FOURTH EDITION

Pharmacotherapy

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE



Marie A. Chisholm-Burns
Terry L. Schwinghammer
Barbara G. Wells
Patrick M. Malone
Jill M. Kolesar
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Pharmacotherapy Principles & Practice

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Pharmacotherapy Principles & Practice

FOURTH FDITION

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ISBN: 978-0-07-183503-9

MHID: 0-07-183503-2

The material in this eBook also appears in the print version of this title: ISBN: 978-0-07-183502-2,

MHID: 0-07-183502-4.

eBook conversion by codeMantra

Version 1.0

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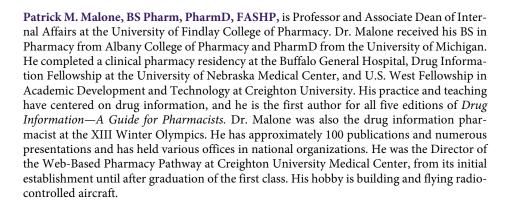
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PREFACE

se of effective and safe pharmacotherapy is a cornerstone of appropriate patient care for both acute and chronic medical conditions. Although the biomedical research enterprise continues to provide medications that have enormous potential to improve individual patient and population health outcomes, these agents are too often applied inappropriately and ineffectively. Consequently, many patients do not achieve the best possible outcomes or incur harm from their drug therapy.

Appropriate implementation and management of highquality, cost-effective pharmacotherapy by health care providers requires an integration of scientific knowledge and clinical practice skills combined with a fiduciary responsibility to put the patient's needs first. The development of mature, independent pharmacotherapists occurs through structured learning processes that include formal coursework, independent study, mentorship, and direct involvement in the care of actual patients in interprofessional settings.

The fourth edition of *Pharmacotherapy Principles & Practice* is designed to provide student learners and health care practitioners with essential knowledge of the pathophysiology and pharmacotherapeutics of disease states likely to be encountered in routine practice. Chapters are written by content experts and peer reviewed by clinical pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians who are authorities in their fields.

Pharmacotherapy Principles & Practice, fourth edition, opens with an introductory chapter followed by chapters on pediatrics, geriatrics, and palliative care. The remainder of the book consists of 98 disease-based chapters that review disease etiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, and clinical presentation, followed by clear therapeutic recommendations for drug selection, dosing, and patient monitoring. The following features were designed in collaboration with educational design specialists to enhance learning and retention:

- Structured learning objectives at the beginning of each chapter, with information in the text that corresponds to each learning objective identified by a vertical rule in the margin, allowing the reader to quickly find content related to each objective.
- Key concepts related to patient assessment and treatment highlighted with an easily identifiable icon throughout the chapter.
- *Patient encounters* that facilitate development of critical thinking skills and lend clinical relevance to the scientific foundation provided.
- A new section on the patient care process that provides specific recommendations about the process of care for an individual patient, from the initial patient assessment through therapy evaluation, care plan development, and follow-up monitoring.

- Up-to-date literature citations for each chapter to support treatment recommendations.
- *Tables, figures, and algorithms* that enhance understanding of pathophysiology, clinical presentation, medication selection, pharmacokinetics, and patient monitoring.
- *Medical abbreviations and their meanings* at the end of each chapter to facilitate learning the accepted shorthand used in real-world health care settings.
- Self-assessment questions and answers for each chapter in the Online Learning Center to facilitate self-evaluation of learning.
- *Laboratory values* expressed as both conventional units and Système International (SI) units.
- Appendices that contain: (1) conversion factors and anthropometrics; (2) common medical abbreviations;
 (3) glossary of medical terms (the first use of each term in a chapter appears in bold, colored font); and
 (4) prescription writing principles.
- A table of common laboratory tests and reference ranges appears on the inside covers of the book.

A companion textbook, *Pharmacotherapy Principles and Practice Study Guide: A Case-Based Care Plan Approach*, is available to further enhance learning by guiding students through the process of applying knowledge of pharmacotherapy to specific patient cases. This study guide contains approximately 100 patient cases that correspond to chapters published in the textbook.

The Online Learning Center at www.ChisholmPharmacotherapy.com provides self-assessment questions, grading and immediate feedback on the questions, and reporting capabilities. The complete textbook and study guide are now available to subscribers of the publisher's AccessPharmacy site (www.accesspharmacy.com), an online educational resource for faculty and students of the health professions.

