

# HEPATOTOXIC DRUGS



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## HEPATOTOXIC DRUGS

Subjects **drugs** to chemical transformation (METABOLISM) → to become inactive & easily excreted. Since most drugs are lipophilic → they are changed into hydrophilic water soluble products → suitable for elimination through the bile or urine

Such metabolic transformation usually occur in **2 PHASES**:

### Phase 1 reactions

Oxidation, Reduction,  
Hydrolysis, Hydration  
Catalyzed by CYT P-450

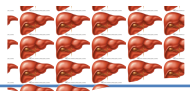
Yields intermediates →  
polar, transient, usually highly reactive →  
far more toxic than parent substrates →  
may result in liver injury

### Drug Induced Liver Injury (DILI)

### Phase 2 reactions

Conjugation with a moiety  
(acetate, a.a., glutathione,  
glucuronic a., sulfate )

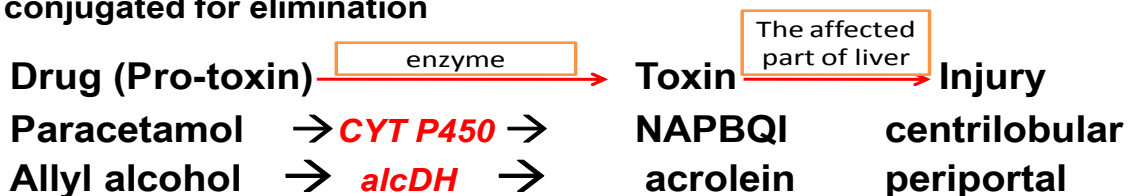
Yields products of increased solubility  
If of high molecular weight →  
excreted in bile  
If of low molecular weight → to blood →  
excreted in urine



## HEPATOTOXIC DRUGS

### Why the liver is the major site of ADRs ?

- ✚ It is the first organ to come in contact with the drug after absorption from the GIT.
- ✚ Being the metabolic clearing house of the body → it expresses the highest levels of drug metabolizing enzymes that converts some drugs( **PROTOXINS**) into intermediate ( **TOXINS**) before being conjugated for elimination



(NAPBQI) : N-acetyl-p-benzoquinone imine



Drugs that can cause ADRs in the liver  
(hepatotoxicity) are called → HEPATOXIN

Types of drug-induced hepatotoxic ADRs (hepatotoxin)	<b>INTRINSIC HEPATOTOXIN</b> (they are related to Supertherapeutic or cumulative dose of the drug)	<b>IDIOSYNCRATIC HEPATOTOXIN</b> (they are related to normal dose of the drug)
type of hepatotoxicity	<u>Type A : DIRECT HEPATOTOXICITY</u> (Dose-dependent hepatotoxicity)	<u>Type B : INDIRECT HEPATOTOXICITY</u> (Dose-independent hepatotoxicity)
TYPE of ADRs	PREDICTABLE / DIRECT	UNPREDICTABLE / BIZARRE / IDIOSYNCRATIC
Divided into	<p><b>- Direct increased dose dependent hepatotoxicity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Acetaminophen</li> <li>*Salicylates</li> <li>*Statins</li> </ul> <p><b>- Direct cumulative hepatotoxicity :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Amiodarone</li> <li>*Methotrexate ( Also has increased dose dependent )</li> <li>*Oral contraceptives</li> </ul>	<p><b>- Hypersensitivity or immunoallergic reactions :</b></p> <p>A drug or its metabolite binds to hepatic membranes or proteins → act as hapten to induce a variety of immune reactions</p> <p><u>Divided into:</u></p> <p><b>1- Inflammatory cholestasis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Chlorpromazine.</li> <li>✚ Chlorpropamide.</li> <li>✚ Erythromycin.</li> </ul> <p><b>2- Viral hepatitis-like pattern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Halothane.</li> <li>✚ Isoniazid.</li> <li>✚ Phenytoin.</li> <li>✚ Valproic acid.</li> <li>✚ Methyldopa.</li> </ul> <p><b>- Metabolic Idiosyncratic Hepatotoxicity :</b></p> <p>The metabolite of the offending drug interferes with hepatic metabolism as that of bilirubin or protein synthesis....etc</p> <p><u>Divided into:</u></p> <p><b>1- Interfere with bilirubin metabolism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Chlorpromazine</li> <li>✚ Estrogen &amp; Androgen</li> <li>✚ Erythromycin</li> <li>✚ Rifampicin</li> </ul> <p><b>2- Interfere with protein synthesis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Corticosteroids</li> <li>✚ Tetracycline</li> </ul>

**N.B. Not all drugs fall neatly into one of these categories, and overlapping mechanisms may occur with some drugs**

This is an imp. Note which must be known >> to prevent any confusion about those drugs which are repeated .

