

# Drug administration and absorption

## Objectives:

- Know the meaning of pharmacology and its branches.
- Discuss the different routes of drug administration.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of various routes of drug administration.
- Know the various mechanisms of drug absorption.
- List different factors affecting drug absorption.
- Define bioavailability and factors affecting it.

■ Titles   ■ Very important   ■ Terms   ■ Extra informations

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# Meaning Of Pharmacology And Its Branches

**Pharma : drug.**  
**ology: science.**

**Pharmacology** : is the science that deals with the drugs regarding names , pharmacokinetics , pharmacodynamics , side effects and uses.

Pharmacological effects of drugs are the **uses** (wanted effects) of that drug. Any other effects caused by that drug are known as **side effects** (unwanted effects).

\*حركة الدواء\*

## Pharmacokinetics

Are studies of the absorption, distribution, metabolism & excretion of drugs.

*"What the body does to drugs?"*

## Pharmacodynamics

Are studies of :

- 1-mechanism of drug action.
- 2- pharmacological effects of drugs.

*"What the drug does to the body?"*

## ADME

- 1-Absorption
- 2-Distribution
- 3-Metabolism
- 4-Excretion

Drug

Administration

Absorption

Blood

Metabolism is always carried out by the liver.

Excretion is done via urine or feces.

Distribution

Different organs and tissues

Site of action

Metabolism

Excretion

**Topical application**

**Routes of Drug Administration**

**Parenteral administration (injections).**

**Enteral via gastrointestinal tract (GIT):**

- Oral
- Sublingual
- Rectal

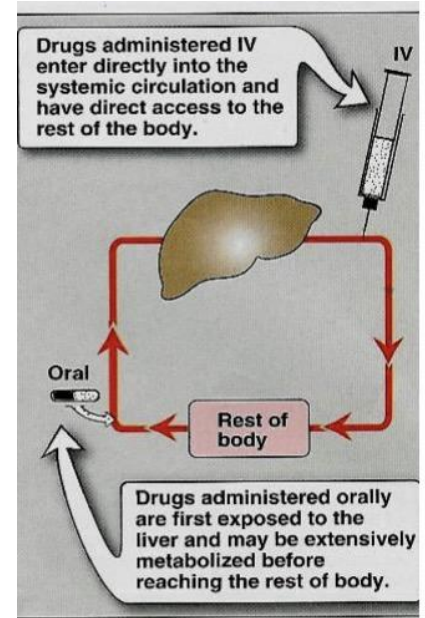
**Inhalation**

# Bioavailability

\* هو كمية الدواء الذي يصل للدم بحالة سليمة دون تغيير، أو تكسر يقلل من فاعليته، "بمعنى آخر هو الجزء الذي يعطي مفعوله من الدواء".\*

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

## • First pass effect



\*الدواء قبل أن يدخل blood circulation يدخل على الكبد حيث يوجد عدد من الإنزيمات التي من الممكن أن تكسر جزء منه، مما يقلل من فعاليته. فقط يحدث لبعض الأدوية\*

## • First pass metabolism

Where does it occur?

- Liver
- GIT wall
- GIT lumen

Results in:

- **Low bioavailability** (low conc. of drug in blood).
- **Short duration of action** ( $t_{1/2}$ ).
- Drugs with high first pass effect should **not**

Given orally **but** parenterally. لأنه مارج يعطي المفعول\* orally\*

## Oral dosage forms (oral formulation)

	<b>Tablets:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coated tablets: Sugar-coated to mask bad taste</li> <li>● Enteric coated tablets: dissolve <u>only</u> in intestine</li> </ul>
	<b>Capsules:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hard gelatin capsules: contain powder</li> <li>● Soft gelatin capsules: contain liquid</li> </ul>
	<b>Spansule oral capsule:</b>	<p>*a capsule which when swallowed releases one or more medicinal drugs over a set period.</p>
	<b>Syrup: e.g. cough syrup</b>	<p>Has a long duration of action.</p>
	<b>Suspension: (mixture of solid in liquids e.g. antibiotics).</b>	

