         |                      |         |           | C         |                   |          |           |                     |                |           | I        | C             |             | C            |           |                           |                    |                    |            | I           |            | C |   |
| Dopamine                  | I         | C          | C          | I              |              | I                 |          |            |          | C        | C           | I          | C       |                      | I       | C         |           |                   |          |           | C                   |                | C         | C        | C             | C           | C            | C         |                           | C                  | C                  |            |             | C          | C |   |
| Fentanyl                  |           | C          | C          | C              | I            |                   |          |            | C        |          |             | C          | C       |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                | C         | C        | C             | C           |              |           | I                         |                    | C                  |            |             |            | C |   |
| Fluconazole               | C         |            | C          | I              |              | I                 | C        | I          | C        |          |             | I          | C       | I                    |         |           |           | C                 |          |           | C                   |                | C         | C        | C             | C           |              | C         |                           | C                  | C                  |            | C           | C          | C |   |
| Furosemide                |           | C          | I          | C              | I            | C                 |          |            | I        | C        | I           |            | C       |                      |         |           | C         |                   |          |           | C                   |                | I         | I        | I             | I           | C            |           |                           | C                  | C                  |            | I           | I          | I |   |
| Heparin                   | C         | C          | I          | I              |              | C                 |          |            | C        | C        | C           | C          |         |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           | C                   | C              | C         | C        | C             | C           |              |           | I                         | C                  | C                  | C          | I           | C          | C |   |
| Impipenem-Cilastatin      | C         |            |            | I              | I            |                   | C        |            |          |          | I           |            |         | C                    |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           | I        |               |             | C            |           |                           |                    |                    | I          |             | C          |   |   |
| Insulin                   |           |            | C          |                |              | C                 |          |            | I        |          |             |            | C       | C                    |         |           |           | C                 |          |           | C                   |                |           | C        | C             | I           |              | C         |                           |                    |                    | C          | C           | C          | C |   |
| Lidocaine                 |           |            | C          | I              |              |                   |          |            | C        |          |             |            |         |                      |         |           | C         |                   |          |           |                     |                |           |          | C             |             |              |           |                           |                    |                    |            |             |            | C |   |
| Linezolid                 | C         |            |            | I              |              | C                 |          | C          | C        | C        | C           | C          | C       |                      |         |           | C         | C                 | C        | C         | C                   | C              | C         | C        | C             |             | C            |           | I                         | C                  | C                  | C          | C           | C          | C |   |
| Magnesium Sulfate         | C         |            | I          | I              |              | I                 |          |            |          |          |             |            | C       |                      |         |           |           | C                 |          |           |                     |                |           |          | C             |             |              |           |                           | C                  | C                  |            |             |            |   |   |
| Mannitol                  |           |            |            | C              |              | I                 |          |            |          |          |             |            |         |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           |          |               | C           |              | I         |                           | C                  |                    |            |             |            |   |   |
| Meropenem                 | I         |            |            | I              |              | I                 |          |            |          |          | C           | C          | C       |                      | C       |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                | C         |          | C             | C           | I            |           |                           |                    |                    |            | C           | C          | C |   |
| Methyl Prednisolone       | C         |            | C          | C              |              | C                 |          |            | C        |          |             |            | I       |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           | C        | C             | C           | I            |           |                           | C                  | I                  | C          |             |            |   |   |
| Metoclopramide            | C         |            |            | I              |              | I                 |          |            |          | C        | C           | I          | C       |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           | C                   |                |           |          | C             | C           |              |           |                           | C                  |                    |            |             |            |   |   |
| Midazolam                 |           | C          | C          | I              |              | C                 | I        | I          | C        | C        | C           | I          | C       | I                    |         | C         |           |                   |          |           | C                   |                |           |          | C             | C           |              | I         |                           |                    |                    | C          | I           | C          |   | C |
| Morphine                  | I         | C          | C          | I              | I            | I                 | C        | C          | C        | C        | C           | I          | C       |                      | C       | C         | C         |                   |          |           | C                   | C              | C         | C        |               | C           | C            |           | I                         | C                  | C                  | C          | C           |            | C |   |
| Noradrenaline             |           | C          | C          |                |              |                   |          |            | C        | C        | C           | C          | C       |                      | I       |           |           |                   |          |           | C                   |                |           | C        | C             |             |              | I         |                           |                    |                    | C          | C           |            | C | C |
| Ondansetron               | I         |            |            | I              | I            | I                 | C        | C          |          | C        | I           | C          | C       |                      |         |           | C         | C                 | C        | I         | I                   | C              |           | C        | C             |             |              |           |                           |                    | C                  | C          | I           | C          |   |   |
| Pantoprazole              |           | C          |            |                |              |                   |          |            | C        |          |             | C          |         |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           | I        | C             | I           |              |           |                           |                    |                    |            |             |            |   | C |
| Phenytoin                 |           |            |            | I              |              | I                 |          |            |          | I        | C           |            | I       |                      |         |           |           |                   |          |           |                     |                |           |          | I             |             |              |           |                           |                    |                    |            |             |            |   | I |
| Piperacillin - Tazobactam | I         |            | I          | I              | I            | C                 |          |            | C        |          | C           | C          | C       |                      |         |           | C         | C                 | C        |           |                     | C              |           | C        | C             | C           | C            |           | I                         | C                  |                    |            |             |            |   |   |
| Potassium Chloride        | C         | C          | C          | I              | I            | C                 |          |            | C        | C        |             | C          | C       |                      | C       | C         | C         | C                 |          |           | C                   | I              | C         | C        | C             | C           | C            | I         | C                         |                    |                    | C          | C           |            |   |   |
| Sodium Bicarbonate        | C         |            | I          | I              |              | C                 |          |            |          |          |             |            | C       | I                    | C       |           |           |                   |          |           | C                   |                |           | I        | C             |             | I            |           |                           | C                  | C                  |            |             | C          | C |   |
| Vancomycin                |           | C          | C          | I              |              | I                 | I        |            |          |          | C           |            | I       |                      | C       |           |           | C                 |          |           | C                   |                |           | C        | C             | C           | C            |           |                           | I                  |                    |            | C           |            |   | C |
| Vasopressin               |           | C          | C          |                |              |                   |          |            | C        |          | C           | I          | C       | C                    | C       |           |           |                   |          |           | C                   |                |           |          | C             |             |              | C         |                           |                    |                    |            |             |            |   |   |
| Vecuronium                |           | C          | C          | I              |              |                   | C        | C          | C        | C        | I           | C          |         |                      |         |           | C         |                   |          |           |                     |                |           | C        | C             | C           |              |           |                           |                    |                    |            |             | C          |   |   |

C Compatible Drugs  
I Incompatible Drugs  
 No Information Available

**Note:**  
 This table can be used for Y-site compatibility at the usual manufacturer's concentration. This table gives information for two drug combinations only. If any drug combination is found to be incompatible then, administer through different IV access site or clarify with the clinical pharmacist.

# Things to remember

- ✓ Interactions are easily forgotten when prescribing
- ✓ Interactions are difficult to remember
- ✓ PD interactions can often be predicted across drug classes
- ✓ PK often cannot be predicted – experiments needed
- ✓ Many interactions probably remain undescribed
- ✓ The chances of interaction are 60 times higher in a patient taking 5 drugs than in a patient taking 2

# References:

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**Thanks for your attention**