We acknowledge the commitment and dedication of more than 185 contributing authors and more than 65 peer reviewers of the chapters in this new edition. We are also grateful to many educators and institutions that have adopted this text in their courses. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to the McGraw-Hill Professional editorial team, especially Michael Weitz, Peter Boyle, and Laura Libretti, for their dedication in bringing this new edition to you.

The Editors February 2016



Part I

Basic Concepts of Pharmacotherapy Principles and Practices



1

Introduction

Jack E. Fincham

INTRODUCTION

ealth professionals are given significant responsibilities in our health care system. These roles may be taken for granted by patients until a pharmacist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, physician, or others perform assigned tasks that make major impacts upon patients and patients' families lives in countless ways. The exemplary manner in which health professionals provide necessary care to patients is a hallmark of health professional practice and delivery of US health care. Patients are thus well served, and fellow health professionals share knowledge and expertise specific to their profession. However, there are significant problems remaining in the US health care system from a structural standpoint. The United States spends 17% to 18% of the gross domestic product (GDP) on health care, yet the United States ranks 37th in the world considering outcomes of care. Comparing the United States to similar industrialized countries, we rank 11th out of 11 comparator contries.1

The uninsured remain a major concern. There were close to 45.2 million uninsured individuals in the United States in 2012, representing 16.9% of the population.² This significant number exists despite the institution of health care reform in the United States beginning in 2010. Even with health care reform, the number of uninsured younger than 65 years has decreased only 1.3%. Simply stated, this uninsured segment of the US population is simply staggering in scope and implications for the future collective health of the US population.

Countless other Americans in our midst are underinsured. They may have partial coverage after a fashion, but for these Americans the high price of deductibles, co-pays, and monthly payments for insurance create an economic dilemma for individuals each time they seek care or pay premiums. Recent expenditure data indicate that in 2013, \$3.8 trillion was spent on health care in the United States during 2013³ and \$329.2 billion was spent for prescriptions.⁴

There are tremendous opportunities for health professionals due to the implementation the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). For the first time in the structure of the US health care system, there is a tangible, significant effort to enhance the quality and outcomes of health care delivered. Now payment mechanisms are in place to demand the evidence of quality of health care delivered, regardless of point of delivery of services. If the quality is not there, reimbursement will be decreased, increased, or stay static in monetary values provided to providers. The intent of these measures is to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary expenditures and duplicative health care service in the United States.

The use of medications in the health care system provides enormous help to many; lives are saved or enhanced, and life spans are lengthened. Many other uses of medications lead to significant side effects, worsening states of health, and premature deaths. So, how to separate these disparate pictures of drug use outcomes? You, within your practices and within your networks in the health care workplace, can help to promote the former and diminish the latter. The authors of the chapters in this book have written informative, current, and superb chapters that can empower you to positively influence medication use.

DRUG USE IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Spending on drugs, as a percentage of what was spent on health care in total, increased 3.2% in 2013 compared to the previous year.⁶ Drivers for this significant increase include increasing numbers of therapy innovative products and price increases for agents not facing patent expirations.

Prescription medications are used daily; 48.5% of the population uses one prescription drug daily, 21.7% use three or more drugs daily, and 10.6% use five or more prescription drugs daily.² Problems occurring with the use of drugs can include:

- Medication errors
- Suboptimal drug, dose, regimen, dosage form, and duration of use
- Unnecessary drug therapy
- · Therapeutic duplication
- Drug-drug, drug-disease, drug-food, or drug-nutrient interactions
- · Drug allergies
- · Adverse drug effects, some of which are preventable

Clinicians are often called upon to resolve problems that occur due to undertreatment, overtreatment, or inappropriate treatment. Individuals can purchase medications through numerous outlets. Over-the-counter (OTC) medications can be purchased virtually anywhere. OTCs are widely used by all age groups. Prescription medications can be purchased through traditional channels (community chain and independent pharmacies), from mail-order pharmacies, through the Internet, from physicians, from health care institutions, and elsewhere. Herbal remedies are marketed and sold in numerous outlets. The monitoring of positive and negative outcomes of the use of these drugs, both prescription and OTC, can be disjointed and incomplete. Clinicians and health professionals need to take ownership of these problems and improve patient outcomes resulting from drug use.

Although clinicians are the gatekeepers for patients to obtain prescription drugs, patients obtain prescription medications from numerous sources. Patients may also borrow from friends, relatives, or even casual acquaintances. In addition, patients

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obtain OTC medications from physicians through prescriptions, on advice from pharmacists and other health professionals, through self-selection, or through the recommendations of friends or acquaintances. Through all of this, it must be recognized that there are both formal (structural) and informal (word-of-mouth) components at play. Health professionals may or may not be consulted regarding the use of medications, and in some cases are unaware of the drugs patients are taking.

