

# Bioavailability and distribution

## Objectives:

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

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

■ Titles   ■ Very important   ■ Terms   ■ Extra informations

\*Success Doesn't Come To You, You Go To It!\*

# Bioavailability

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

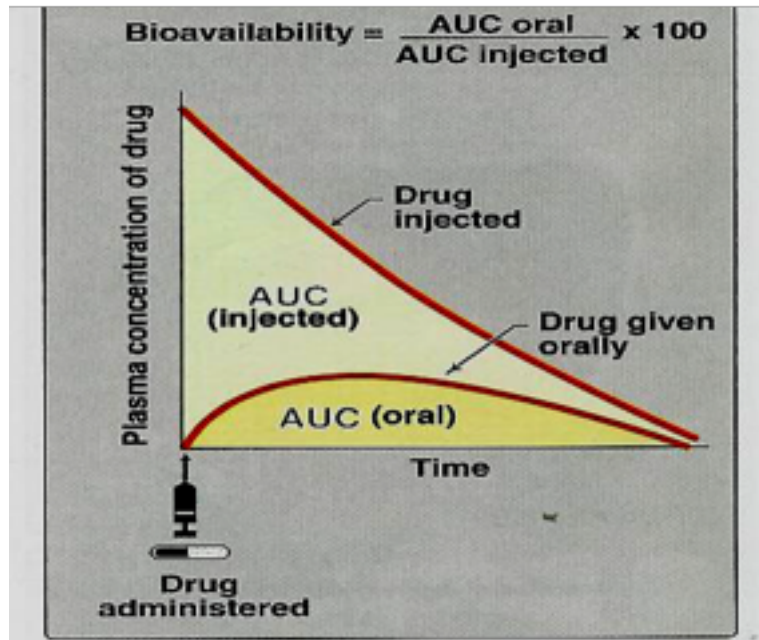
$$\text{Bioavailability (F)} = \frac{\text{AUC (oral)}}{\text{AUC (I.V.)}} \times 100$$

**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:**

-Comparing between the I.V bioavailability as a standard formulation and the bioavailability of the same drug taken by any other route.



## Relative bioavailability:

- Determined when two products are compared to each other, **not to an intravenous standard**.

e.g Tylenol (paracetamol 500 mg) compared to Panadol (paracetamol 500 mg).

❖ Dosage adjustment is required when changing formulation or routes of administration.

## The importance of the relative bioavailability:

1- To determine that the generic formulation is bioequivalent to another formulation .

2- To get an idea of how different formulations or a different routes of administration could change the bioavailability.

## Bioequivalence:

We use this term when the rate and the extent of bioavailability of active ingredients in two products are the same.

## Factors affecting Bioequivalence:

1- Same factors controlling drug absorption.

2- First pass effect.

**# You should now know the difference and the meaning of absolute bioavailability and relative and bioequivalence**

# The major fluid compartments :

## Extra cellular (1/3 of TBW):

- Plasma (20% of ECF)
- Interstitial fluid (80 % of ECF)

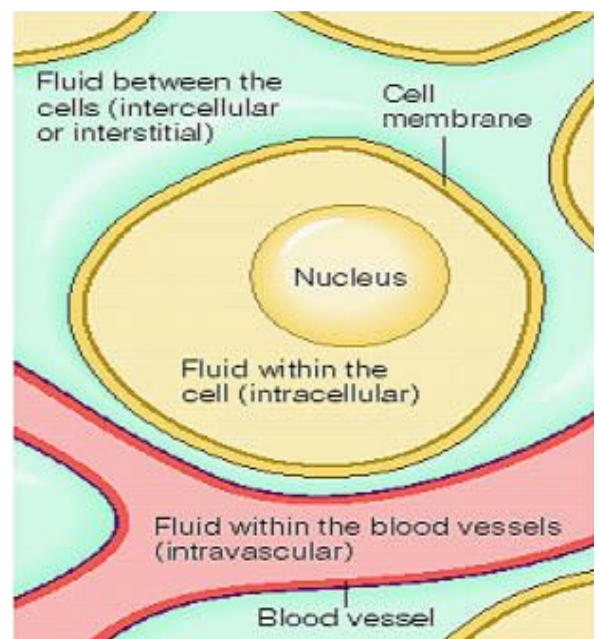
## Intracellular (2/3 of TBW):