## HOW CAN A DRUG INDUCE HEPATOTOXICITY ?

Drug or its reactive metabolites can form covalent bonds with target molecules or alter the target molecule by non-covalent interactions or both

### COVALENT INTERACTIONS

It is adduct formation between the metabolite of the drug & cellular macromolecules

If covalent binding to protein → immunogenic reaction

If binding to DNA → carcinogenesis

### NON-COVALENT INTERACTIONS

Lipid peroxidation → generation of cytotoxic oxygen radicals

Impairment of mitochondrial respiration

Depletion of GSH reactions → 'oxidative stress'

Modification of sulfhydryl groups → impair  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis

Protein synthesis inhibition

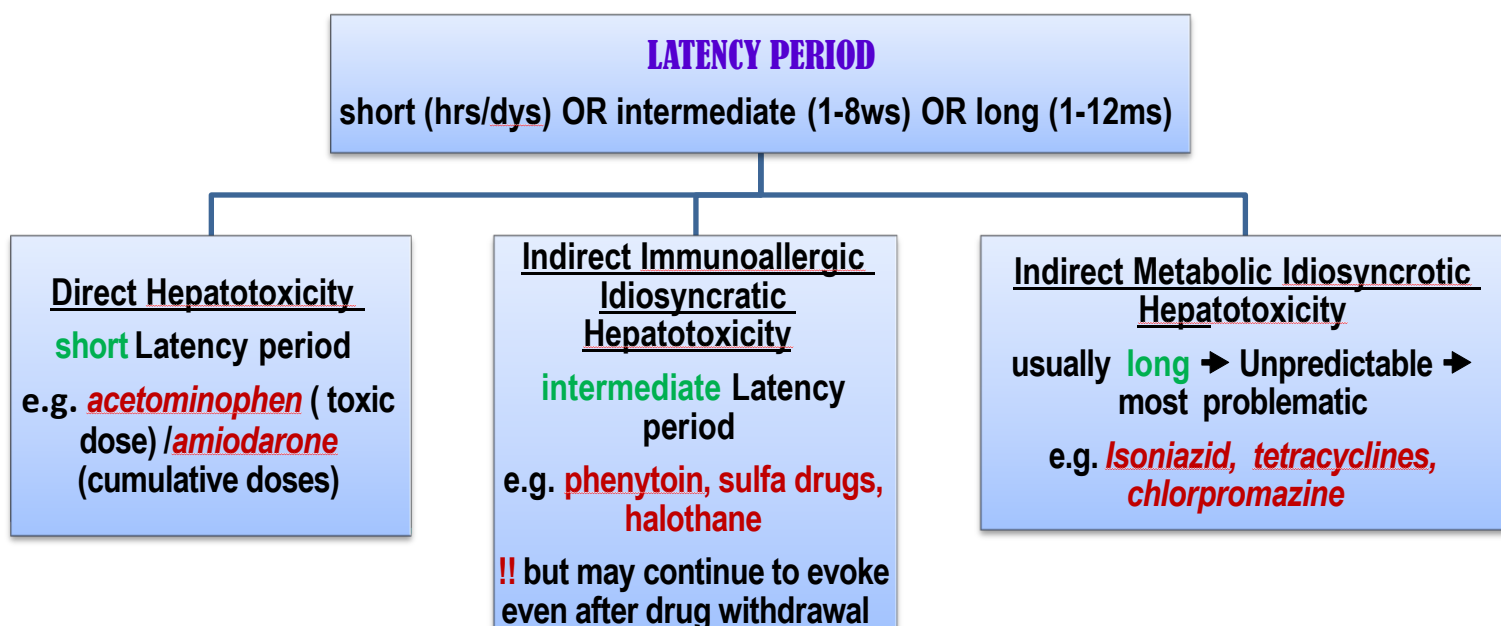
.....etc



## What are the presenting manifestations?

Individual drugs tend to have CHARACTERISTIC SIGNATURE composed of: **latency period** , **clinical pattern** & **pathological pattern**

Imp. !!