External variables may greatly influence patients and their drug-taking behaviors. Coverage for prescribed drugs allows those with coverage to obtain medications with varying cost-sharing requirements. However, many do not have insurance coverage for drugs or other health-related needs.

Self-Medication

Self-medication can be broadly defined as a decision made by a patient to consume a drug with or without the approval or direction of a health professional. The self-medication activities of patients have increased dramatically in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Many factors affecting patients have continued to fuel this increase in self-medication. There have been many prescription items switched to OTC classification in the last 50 years, which is dramatically and significantly fueling the rapid expansion of OTC drug usage. In addition, patients are increasingly comfortable with self-diagnosing and self-selection of OTC remedies.

Through the rational use of drugs, patients may avoid more costly therapies or expenditures for other professional services. Self-limiting conditions, and even some chronic health conditions (eg, allergies and dermatologic conditions), if appropriately treated through patient self-medication, allow the patient to have a degree of autonomy in health care decisions.

Compliance Issues

Noncompliance with prescription regimens is one of the most understated problems in the health care system. Approximately 10% of initial prescriptions written by physicians are never filled.6 Reasons can include trying too soon to obtain a new prescription, prior approval requirements, the prescribed drug may not be covered under the patient's insurance, etc. The effects of noncompliance have enormous ramifications for patients, caregivers, and health professionals. Noncompliance is a multifaceted problem with a need for interprofessional, multidisciplinary solutions. Interventions that are organizational (how clinics are structured), educational (patient counseling, supportive approach), and behavioral (impacting health beliefs and expectations) are necessary. Compliant behavior can be enhanced through your actions with the patients for whom you provide care. Sometimes what is necessary is referral to specific clinicians for individualized treatment and monitoring to enhance compliance. The case histories provided in this textbook will allow you to follow what others have done in similar situations to optimally help patients succeed in improving compliance rates and subsequent positive health outcomes.

Drug Use by the Elderly

The major source of payment for prescription drugs for those aged 65 years and older in the United States is the Medicare Part D Drug Benefit. Seniors have benefitted tremendously from this component. Estimates place the expenditure for Medicare Part D to be \$58 billion in 2014; this is 11% of Medicare expenditures.⁷ Since the inception of Medicare Part D, recipients have had to pay costs after initial minimum threshold amounts are reached, then enter the so-called "donut hole" requiring payment out of

pocket until a certain amount would be paid, and then coverage for payment would ensue. This so called donut hole closes in 2020, which will provide more benefits for more enrollees. At that point, estimates place Medicare Part D payments to account for 16% of Medicare expenditures.⁷ Enhanced use of pharmacoeconomic tenets to select appropriate therapy, while considering cost and therapeutic benefits for seniors and others, will become even more crucial for clinicians in the future.

Unnecessary drug therapy and overmedication are problems with drug use in the elderly. Cost estimates are projected to be \$1.3 billion per year for elderly patient polypharmacy alone. A joint effort by health professionals working together is the best approach to aiding seniors in achieving optimal drug therapy. Evaluation of all medications taken by seniors at each patient visit can help prevent polypharmacy from occurring.

IMPACTING THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG USE Medication Errors

There is a tremendous opportunity in medication use and monitoring for working to reduce medication errors. Untold morbidity and mortality occur due to the many errors occurring in medication use. Studies have shown that reconciling the medications that patients take, with coordination by various caregivers providing care, can help reduce medication errors in patient populations. ¹¹ Current changes in how drugs are prescribed, such as electronic prescribing, bar code identification of patients, and electronic medication records, can and have helped to reduce medication errors. ^{9,10}

The incorporation of three key interventions (computerized physician order entry [CPOE], additional staffing, and bar coding) have been shown in an institutional setting to help reduce medication errors. ¹⁰ Being able to track drug ordering, dispensing, and administration electronically has been shown to be cost-effective in the long run. ¹¹ Nurses and office staff have been proven as a valuable resource for reporting prescribing errors, especially with ongoing reminders to scrutinize orders. ¹²

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The potential for health care reform to enhance patient outcomes and the quality of care provided to Americans is very significant. The inclusion of health professionals in segments of the innovative medical homes and accountable care organizations will help all health care providers reach more patients needing care.¹³

DiPiro and Davis¹⁴ noted that now and in the future, there will be an important and expectant need for pharmacists to focus on health outcomes and documentation of quality to fully participate in the new health care models that are a focus of health care reform. These authors point to accountable care organizations and patient centered medical homes as innovative models for health professionals to more fully participate.

