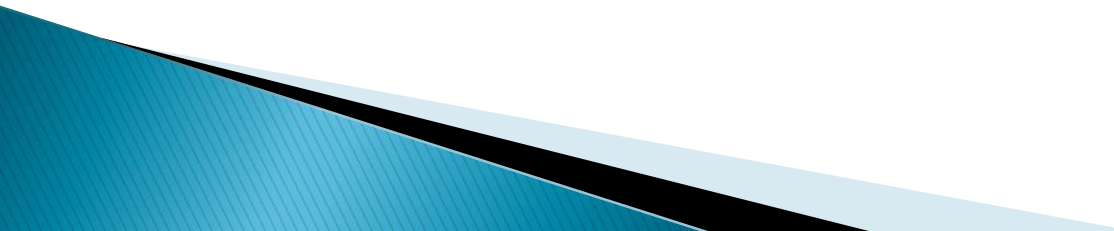# Pharmacokinetics II: Bioavailability and Distribution

Prof. Hanan Hagar

Pharmacology Department

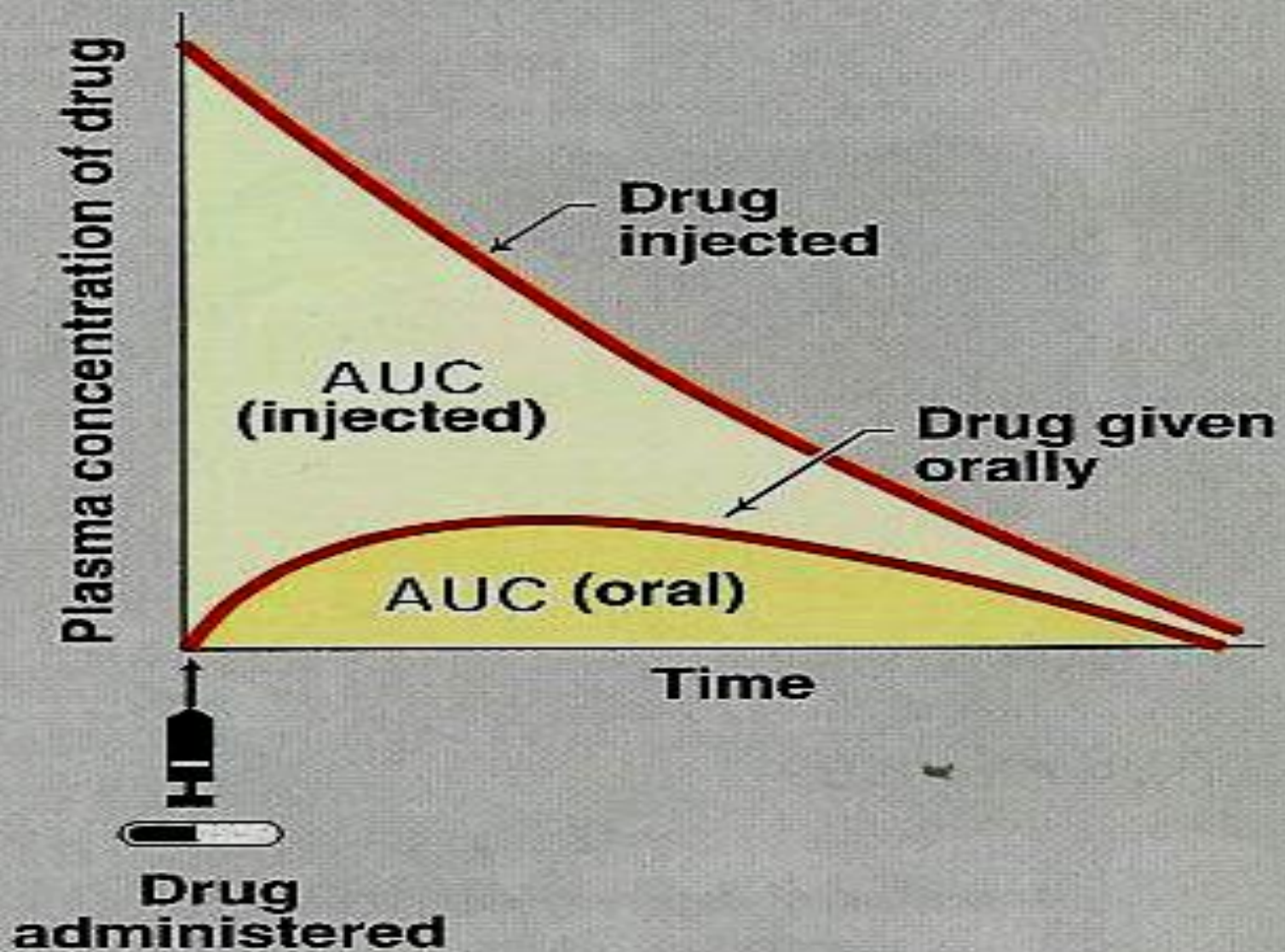*By the end of the lectures, students should be able to define the following:*

- **Major body fluid compartments**
- **Concept of compartments.**
- **Apparent volume of distribution (vd).**
- **Plasma protein binding.**
- **Tissue binding.**

Bioavailability

‣ Is the amount of unchanged drug that enters systemic circulation after administration and becomes available to produce pharmacological actions

‣ **Bioavailability (F) = $\dfrac{\text{AUC (oral)}}{\text{AUC (I.V.)}}$ X 100**

$$\text{Bioavailability} = \frac{\text{AUC oral}}{\text{AUC injected}} \times 100$$

Plasma concentration of drug

Drug injected

AUC (injected)

Drug given orally

AUC (oral)

Time

Drug administered

Bioavailability

- **I.V. provides 100% bioavailability i.e. F= 1.**
- Subcutaneous, intramuscular, oral, rectal, and other extra vascular routes of administration require that the drug be absorbed first, which can reduce bioavailability.

Absolute bioavailability

- The bioavailability of a drug after administration by any route is compared to its intravenous standard formulation.

Relative bioavailability

- is determined when two products are compared to each other, not to an intravenous standard.

- This is commonly calculated in the drug industry to determine that the generic formulation is bioequivalent to another formulation.

- e.g Tylenol (paracetamol 500 mg) compared to panadol (paracetamol 500 mg).

Relative bioavailability

- is important to get an idea of how **different formulations** or **routes of administration** differ in their bioavailability.