# Routes of drug administration:

## 1- Enteral via gastrointestinal tract GIT:

	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Oral</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common</li> <li>Easy</li> <li>Self use</li> <li>convenient</li> <li>cheap</li> <li>No need for sterilization</li> </ul> <p>* Sterilization = عملية تعقيم هو رخيص لأنه لا يحتاج لعملية تعقيم.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow effect (takes 1-2 hours to reach circulation), GIT irritation</li> <li>Destruction by pH &amp; enzymes</li> <li>Food-drug interactions.</li> <li>Drug-drug interactions (when multiple drugs are taken at the same time)</li> <li>First pass effect .</li> <li>No complete absorption * كمية الدواء التي وصلت للدم ليست كافية بسبب العمليات الحيوية في الجهاز الهضمي.</li> <li>Low bioavailability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not suitable for :</b> vomiting, unconscious patient, emergency &amp; bad taste drugs لا ينفذ في الحالات الطارئة بسبب بطء الامتصاص و نحتاج أن ننقذ المريض فورا</p>
<p><b>Sublingual</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid effect</li> <li>can be used in emergency</li> <li>High bioavailability * لأن تحت فيدخل blood vessels في blood circulation على طول قبل لا يتكسر من الإنزيمات الموجودة بالفم</li> <li>No first pass effect.</li> <li>No GIT irritation</li> <li>No food drug – interaction</li> </ul> <p><b>Dosage form:</b> friable tablet *Easily breaks and dissolves*</p>	<p><b>Not suitable for</b></p> <p>Irritant drugs Frequent use.</p>
<p><b>Rectal</b></p> 	<p><b>Suitable for :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>children, vomiting, unconscious patients</li> <li>Irritant &amp; bad taste drugs</li> <li>less first pass metabolism فيه قابلية أن الدواء ما* ( 50% ) يتكسر بنسبة 50%</li> </ul> <p><b>Dosage form:</b> suppository or enema</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irritation of rectal mucosa</li> <li>Irregular absorption &amp; bioavailability</li> </ul> <p>*Absorption done in the small intestine NOT in large intestine. وهو يدخل على الأمعاء الغليظة بالتالي عملية الامتصاص وفاعلية الدواء تكون قليلة.</p>

Intradermal  
(I.D.)  
(into skin)

Subcutaneous  
(S.C.)  
(under skin)

Intramuscular  
(I.M.)  
(into muscles)

Intravenous  
(I.V.)  
(into veins)

## 2- Parenteral Administration

Intra-arterial  
(I.A.)  
(into arteries)

Intrathecal (I.T.)  
(cerebrospinal  
fluids)

Intraperitoneal  
(I.P.)  
(peritoneal  
cavity)

Intra-articular  
(synovial fluids)

\*داخل المفصل

= In abdominal area

## Parenteral Administration (Injections)

### Advantages

- No gastric irritation
- No food-drug interaction
- No drug-drug interaction
- No first pass metabolism
- higher availability than oral

### Disadvantages

- Need skill
- Pain, tissue necrosis or abscess (خراج) في حالة الحقن بطريقة خاطئة \* (I.M.)
- Anaphylactic or hypersensitivity reaction (I.V.) رد فعل تحسسي لما يحقن \* بمادة يتحسس منها