There are also covered preventive aspects enabled by the PPACA that include immunizations, screenings, and other offering. The provision of these preventive activities by health professionals will serve patients over the long term and work to prevent costly care later on.

SUMMARY

Health professionals are at a crucial juncture facing an uncertain, yet promising future. Technological advances, including electronic prescribing, may stem the tide of medication errors and inappropriate prescribing. These technological enhancements

for physician order entry (via personal data assistants or through web access to pharmacies) have been implemented to reduce drug errors. The skills and knowledge that enable effective practice have never been more daunting among the numerous health professions. Technology can further empower health professionals to play an effective role in helping patients and fellow health professionals to practice safe and effective medicine. Health care reform has the potential to dramatically impact your practices in the health care system for the length of your careers. There is also current, and no doubt future, enhanced use of health care apps available to consumers. Consumer computer apps have pervaded many aspects of society, including health care. ¹⁵ Consumer apps, although many in number, have not gained widespread use at present; it may be that there are simply too many in number and their utility has not yet been widely adopted.

The use of this text, which incorporates materials written by the finest minds in pharmacy practice and education, can enable the reader to play a crucial role in improving the drug use process for patients, providers, payers, and society. The thorough analysis of common disease states, discussion of therapies to treat these conditions, and specific advice for patients will help you in your practices. The purpose of this book is to help you make a real improvement in the therapies you provide to your patients. Current and future clinicians can rely on the information laid out here to enhance your knowledge and allow you to assist your patients with the sound advice that they expect you to provide. Use the text, case histories, and numerous examples here to expand your therapeutic skills, and to help positively impact your patients in the years to come.

You can help to reverse medication-related problems, improve outcomes of care both clinically and economically, and enable drug use to meet stated goals and objectives. This text provides a thorough analysis and summary of treatment options for commonly occurring diseases and the medications or alternative therapies used to successfully treat these conditions.

Abbreviations Introduced in This Chapter

CPOE computerized physician order entry

GDP gross domestic product OTC over-the-counter

PPACA Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

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2

Geriatrics

Jeannie K. Lee, Damian M. Mendoza, M. Jane Mohler, and Ellyn M. Lee

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

- 1. Explain changing aging population demographics.
- 2. Discuss age-related pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic changes.
- 3. Identify drug-related problems and associated morbidities commonly experienced by older adults.
- 4. Describe major components of geriatric assessment.
- 5. Recognize interprofessional patient care functions in various geriatric practice settings.

INTRODUCTION

he growth of the aging population and increasing lifespan require that health care professionals gain knowledge necessary to meeting the needs of this patient group. Despite the availability and benefit of numerous pharmacotherapies to treat their diseases, older patients commonly experience drugrelated problems resulting in additional morbidities. Therefore, it is essential for clinicians serving older adults across all health care settings to understand the epidemiology of aging, agerelated physiological changes, drug-related problems prevalent in the elderly, comprehensive geriatric assessment, and interprofessional approaches to geriatric care.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ETIOLOGY

As humans age, they are at increasing risk of disease, disability, and death for three reasons: (a) genetic predisposition; (b) reduced immunological surveillance; and (c) the accumulated effects of physical, social, environmental, and behavioral exposures over the life course. All elders experience increasing vulnerability (homeostenosis) as they age, resulting in considerable heterogeneity in health states and care requirements. While resilient elders can maintain high levels of physical and cognitive functioning, others suffer functional decline, frailty, disability, or premature death. There is an urgent need for all clinicians to better understand the epidemiology of aging to comprehensively provide high-value services to optimize functioning and health-related quality of life of older adults.¹

Sociodemographics

► Population

KEY CONCEPT Our population is rapidly growing older. In 2010, 40.3 million US residents were 65 years and older (13% of the total population), nearly 5.5 million people were 85 years or older (the "oldest-old"), and over 53,000 were centenarians.² The baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) began turning

65 years in 2011; their numbers will double to 83.7 million in the year 2050, representing over 20% of the total US population.³ In 2010, there were a total of 22.9 million women and 17.4 million men (an average ratio of 100 women to 77.3 men) 65 years and older; this ratio widens as elders age. The oldest-old are projected to increase from 5.3 million in 2006 to nearly 21 million in 2050.³ In addition, minority elders are projected to increase to 12.9 million in 2020.³ Surviving baby boomers will be disproportionally female, more ethnically/racially diverse, better educated, and have more financial resources than were elders in previous generations.