- dosage adjustment is required when changing formulations or routes of administration.

Bioequivalence

▸ Two pharmaceutically products are **bioequivalent** when the rate and extent of bioavailability of active ingredients in two products are the same.

Factors affecting bioavailability:

- are the same factors controlling drug absorption

- First pass effect

Distribution

Distribution

Is the process by which drugs leave blood circulation and enters the interstitium and/or the cells of the tissues.
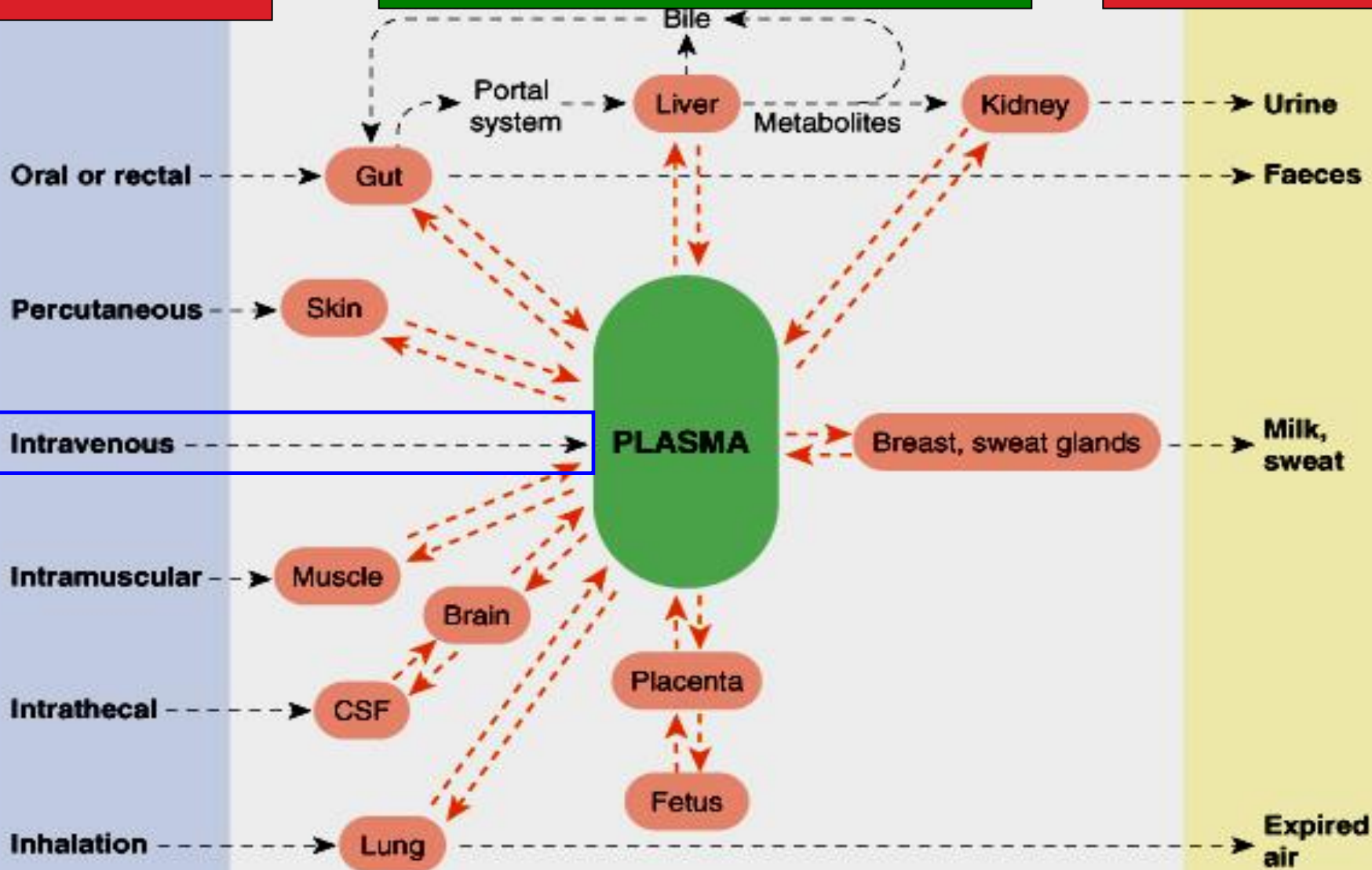
© Elsevier Ltd. Rang et al: Pharmacology 5E www.studentconsult.com
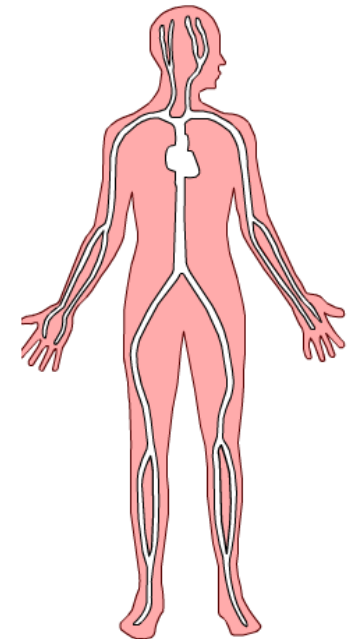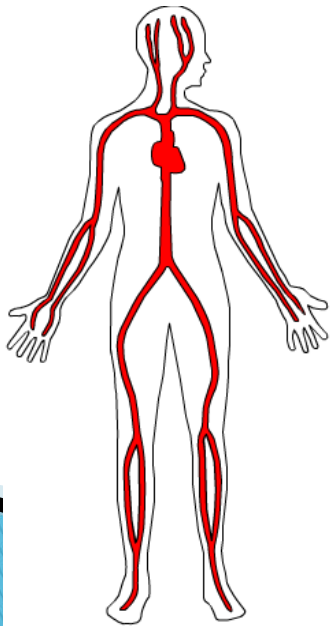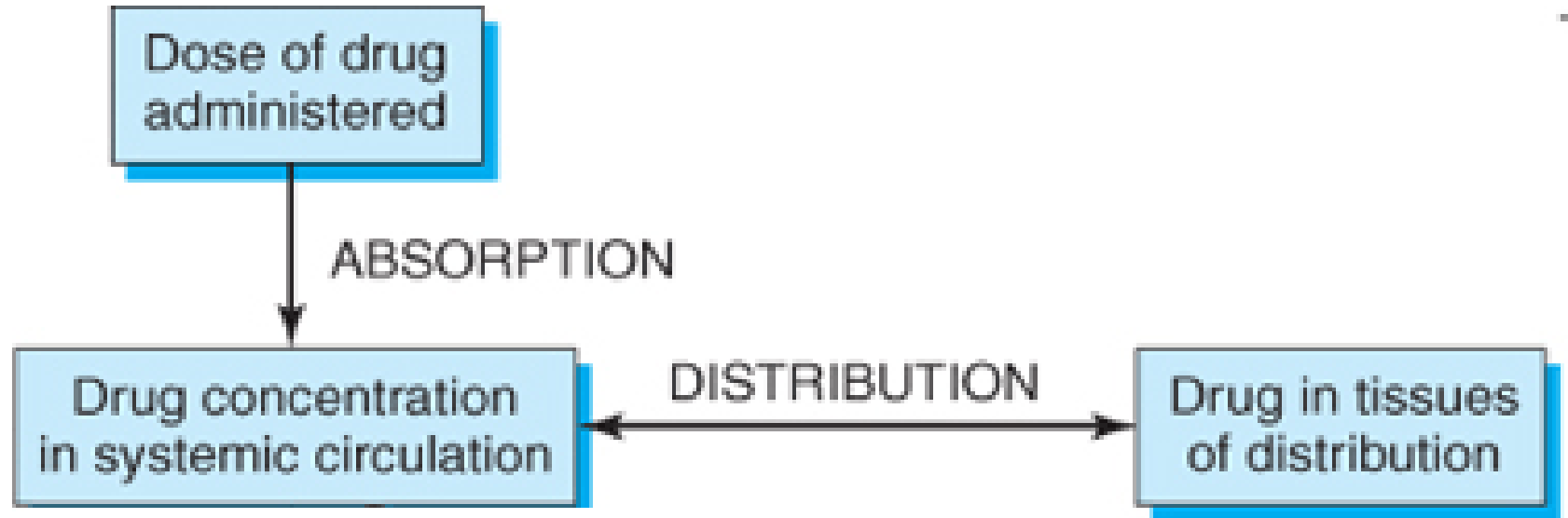
Apparent Volume of Distribution (Vd)