### Ampoule

Single Use



### Vial

Repeated Use



Injection	Advantages	Disadvantages
Intradermal (I.D.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minute volume of drug (0.1 ml).</li> <li>● suitable for vaccinations.</li> <li>● sensitivity test.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not suitable for</b> large volumes</p>
Subcutaneous (S.C.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● volume of drug (0.1 ml – 1 ml).</li> <li>● used for sustained release effect (prolonged duration of action).</li> <li>● suitable for poorly soluble suspensions and for instillation of slow-release implants e.g. insulin zinc preparation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not suitable for</b> large volumes</p>
Intramuscular (I.M.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● moderate volumes (3-5 ml) .</li> <li>● prolonged duration of action.</li> <li>● oily preparations or poorly soluble substances can be used.</li> </ul> <p>Oily preparation الدواء ذائب في سائل له خصائص الزيت.</p>	<p><b>Not suitable for</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● irritant drugs.</li> <li>● pain, abscess, tissue necrosis may happen.</li> </ul>
Intravenous (I.V.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Large volume (500ml can be given by infusion).</li> </ul> <p>I.V infusion : drop by drop يعني أحقن. كميات كبيرة بس ليست بدفعة واحدة إنما بالتقطير.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rapid action (emergency).</li> <li>● High bioavailability.</li> <li>● No food-drug interaction.</li> <li>● No first pass metabolism.</li> <li>● No gastric irritation.</li> <li>● No absorption required.</li> </ul> <p><b>Suitable for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vomiting &amp; unconscious.</li> <li>● Irritant &amp; bad taste drugs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● used <b>only</b> for water soluble drugs.</li> <li>● Infection.</li> <li>● Anaphylaxis (hypersensitivity).</li> <li>● Sterilization.</li> <li>● Expensive.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not suitable</b> for oily solutions or poorly soluble substance.</p> <p>*the poorly soluble substitute could cause Heart attack using the IV</p>

## 3- Topical Application

Drugs are mainly applied topically to produce local effects. They are applied to:

### Skin (percutaneous)

e.g. Allergy test, topical antimicrobial, steroids and local anesthetic.

### Inhalation

(Mucous membrane of respiratory tract) e.g. asthma.

### Intranasal

e.g. decongestant nasal spray

### Ear drops

e.g. otitis externa

### Eye drops

e.g. conjunctivitis

## Inhalation

### Advantages

- rapid absorption  
(due to large surface area)
- suitable for emergency
- provide local action
- limited systemic effect
- less side effects
- no first pass effect

### Dosage form:

- volatile gases e.g. anesthetics
- liquids given by aerosol, nebulizer for asthma treatment

### Disadvantages

- **Not suitable for irritant drugs**
- Only few drugs can be used

## Transdermal Patch

They are medicated adhesive patch applied to skin to provide systemic effect (prolonged drug action).

e.g. the nicotine patches (**quit smoking**)

e.g. Scopolamine (**vestibular depressant, antiemetic (مضاد للقيء)** for motion sickness)



### Nebulizer



### Atomizer



\*devices for converting a drug in liquid form into a mist or fine spray .