- fluid present inside all cells in the body (24\_28 L)

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

- Total body water 0.6 L/Kg Body Weight
- Intracellular water 0.4 L/Kg Body Weight
- Extracellular water 0.2 L/Kg Body Weight
- Plasma 0.04 L/Kg Body Weight

**Total Body Water = 0.6 x Weight**



## Drugs maybe distributed through :

| One compartment                       | 2 compartments                                     | Multiple compartments                                    |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Plasma: blood inside capillary</b> | <b>Extracellular : plasma + interstitial fluid</b> | <b>Extra cellular + intracellular : total body water</b> |

# Apparent Volume of Distribution (VD)

Objective 3: define the Apparent volume of distribution (vd).

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

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

## Vd is important in:

calculate loading dose

-Prediction of the duration of action:

1-High VD means **long duration** of action

2- Low VD means **short duration** of action

-The major body fluid compartments:

### The major body fluid compartments:

#### Intracellular fluid :

( 35 % ) fluid present inside all cells in the body (28 L)

#### Extracellular fluid (22%):-

-**plasma**(5% of body weight-4liters)

-**Interstitial fluid** (16 % - 10 liters)

### Total body fluids

( 70% of body weight in 70-kg individual)

Plasma volume(4L)



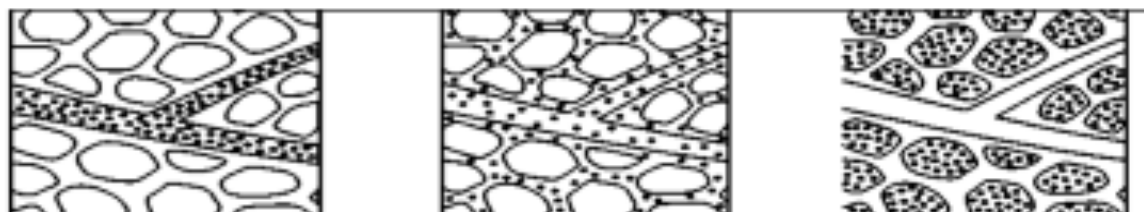
Interstitial volume (10 L)



Intracellular volume (28 L)



Total body fluid (42L)



## Volume of distribution:

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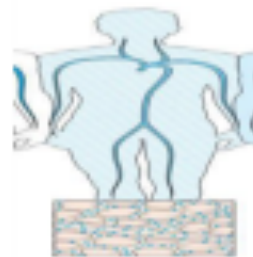
Intracellular have much volume than Extracellular

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

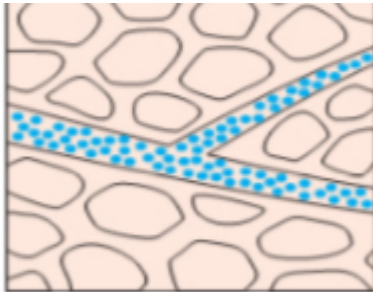
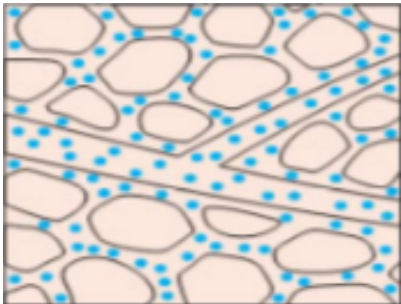
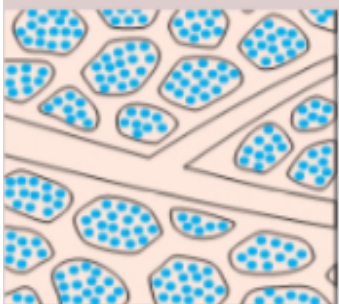
- **Total body water:**  
0.6L/Kg Body Weight
- **Intracellular water:**  
0.4 L/Kg Body Weight
- **Extracellular water:**  
0.2 L/Kg Body Weight
- **Plasma:**  
0.04 L/Kg Body Weight

$$\text{Total Body Water} = 0.6 \times \text{Weight}$$

Drugs may distribute through:

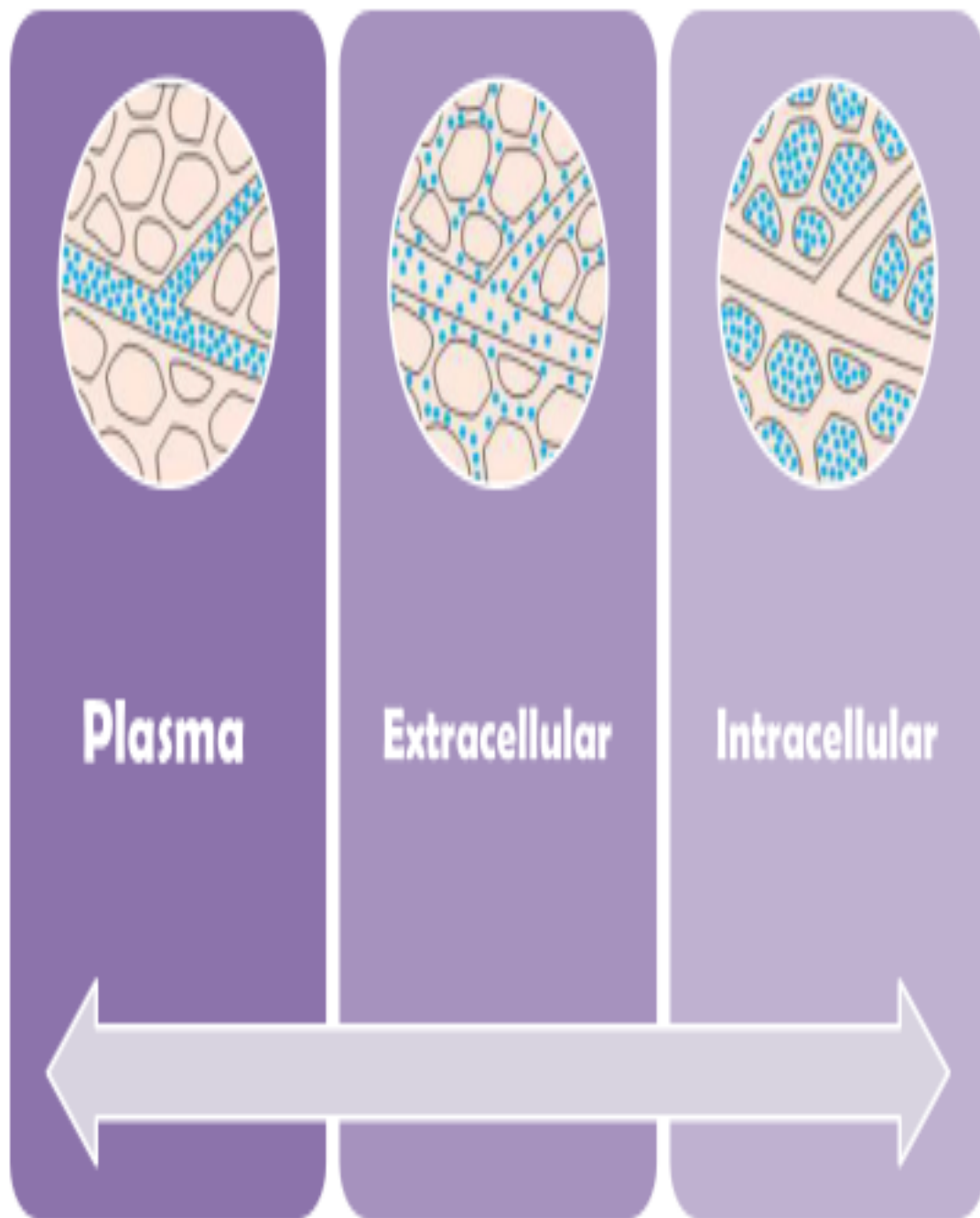




|   | <b>Plasma<br/>(one<br/>compartment)</b>   | <b>Extracellular<br/>(Two compartments)</b>   | <b>Intracellular<br/>(Multi-<br/>compartments)</b>                                    |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>VD</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4L</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-14L</li> <li>• (10+4)</li> </ul>                               | VD > Total body water (42)  | <b>VD=Total body water (42)</b>            |
| <b>Characteristic<br/>s of the drug</b> | <b>Very high molecular weight</b> drugs <b>Or</b> Drugs that bind to plasm proteins ( البروتين يقيد حركته ) | Drugs that have a <b>low molecular weight</b> <b>But</b> Are <b>hydrophilic</b>                           | <b>Lipid soluble drugs.</b>   | <b>Drug that binds strongly To tissues</b> |
| <b>Distribution</b>                     | Can not moves across endothelial cells (lining layer) of capillaries <b>So</b> Drugs are trapped in blood   | Pass endothelium into interstitial fluids <b>But</b> can not cross cell membranes to intracellular fluids | Pass the cell membrane And enters the cell  |  |