is the ratio of drug amount in the body (dose) to the concentration of drug in blood.

$$Vd \text{ (L)} = \frac{Dose \text{ (mg)}}{plasma \ concentration \text{ (mg/L)}}$$

Why is Vd important?

➢ To calculate loading dose

➢ Large Vd = means long duration of action

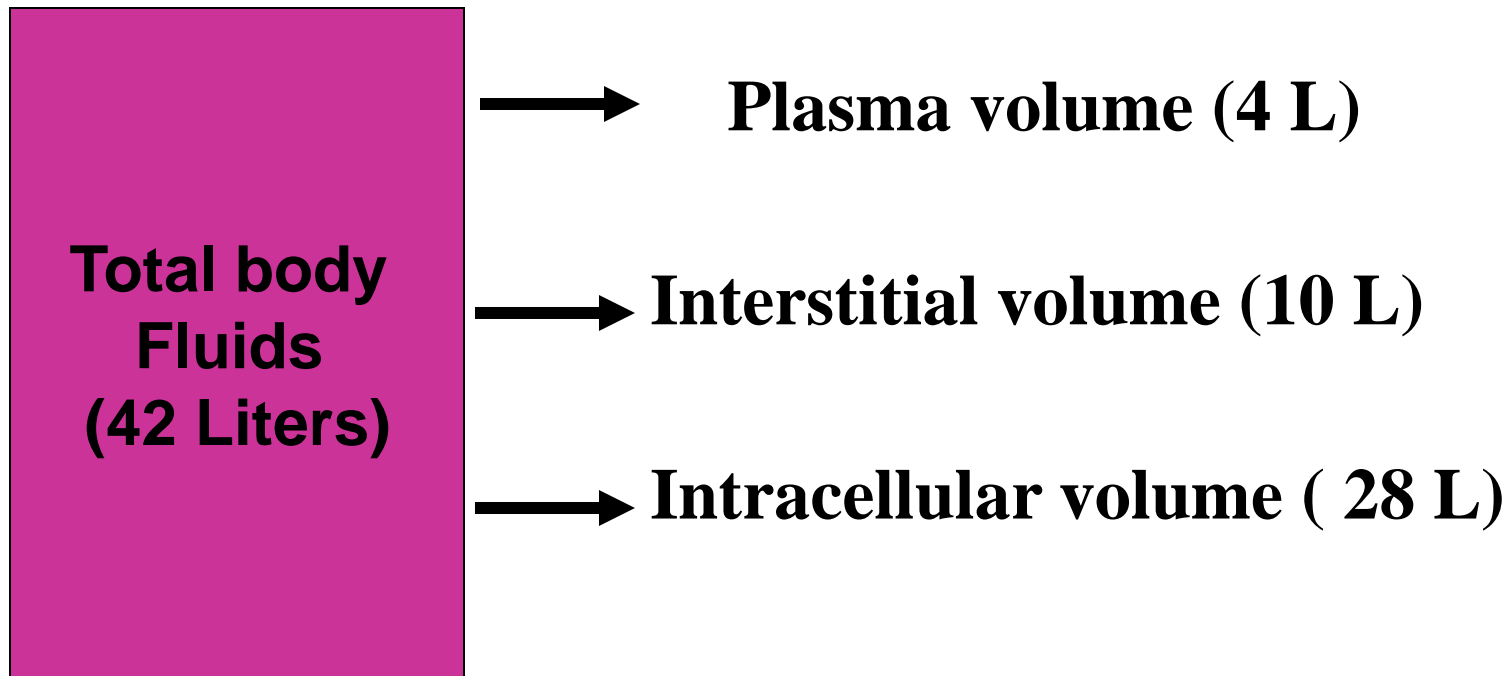The major body fluid compartments are

Extracellular fluid (22%)
- Plasma (5 % of body weight = 4 liters).
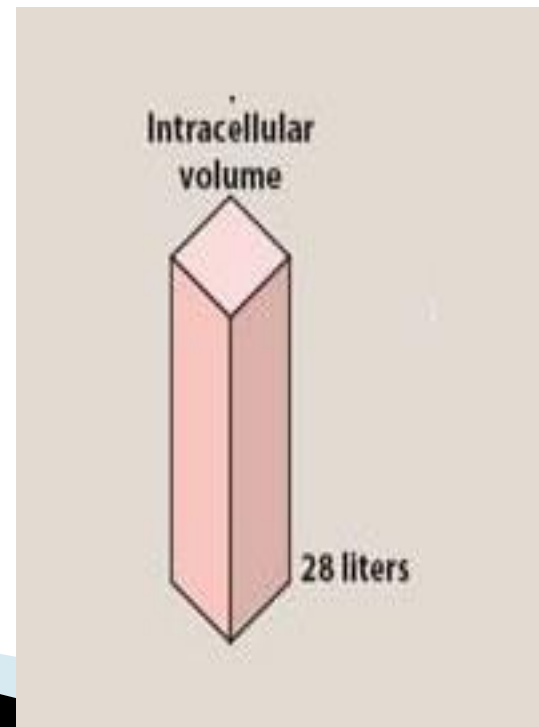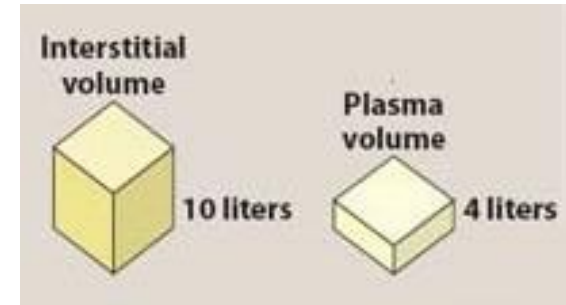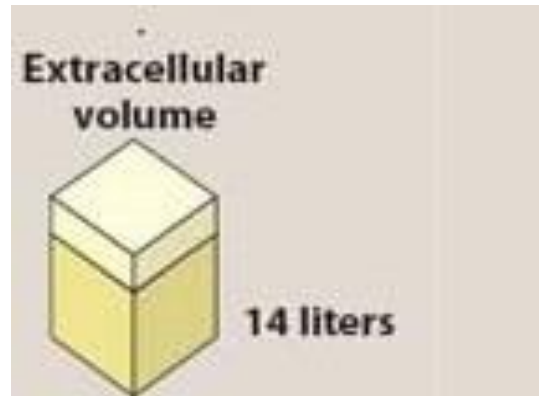- Interstitial fluid (16 % = 10 liters).
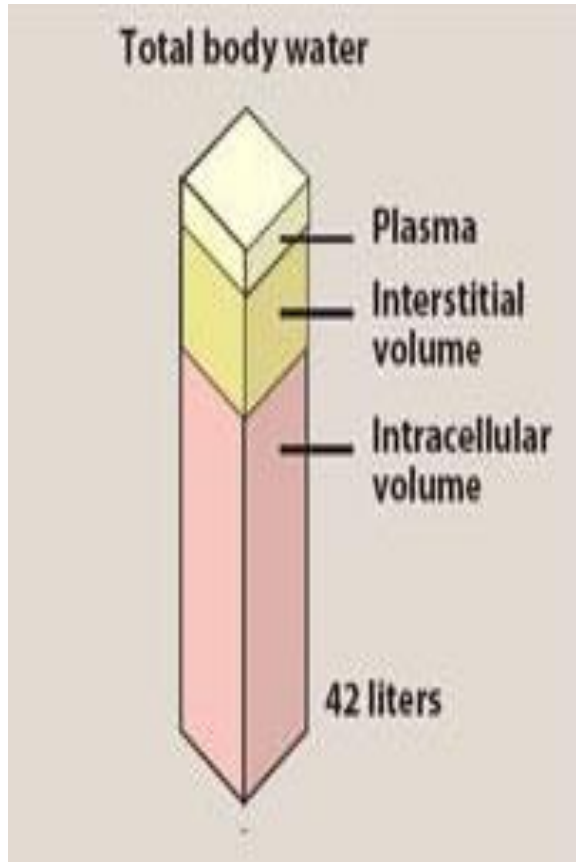