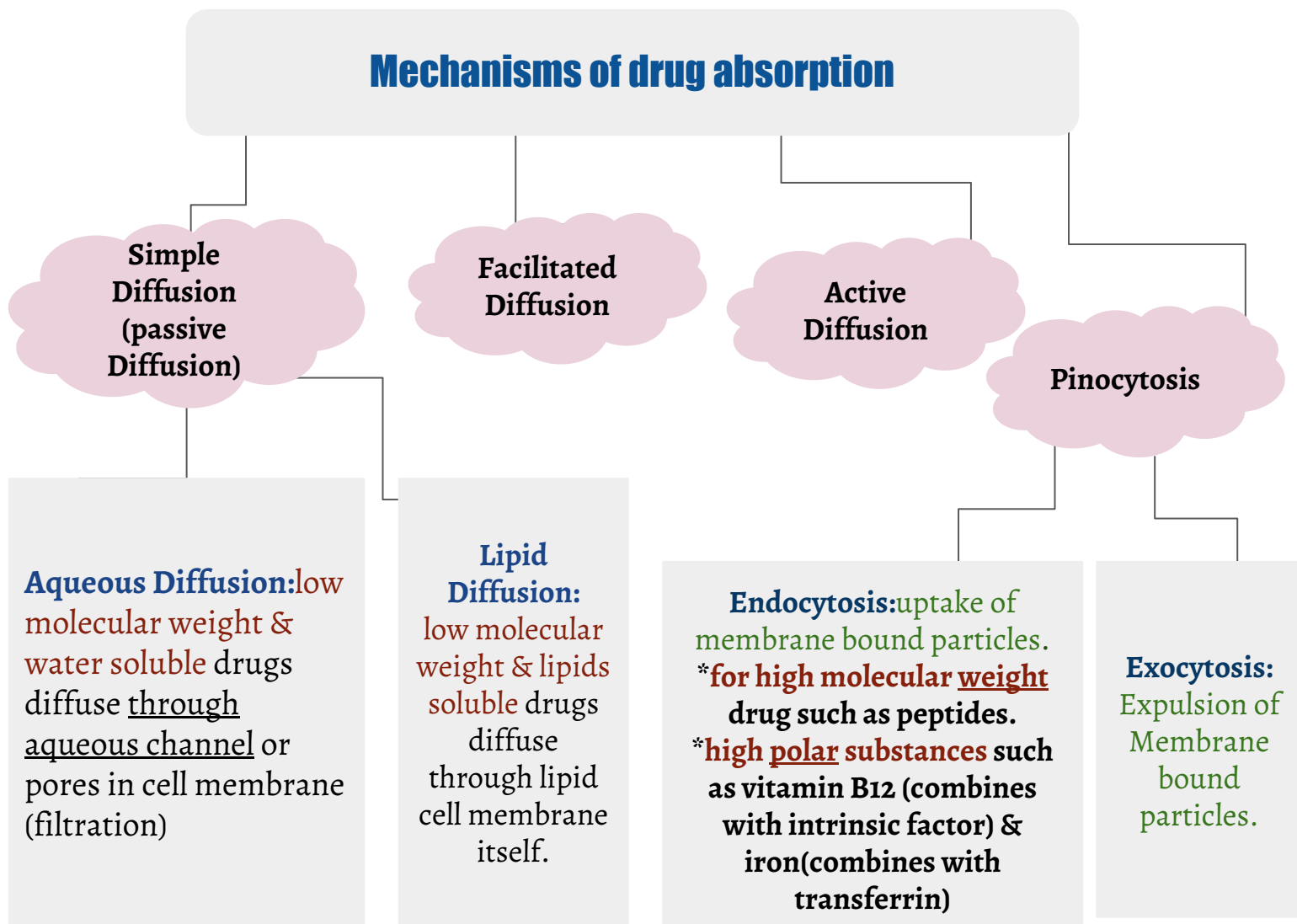


# Drug Absorption

Definition: the passage of a drug from its site of administration to site of action across cell membranes.

Exception: except for intravenous administration, all routes of drug administration require that the drug be absorbed from the site of administration into the systemic circulation (blood).

**I.V administration require no absorption.**



\*أي شيء فيه carrier protein يكون selective و saturable .  
 Selective | carriers for acidic drugs and carriers for basic drugs.  
 مشغولة بالنقل | carries لما تكون كل Saturable .

<b>Passive Diffusion</b>	<b>Active Diffusion</b>	<b>Carrier-mediated Facilitated Diffusion</b>
<b>Along concentration gradient</b>	<b>Against concentration gradient</b>	<b>Along concentration gradient</b>
<b>No energy &amp; Carrier</b>	<b>Requires energy &amp; carrier</b>	<b>No energy but requires carrier</b>
<b>Commen</b>	<b>Uncommon</b>	_____
<b>Not saturable</b>	<b>Saturable</b>	<b>Saturable</b>
<b>Non selective</b>	<b>Selective (specific)</b>	<b>Selective</b>
<b>Depends on lipids solubility</b>	<b>E.G. Absorption of sugar &amp; amino acid</b>	<b>Similar to entry of glucose into muscle (GLUT4)</b>
<b>DEPENDS ON Pka of drugs &amp; pH of the environment (it can be fluid of the cell body, blood, urine)</b>	<b>Uptake of Levodopa by brian (treatment of Parkinsons)</b>	_____

# pka effects & pH

**Pka(Dissociation or ionization constant):** pH at which half of the substance is ionized & half is unionized.

- The lower the Pka value ( $Pka < 6$ ) of the acidic drug, the stronger the acid e.g aspirin ( $Pka = 3$ )
- The higher the Pka value ( $Pka > 8$ ) of a basic drug, the stronger the base e.g propranolol ( $Pka = 9.4$ )
- Most drugs are weak basic or weak acid
- Drugs can exist in two forms in equilibrium:

1-water soluble drugs=**ionized** = polar=charged are difficult to permeate cell membranes.

2-lipids soluble drugs=**unionized** =non polar =uncharged are easy to permeate cell membranes.