► Economics

More elders are enjoying higher economic prosperity than ever before, although major inequalities persist, with older blacks and those without high school diplomas reporting fewer financial resources.⁴ Considerable disparities exist, and may prevent less advantaged elders from being able to purchase all prescribed medications.

► Education and Health Literacy

By 2007, more than 75% of US elders had graduated from high school, and nearly 20% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Still, substantial educational differences exist among racial and ethnic minorities. While more than 80% of non-Hispanic white elders had high school degrees in 2007, 72% of Asians, 58% of blacks, and 42% of Hispanic elders were graduates. Nearly 40% of people 75 years or older have low health literacy, more than any other age group. Despite these limitations, the Pew Trust reports that more than 8 million Americans (22%) 65 years or older increasingly use the Internet, and large health care systems are increasingly offering online health information to older health consumers. These advances are important because communication between health care providers and elders is vital in providing quality care, supporting self-care, and in negotiating transitions of care.

Health Status

► Life Expectancy

Although Americans are living longer than ever before, an estimated average of 78.14 years overall in 2008, US life expectancy lags behind that of many other industrialized nations.⁶ There is nearly a 6-year gap between 2008 estimated life expectancy in men (75.29 years) and women (81.13 years).6 Disparities in mortality persist, with estimated 2008 life expectancy in the white population nearly 5 years higher than that of the black population. 6 Nearly 35% of US deaths in 2000 were attributed to three risk behaviors: smoking, poor diet, and physical inactivity. Currently, only 9% of Americans older than 65 years smoke; however, nearly 54% of men and 21% of women are former smokers.7 Overweight elders 65 to 74 years of age increased from 57% to 73% in 2004 largely due to inactivity and a diet high in refined foods, saturated fats, and sugared beverages.4 Despite the proven health benefits of regular physical activity, more than half of the older population is sedentary; 47% of those 65 to 74 years and 61% older than 75 years report no physical activity.8

The 2007 National Health Interview Survey indicated that 39% of non-Hispanic white elders reported "very good" or "excellent" health, compared with 29% of Hispanics and 24% of blacks.9 Approximately 80% of older adults have at least one chronic condition, and 50% have at least two. The prevalence of certain chronic conditions differs by sex, with women reporting higher levels of arthritis (54% vs 43%), and men reporting higher levels of heart disease (37% vs 26%) and cancer (24% vs 19%).5 Among the 15 leading causes of death, age-adjusted death rates decreased significantly from 2004 to 2005 for the top three leading causes: heart disease (33%), cancer (22%), and stroke (8%); while rates of chronic lower respiratory diseases, unintentional injuries, Alzheimer disease, influenza and pneumonia, hypertension, and Parkinson disease increased. Figure 2-1 specifies the most common chronic conditions of older adults by sex. Frailty is a common biological syndrome in the elderly. Once frail, elders may rapidly progress toward failure to thrive and death. Only 3% to 7% of elders between the ages of 65 and 75 years are frail, increasing to more than 32% in those older than 90 years. 10

Patient Encounter, Part 1

CC is an 80-year-old woman who lived in Mexico until just after her 67th birthday when she moved to the United States to take care of her grandchildren. Her daughter was promoted at work and required more travel, so asked CC for help with the children. CC finished eighth grade in Mexico, speaks almost no English, therefore has low health literacy. She was referred to the Interprofessional Geriatrics Clinic for a comprehensive care of multiple chronic conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, stroke, seizure disorder, arthritis, depression, insomnia, and glaucoma. CC uses 14 medications for the described conditions and supplements from Mexico for "general health." She is overweight and reports eating high amount of refined foods because she cooks for her grandchildren only. She watches TV most of the day while the kids are at school.

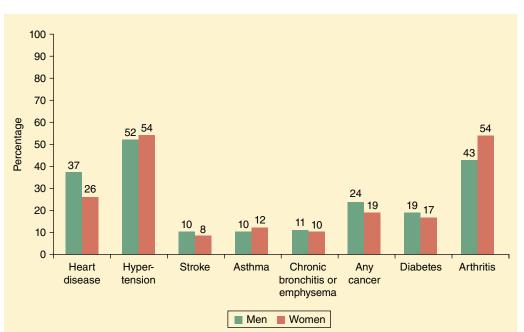
What information is consistent with epidemiology of aging? Which of CC's medical conditions are commonly found in older adults?