Intracellular fluid (35 %)
fluid present inside all cells in the body (28 L).
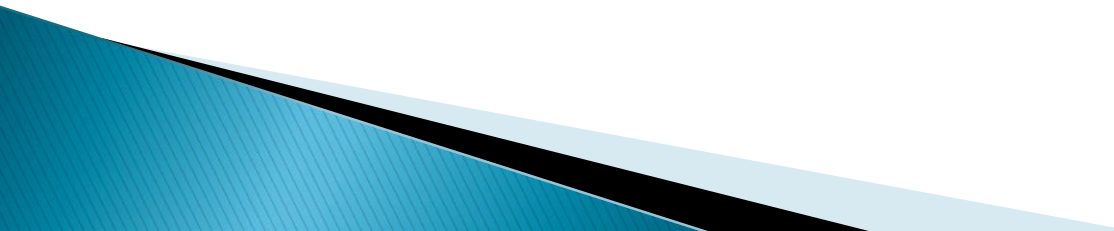
Total body fluids
(70% of body weight in 70-kg individual)

Total body Fluids (42 Liters)

→ **Plasma volume (4 L)**

→ **Interstitial volume (10 L)**

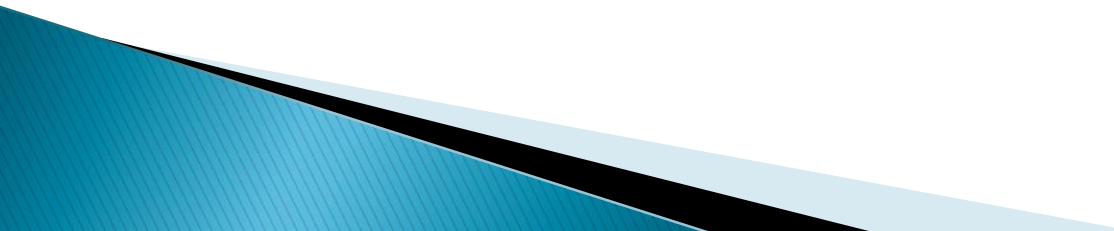→ **Intracellular volume (28 L)**

Volume of distribution

Volumes of some compartments of the adult human body in relation to VD :

- Total body water 0.6 L/kg BW

- Intracellular water 0.4 L/kg BW

- Extracellular water 0.2 L/kg BW

- Plasma 0.04 L/kg BW

Drugs may distribute through:

- One compartment
- Two compartments
- Multi-compartments

Plasma compartment
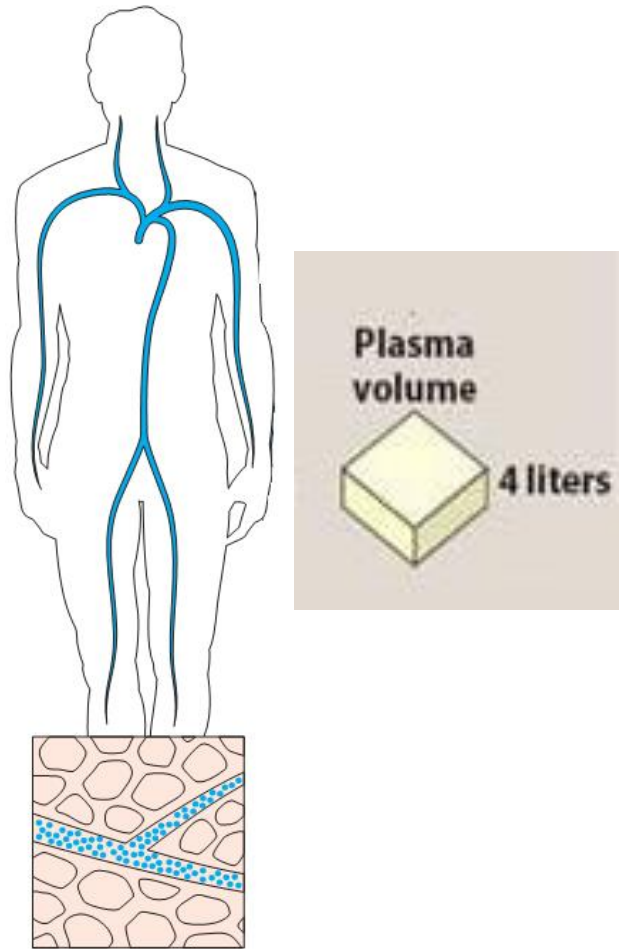
- Vd: around 4 L.

- Very high molecular weight drugs, or drugs that bind to plasma proteins

- Can not moves across endotelial cells of capillaries

- Drugs are trapped in blood

- Example: heparin 4L

Extracellular fluid

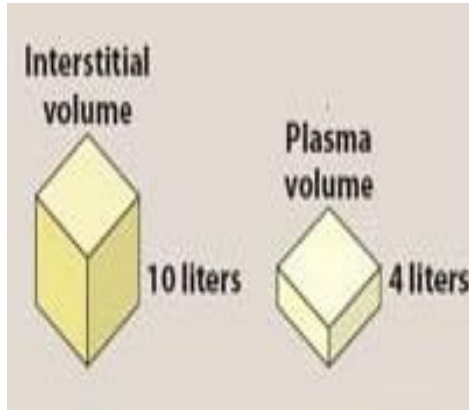Interstitial volume — 10 liters

Plasma volume — 4 liters

▸ Distribute through extracellular fluids.

▸ Pass endothelium into interstitial fluids BUT can not cross cell membranes to intracellular fluids.

▸ Drugs that have a low molecular weight but are hydrophilic.

▸ Vd: between 4 and 14 L.

➢ E.g. atracuronium 11 L

Total body water (extracellular and intracellular)

- Diffusion to intracelullar fluid
- For lipid soluble drugs
- Vd equal to total body water.
  - Ethanol 38 L (34–41)
- Drug that binds strongly to tissues. Vd higher than total body water.
  - Digoxin:385 L

Volume of Distribution (Vd)

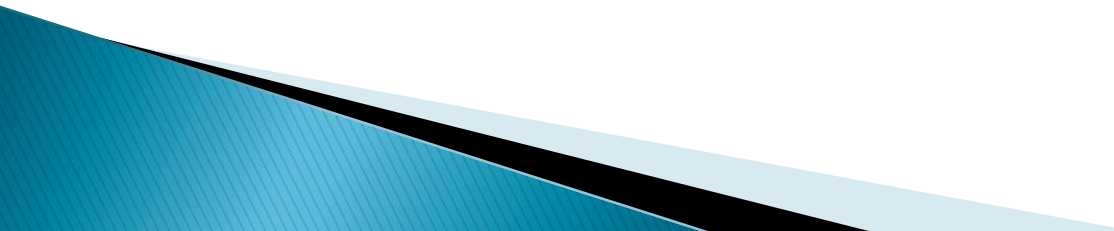**Drugs with low Vd**

- **distributed in extracellular compartments (plasma & interstitial fluid).**

- **<u>Polar comp</u> or <u>lipid insoluble drugs</u>. e.g. gentamycin, atracurium**

- **High MW e.g. heparin – insulin.**

- **High plasma protein binding e.g. warfarin (anticoagulant).**

- **Do not cross BBB or placental barriers.**

Volume of Distribution (Vd)

Drugs with high Vd

▸ Have higher concentrations in tissues than in plasma.

▸ Lipid soluble.

▸ Distributed intracellularly

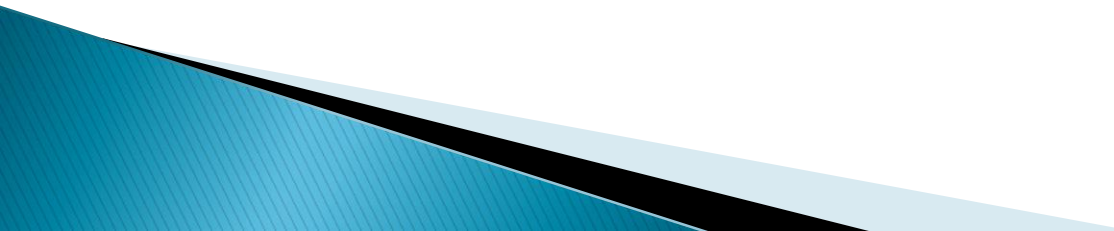▸ e.g. digoxin, phenytion, morphine

FACTORS AFFECTING DISTRIBUTION

1. Cardiac output and blood flow.

2. **Physical and chemical properties of the drug**.
   - Molecular weight
   - Pka.
   - Lipid solubility.

3. Capillary Permeability

4. Plasma protein binding

5. Tissue binding.

Blood flow to organs

▶ The greater the blood flow to tissues, the more distribution that occurs from plasma to interstitial fluids.

▶ Drugs distribute more rapidly to brain, liver and kidney > more than skeletal muscles & fat.