| <b>Examples</b>                         | Heparin:<br>(Anticoagulant)<br>4L   | Atracurium: 11L   | Ethanol:<br>38 L<br>(34-41)   | <b>Digoxin</b><br><br><b>385L</b>          |
| <b>Pictures</b>                         |                          |                       |  |  |

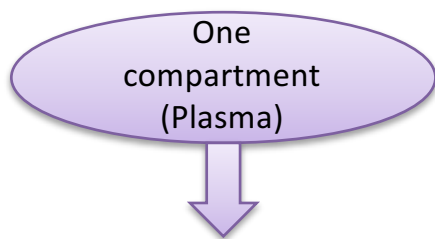
Note: Digoxin binds strongly to tissues so that it's volume of distribution is higher than TBW

# Main Body Fluid Compartments

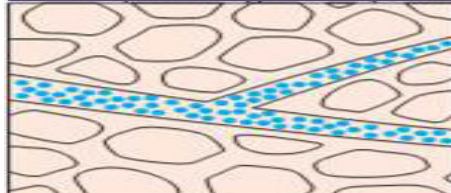




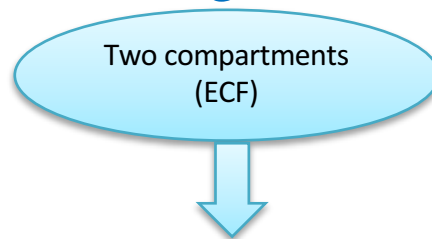
# Distribution through the compartments



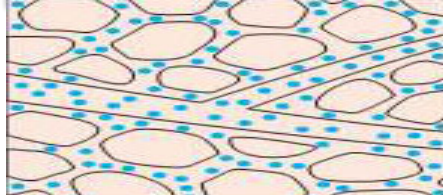
**High molecular weight** **or** **High plasma protein binding drugs**



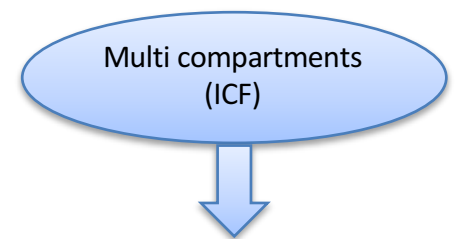
Vd = 4L (amount of blood)  
 They can **NOT** pass endothelial cells of capillaries. *So they are trapped in the blood*  
 \*Molecules with low molecular weight can pass, but when they are bound to plasma proteins, their weight increases.  
 Example: Heparin 4L



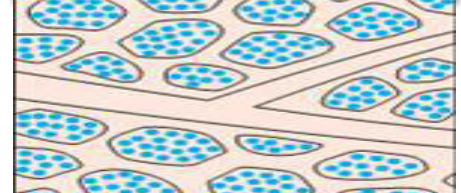
**Low molecular weight, but are *hydrophilic***  
*Why hydrophilic? Because they can not pass the cell membrane*



Vd = 4-14L (Plasma + ISF)  
 They **CAN** pass the endothelium but **NOT** cross cell membranes  
 \*Lipid solubility increases Vd  
 Example: Atracurium 11L