- Only **unionized form** is absorbable. \*(because it is lipid soluble and can soluble easily in cell membrane which has lipid bilayer)\*
- Ionization of drugs reduce passage of drugs across cell membranes. \*opposite of  $\Delta^*$
- The degree of ionization of drugs is determined by their Pka and pH of the surrounding.

## Affects degree of ionization of drugs:

- Weak basic drugs are best absorbed in **intestine** (because the intestine is a basic medium), so the drug exists in unionized form that is lipid soluble, and easily absorbed.

- Weak acidic drugs are best absorbed in the **stomach** (because the stomach is an acidic medium), so the drug exists in unionized form that is lipid soluble, and easily absorbed.

Extra Explanation: When a basic drug is in a basic medium (with high  $OH^-$  concentration) it doesn't need to ionize and donate its  $OH^-$  group and therefore remains in unionized form, so its lipid soluble and can easily be absorbed/ pass through plasma membrane.

The same goes for an acidic drug, when it is in an acidic medium (with high  $H^+$  concentration) it doesn't need to donate its  $H^+$  group therefore remains in unionized form and can easily be absorbed.

**Factors affecting absorption**

**Route of administration**

Dosage forms (depending on particle size, disintegration and ease of dissolution)  
(Solution > suspension > capsule > tablet)

**Molecular weight of drug** \*Small is faster than big\*  
\*All protein drugs are high molecular weight\*

**Lipid solubility** \*aqueous preparation better than oily, suspension preparation\*

**Degree of ionization** \*less ionized better absorbed\*

**Drug solubility** \*aqueous preparation better than oily, suspension preparation\*

**Chemical instability in gastric pH** Penicillin and insulin.

**Surface area available for absorption** \*(small intestine has large surface area than stomach due to intestinal microvilli)\*

**Blood flow to absorptive site** \*(greater blood flow increases bioavailability) (intestine has greater blood flow than stomach)\*

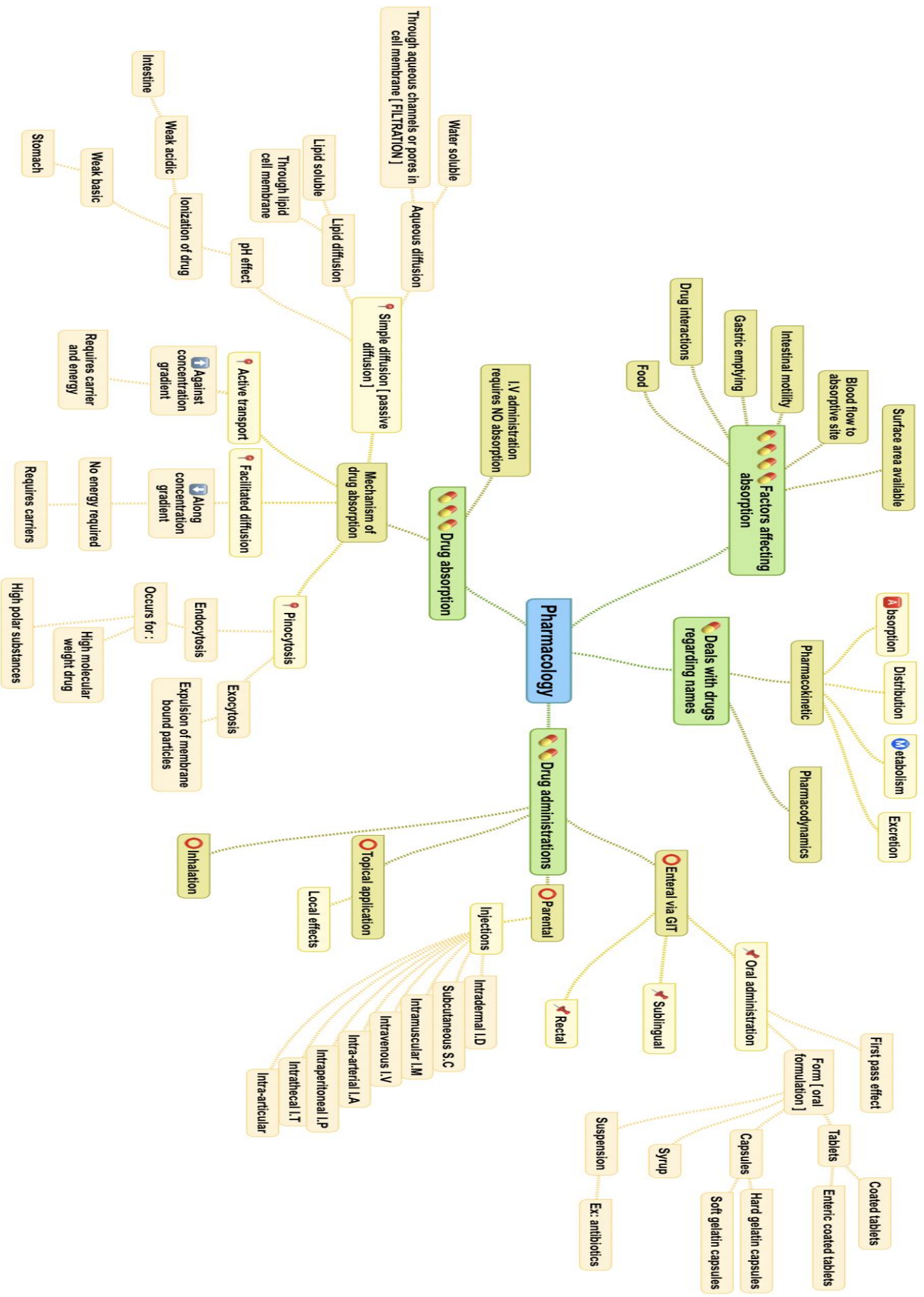
**Intestinal motility (transit time)** \*Diarrhea reduces absorption\*