Physical and chemical properties of drug

- Most lipid soluble drugs (unionized, uncharged, nonpolar) cross biological membranes

- Hydrophilic drugs (ionized, charged, polar) do not readily cross membranes but go through slit junctions in endothelial cells of capillaries.

Capillary permeability

▸ Endothelial cells of capillaries in tissues other than brain have wide slit junctions allowing easy movement, permeation and distribution.

▸ Brain has tight junction Blood Brain Barrier (BBB).

Blood brain barrier (BBB):

▶ Only lipid soluble drugs or actively transported drugs can cross BBB.

▶ Hydrophilic drugs (ionized or polar drugs) can not cross BBB.

▶ Inflammation as in **meningitis** increase permeability to hydrophilic drugs

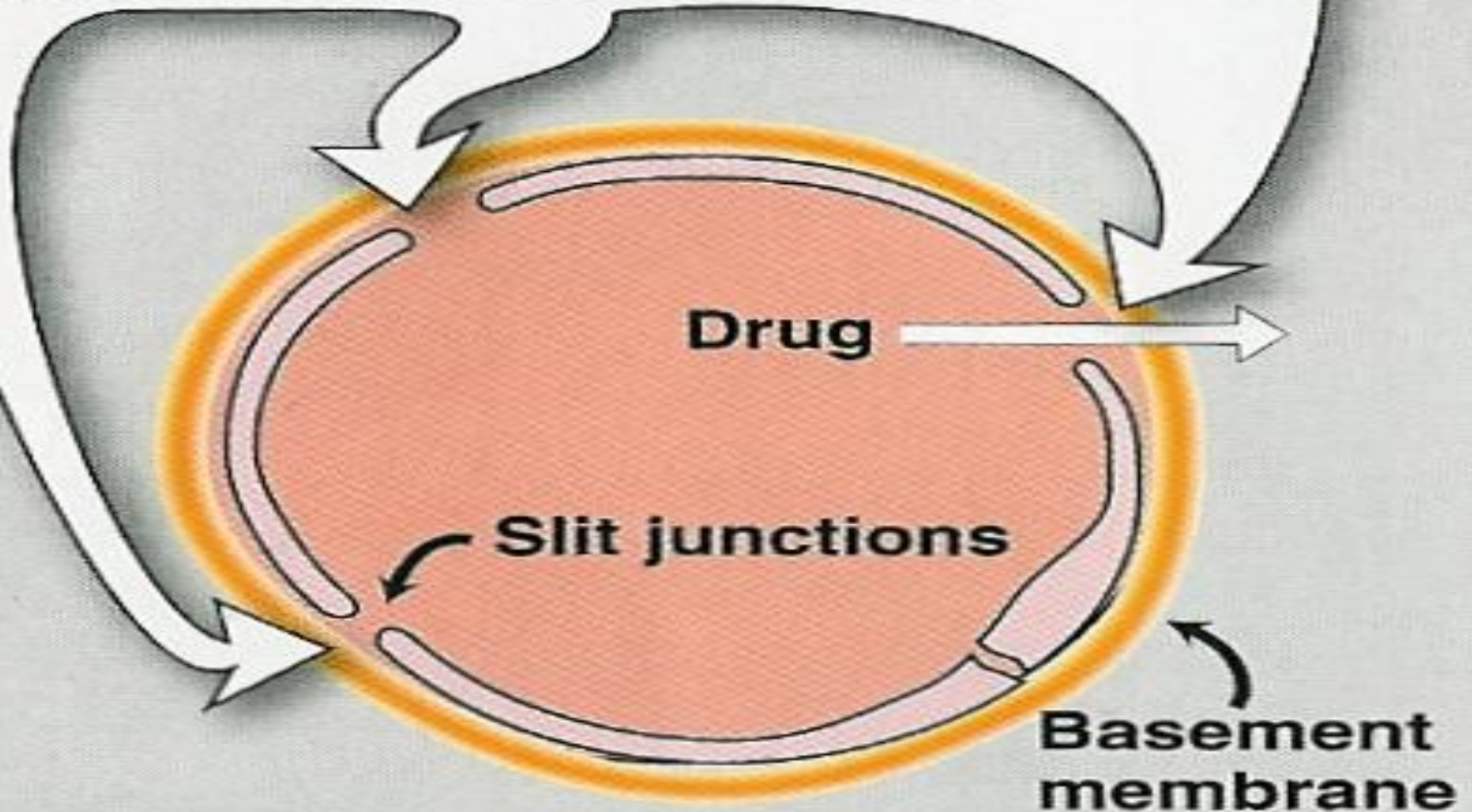▶ e.g. penicillin & gentamycin

Placental barrier

▶ Lipid soluble drugs can cross placental barrier and enter the fetal blood.

A Structure of endo-thelial cells in the liver

Large fenestrations allow drugs to exchange freely between blood and interstitium in the liver.