**Lipid soluble drugs**



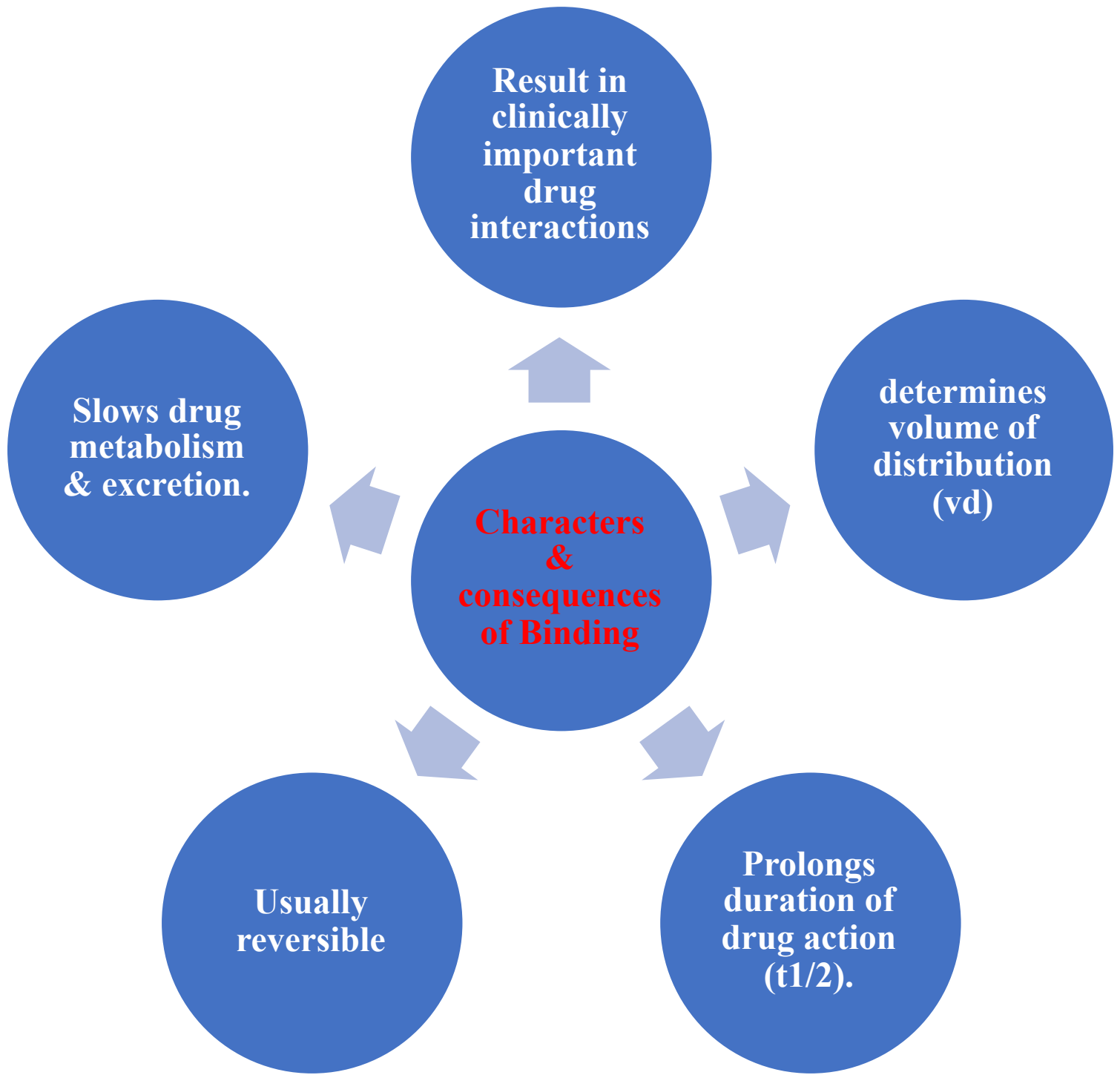
*They diffuse to: Plasma > ISF > ICF*  
*Therefore, they distribute to the whole body fluids.*  
 Vd = Total Body Water (42L)  
 Drugs that bind strongly to tissues have higher Vd than TBW  
 Examples: Ethanol 38L (34-41)  
 Digoxin 385L  
 \*Alcohols bind strongly to tissues, that's why large amounts of it causes problems in tissues