## CLINICAL PATTERNS

The clinical presentation could be of variable intensity, ranging from asymptomatic ↑ of liver enzymes → → → fulminant hepatic failure

### ASYMPTOMATIC

( ↑ IN AMINOTRANSFERASES )

e.g. Methyldopa , Phenytoin, **Statins** , Sulfonamides ,  
Salicylates , Sulfonylureas , Quinidine

### SYMPTOMATIC MANIFESTATIONS

( see the table below )

Some PATTERNS of SYMPTOMATIC drug-induced liver disease

Hepatic injury	<b>Hepatocellular</b> (hepatocytes)	<b>Cholestatic</b> (biliary system (canalicular or ductal))	<b>Mixed</b> (hepatocytes & biliary system)
	<b>Flu-like</b> , malaise, m. aches weakness, <b>loss of appetite (, anorexia )</b> , GIT symptoms, diarrhea, jaundice, urine discolored	Yellowish discoloration of skin( jaundice), dark urine, rash, <b>pruritus (itching )</b> , stool may be light, hyperbilirubinaemia	
<u>ALT</u>	≥ 3 fold rise	Normal or slight	≥ 3 fold rise
<u>ALP</u>	Normal	≥ 2 fold rise	≥ 2 fold rise
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Acetaminophen</li> <li>✚ Salicylates &amp; NSAIDs</li> <li>✚ Isoniazid</li> <li>✚ a-methyldopa</li> <li>✚ Griseofulvin</li> <li>✚ Azoles; Fluconazole</li> <li>✚ Amiodarone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Chlorpromazine</li> <li>✚ Chlorpropamide</li> <li>✚ Erythromycin</li> <li>✚ Rifamycin</li> <li>✚ Cimetidine</li> <li>✚ Anabolic steroids</li> <li>✚ Oral contraceptives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Phenytoin</li> <li>✚ Carbamazepine</li> <li>✚ Sulfonamides</li> <li>✚ ACE Inhibitors</li> <li>✚ TCAs; Amitriptyline</li> </ul>

# lines of treatment

**No specific treatment**  
→ largely symptomatic & supportive

## Specific antidotes

**N-acetylcysteine** → acetaminophen toxicity

**L-carnitine** → valproate toxicity

**Immediate withdrawal** → of any suspected drug

OR

**Emergency liver transplantation**  
→ for drug induced fulminant hepatic failure

## Supportive:

High carbohydrate,  
moderate protein diet  
adequate in calories

## Symptomatic:

**severe allergic reaction**  
**(anaphylactic shock)** →  
Corticosteroids

**pruritus** →  
**Cholestyramine**  
(to enhance bile acid excretion)

**cholestatic liver injury** →  
**Ursodeoxycholic acid**  
(Ursodiol)

A long standing rheumatoid arthritic patient developed tuberculosis 2 month ago. Today she was received in E.R complaining of yellowish discoloration of skin, severe anorexia, vomiting and flue like manifestations since two days. She is very weak and looks toxic. Her drug history reveals that she has been 4 month ago on cyclosporine to control the arthritic exacerbations. A month ago, she was put on isoniazid when she developed T.B. and multivitamins because she is weak. Currently she is given domperidone for the emesis. Lab results reveals severe elevation in ALT but no elevation in ALP.

hepatocellular

✚ Which one of the following drug is the likely cause of her symptoms?

a.Cyclosporine b. Multivitamines c. Isoniazid d.Domperidone

✚ Which type of hepatotoxin it is considered?

**IDIOSYNCRATIC HEPATOTOXIN**

✚ What is the likely hepatotoxic pattern inflicted by the drug?

**INDIRECT HEPATOTOXICITY** ( Indirect Immunoallergic Idiosyncratic Hepatotoxicity )

✚ Treatment???? **No treatment** - (treatment only for cases are included within the lines of treatment that mentioned before )

A hypercholestrolemic patient was received in E.R complaining of yellowish discoloration of skin, change in color of urine & stools, and severe itching. He has been for long receiving statins for the hypercholestrolemia. Three month ago he was diagnosed as being diabetic and hypertensive and since then he is receiving Chlorpropamide for the diabetes and nadolol for the hypertension. The last couple of days he had a flue; for which he was given acetaminophen for muscle aches and nasal drops for his nasal stuffiness. Lab investigations shows severe elevation in ALP and no significant elevation in ALT.

Cholestatic

✚ Which one of the following drug is the likely cause of his symptoms?

a. Nadolol b. Chlorpropamide c. Acetaminophen d. Statins

✚ Which type of hepatotoxin it is considered?

**IDIOSYNCRATIC HEPATOTOXIN**

✚ What is the hepatotoxic pattern inflicted by the drug?

**INDIRECT HEPATOTOXICITY** (indirect Immunoallergic Idiosyncratic Hepatotoxicity )

Treatment????

يعتمد على المطلوب في السؤال لو طلب:

- Treatment of pruritus >> Cholestyramine
- Treatment of cholestatic liver injury → Ursodeoxycholic acid (Ursodiol)