Drug

Slit junctions

Basement membrane
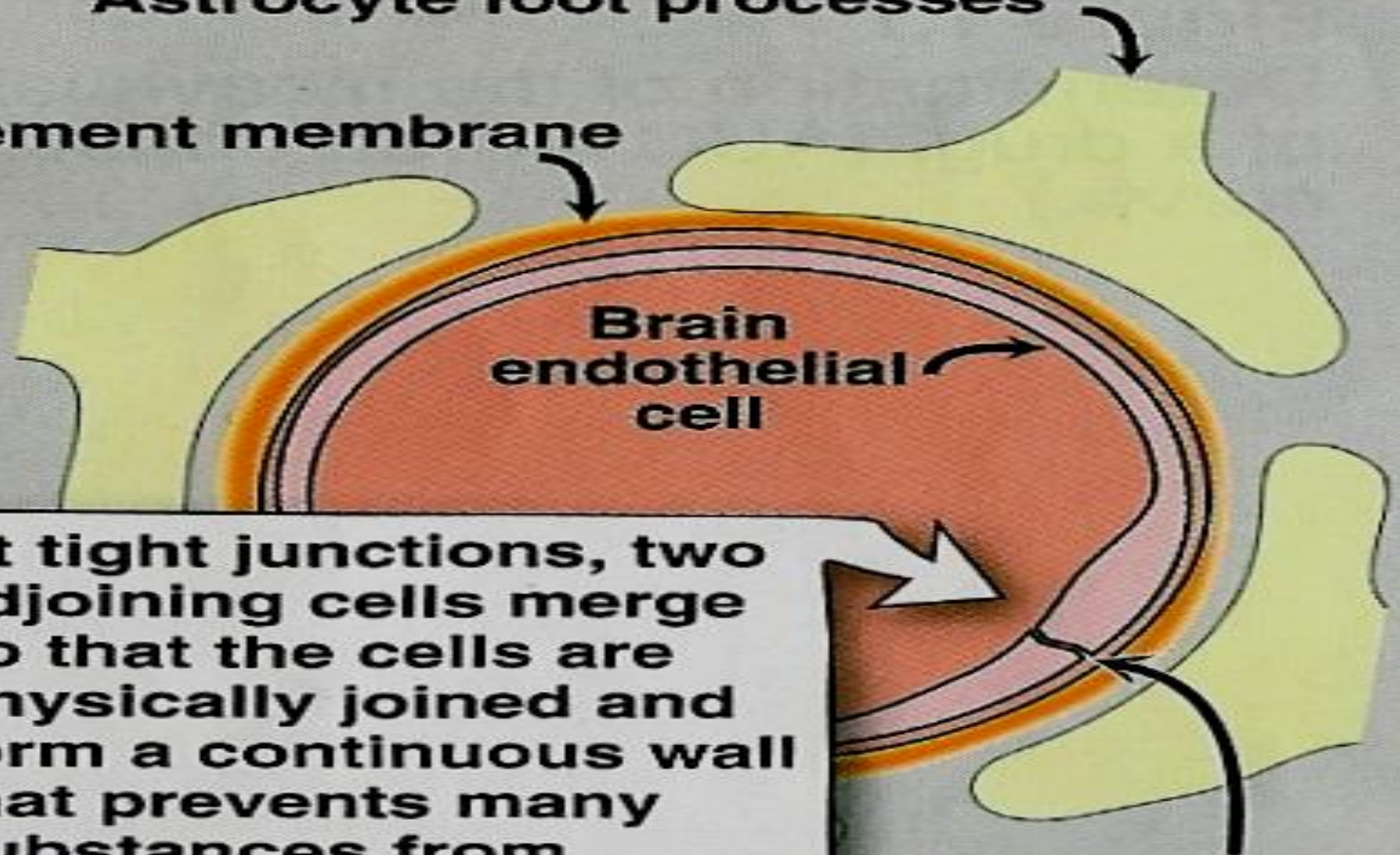
B Structure of a brain capillary

Astrocyte foot processes

Basement membrane

Brain endothelial cell

At tight junctions, two adjoining cells merge so that the cells are physically joined and form a continuous wall that prevents many substances from entering the brain.
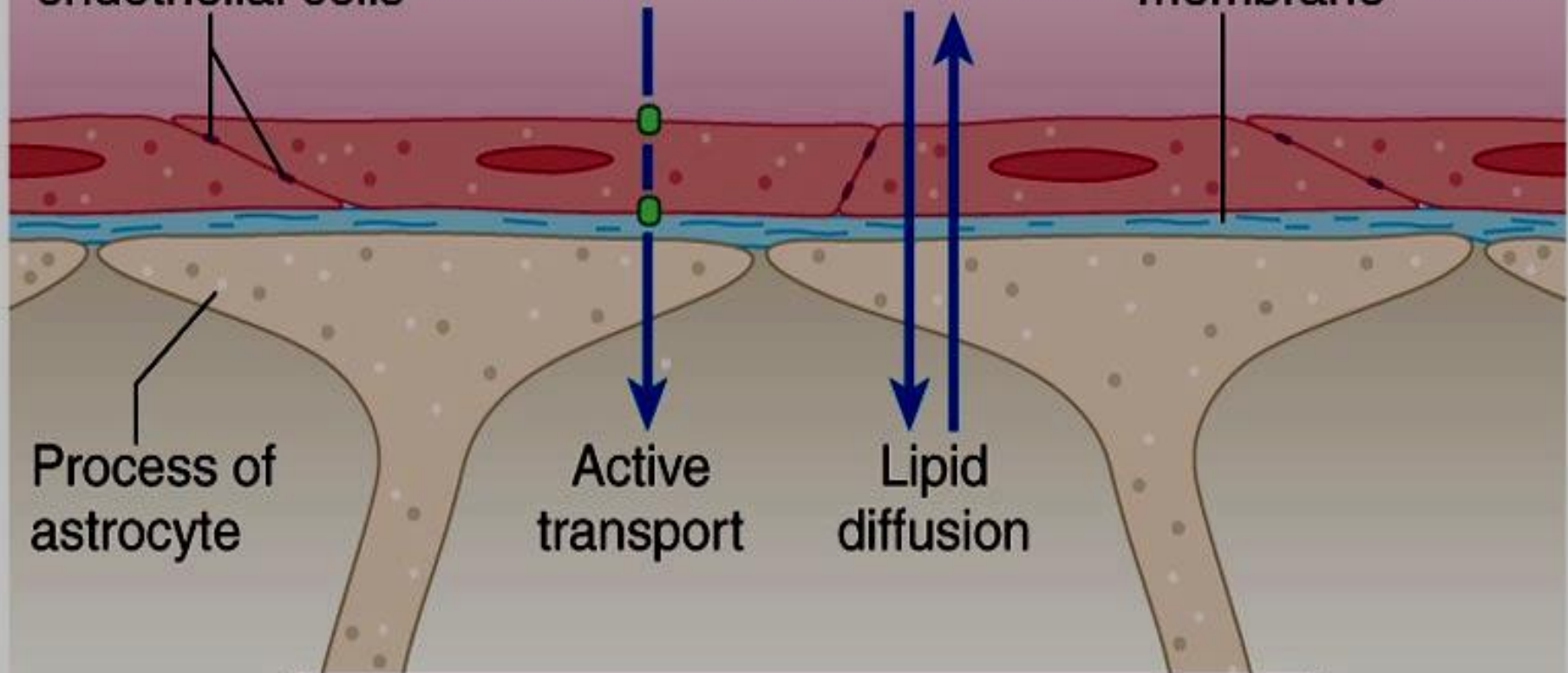
Tight junction