## Example: Heparin (Anticoagulant)

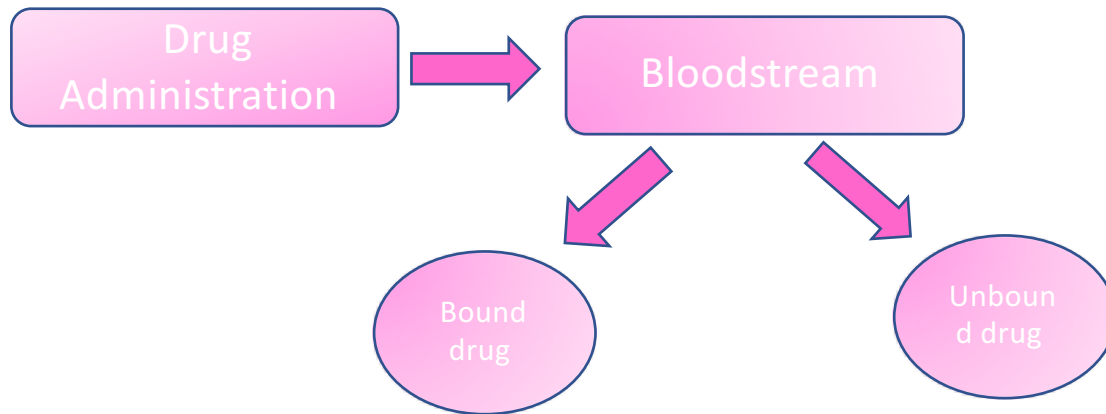
If a pregnant woman gets thrombosis (جلطة) we don't want to give the anticoagulant to her, because it could reach the baby and cause hemophilia (سيولة بالدم)

So when we pick a drug we check the kinetics of the drug to avoid problems. For example we have Warfarin & Heparin.

Heparin is the better choice, Why? Because Heparin has higher molecular weight, therefore distribution will be less, which means that it will not pass the placental barrier thus won't reach the fetus. (Another note: Heparin works in the blood, so that means it doesn't need to move to another compartment in the mother)



# Plasma protein binding



## Displacement

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

**Aspirin + Albumin-warfarin**  $\longrightarrow$

**Albumin-aspirin + free warfarin**  $\longrightarrow$  **bleeding**

# Tissues Binding

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

For example : Tetracycline bind to **bone**

| Bound form of drug                              | Unbound form of drug                             |
|---|--|
| non diffusible form                             | diffusible form                                  |
| can not cross endothelial barrier               | cross endothelial barrier                        |
| can not combine with receptors                  | combine with receptors                           |
| inactive  | active   |
| not available for metabolism & excretion        | available for metabolism & excretion             |
| has long duration of action (t $\frac{1}{2}$ ). | has short duration of action (t $\frac{1}{2}$ ). |

## MCQs

**1. Which one of the following is a correct example of a multi-compartment distribution:**

- A. Plasma > ICF > ISF
- B. ICF > Plasma > ISF
- C. Plasma > ISF > ICF
- D. Plasma > ECF > ICF

**2. If a drug is lipid soluble, which compartment would it most likely be found in?**

- A. In the plasma
- B. In the interstitial fluid
- C. In the blood
- D. In the intracellular fluid

**3. The Vd for Atracurium is:**

- A. 11L
- B. 5L
- C. 14L
- D. 4L

**4. Drugs with high molecular weight, but are not plasma protein bound can pass the endothelium?**

- A. True
- B. False

**5. A drug is distributed through 2 compartments is found in ?**

- A-Plasma b-ICF c- ECF D-Interstitial fluid

**6. A drug is found in intracellular fluid is distributed through :**

- A- One compartment b-Two compartments c-Multiple compartments d-non of the above

1-c 2-D 3-B 4-A 5-C 6-C

Answers



## Useful videos:

[Pharmacokinetics 3 - Distribution](#)

## Team members:

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