**Gastric emptying** \*drugs that increase gastric emptying enhances absorption 'metoclopramide'\*

**Drug interactions**

**Food** \*(Slow gastric emptying, generally slow absorption) e.g. Tetracycline, aspirin, penicillin V  
(A fatty meal increases the absorption of fat soluble antifungal drug (e.g. griseofulvin)\*)

# Summary



# MCQs

**1-What's the most common way of drug administration?**

- A-Oral                      B-Sublingual  
C-IV (intravenous)    D-IT(intrathecal)

**2-Which type of the drug administration has the highest bioavailability ?**

- A-Rectal                      B-IV(intravenous)  
C-IA(intra-arterial)    D-Inhalation

**3-Pharmacokinetics of drugs are studies of drugs regarding...**

- A-AMDE                      B-MADE  
C-ADME                      D-EMDA

**4-The process where the drug is being metabolized in the liver before it distributed to all the body is called...**

- A-Excretion                B-First pass effect  
C-Absorption                D-Distribution

**5-Which type of the drugs administration is usually used with children ?**

- A-Inhalation    B-Sublingual  
C-Rectal                D-Injections

**6-Which type of the drug administration doesn't require absorption?**

- A-IM(intramuscular)    B-Sc(subcutaneous)  
C-ID(intradermal)        D-IV(intravenous)

**7-Which of the following answers is correct about the simple diffusion?**

- A- It Doesn't require energy, saturable  
B-It requires energy,non selective  
C-It Doesn't require energy,No carrier  
D-It requires energy,with the concentration gradient

**8-Most drugs are ..**

- A- Weak acids                B-Weak bases  
C-Strong acids                D- A&B

**9-Drugs are only absorbable in the**

- A-Ionized form                B-Unionized form  
C-acidic medium                D- bases medium

**10-Which one of the following sentences is correct?**

- A-Diarrhea increase absorption  
B-Stomach has greater blood flow than intestine  
C-Greater blood flow increases bioavailability  
D-Food doesn't slow the absorption

Answers  
1-A 2-B 3-C 4-B 5-C 6-D 7-C 8-D 9-B 10-C



**Pharmacology**

Team 437



**MED437**  
KING SAUD UNIVERSITY

## **Useful videos:**

**Pharmacokinetics first 5 min**

**Routes of drug administration 3:30**

**Routes of drug administration (2)**

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