Blood capillary in central nervous system

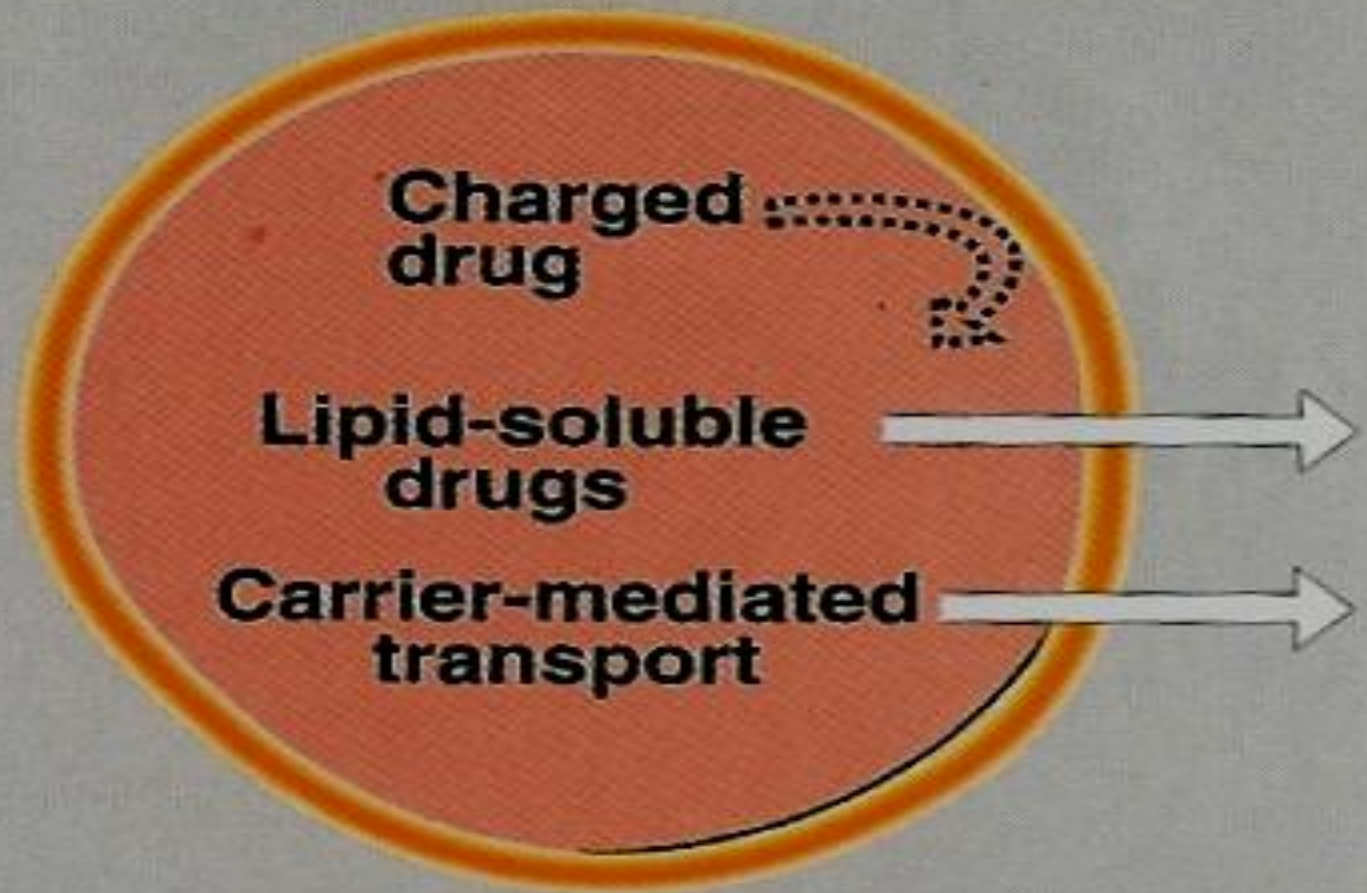Tight junctions between endothelial cells

Basal membrane

Process of astrocyte

Active transport

Lipid diffusion

Glial cells, neurons, and extracellular fluid

Binding of Drugs

- Plasma proteins binding.

- Tissue proteins binding.

Plasma protein binding:

◦ Extensive plasma protein binding will cause more drug to stay in the blood compartment .

◦ Therefore, drugs which bind strongly to plasma protein tend to have lower distribution (Vd).

Plasma Proteins

Albumin

Has affinity for acidic drugs as warfarin, phenytoin, aspirin

alpha 1 -acid glycoproteins

Has affinity for basic drugs (cationic) as diazepam, quinidine.

Plasma protein binding

▸ drugs which bind strongly to plasma protein tend

to have lower distribution (Vd).

▸ In blood, drugs exist in two forms bound and

unbound forms in equilibrium

Unbound drug (free) ⇌ **bound drug**

Tissues Binding

Drugs can bind to specific tissues and will have high volume of distribution (Vd)
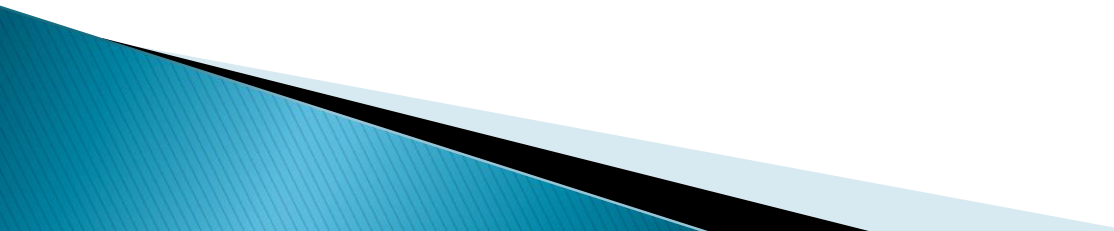
Tetracycline bind to bone

Bound form of drug

- non diffusible form
- can not cross endothelial barrier
- can not combine with receptors
- inactive

- not available for metabolism & excretion

- has long duration of action (t ½).

Unbound form of drug

- diffusible form
- cross endothelial barrier
- combine with receptors

- active

- available for metabolism & excretion

- has short duration of action (t ½).

Characters & consequences of Binding

- **Usually reversible.**

- **determines volume of distribution (vd)**

- **Slows drug metabolism & excretion.**

- **Prolongs duration of drug action (t1/2).**

- **Result in clinically important drug interactions**

Displacement

▸ Competition for the same binding site on the plasma proteins may occur between two drugs ⟶ displacement of one drug & increasing its concentrations & effects.

▸ Aspirin + Albumin–warfarin ⟶

Albumin–aspirin + free warfarin ⟶ bleeding.