What additional information do you need before conducting a comprehensive medication review?

► Health Care Utilization and Cost

KEYCONCEPT Older Americans use more health care services than younger Americans do. Although hospital stays for those 65 years and older decreased by half from 1970 to 2010 (12.6 vs 5.5 days), they accounted for more than 65% of hospitalizations overall, with longer lengths of stay corresponding to increasing age. In 2010 there were 1.3 million (3.6%) US nursing home residents aged 65 and older, and as the aged live longer, more will require assistance, which will be increasingly performed in the home. Health care costs among older Americans are three to five

times greater than the cost for someone younger than 65 years.



of people 65 years and older who reported having selected chronic conditions, by sex, 2005 to 2006. Note: Data are based on a 2-year average from 2005 to 2006. Reference population: These data refer to the noninstitutionalized population. (From Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.)

Medicare plays a major role in health care costs, accounting for 20% of total US health spending in 2012, 27% of spending on hospital care, and 23% of spending on physician services.¹²

By applying the epidemiology of aging, clinicians can better intervene with pharmacotherapy to postpone disease, disability, and mortality, and promote health, functioning, and healthrelated quality of life.

AGE-RELATED CHANGES

In basic terms, pharmacokinetics is what the body does to the drug, and pharmacodynamics is what the drug does to the body.

KEY CONCEPT All four components of pharmacokinetics—absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion—are affected by aging; the most clinically important and consistent is the reduction of renal elimination of drugs.\(^{13}\) As people age, they can become more frail and are more likely to experience altered and variable drug pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Even though this alteration is influenced more by a patient's clinical state than their chronological age, the older patient is more likely to be malnourished and suffering from diseases that affect pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.\(^{14}\) Clinicians have the responsibility to use pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles to improve the care of older patients and avoid adverse effects of pharmacotherapy.

Pharmacokinetic Changes

► Absorption

Multiple changes occur throughout the gastrointestinal (GI) tract with aging, but little evidence indicates that drug absorption is significantly altered. The changes include decreases in overall surface of the intestinal epithelium, gastric acid secretion, and splanchnic blood flow. Peristalsis is weaker and gastric emptying delayed. These changes slow absorption in the stomach, especially for enteric-coated and delayed-release preparations. Delays in absorption may lead to a longer time required to achieve peak drug effects, but it does not significantly alter the amount of drug absorbed, and drug movement from the GI tract into circulation is not meaningfully changed. However, relative achlorhydria can decrease the absorption of nutrients such as vitamin $\rm B_{12}$, calcium, and iron. $\rm ^{14}$

Aging facilitates atrophy of the epidermis and dermis along with a reduction in barrier function of the skin. Tissue blood perfusion is reduced, leading to decreased or variable rates of transdermal, subcutaneous, and intramuscular drug absorption. Therefore, intramuscular injections should generally be avoided in the elderly due to unpredictable drug absorption.¹³ Additionally, because saliva production decreases with age, medications that need to be absorbed rapidly by the buccal mucosa are absorbed at a slower rate.¹⁴ Yet, for most drugs, absorption is not significantly affected in older patients and the changes described are clinically inconsequential.¹⁵

▶ Distribution

Main physiological changes that affect distribution of drugs in older adults are changes in body fat and water, and in protein binding. Lean body mass can decrease by 12% to 19% through loss of skeletal muscle in the elderly. Thus, blood levels of drugs primarily distributed in muscle increase (eg, digoxin), presenting a risk for overdose. While lean muscle mass decreases, adipose tissue can increase with aging by 18% to 36% in men and 33% to 45% in women. Therefore, fat-soluble drugs (eg, diazepam,

amiodarone, and verapamil) have increased volume of distribution ($V_{\rm d}$), leading to higher tissue concentrations and prolonged duration of action. Greater $V_{\rm d}$ leads to increased half-life and time required to reach steady-state serum concentration. ^{13,14}

Total body water decreases by 10% to 15% by age 80. This lowers $V_{\rm d}$ of hydrophilic drugs (eg, aspirin, lithium, and ethanol) leading to higher plasma drug concentrations than in younger adults when equal doses are used. ^{13,14} Toxic drug effects may be enhanced when dehydration occurs and when the extracellular space is reduced by diuretic use.

Likewise, plasma albumin concentration decreases by 10% to 20%, although disease and malnutrition contribute more to this decrease than age alone.13 In patients with an acute illness, rapid decreases in serum albumin can increase drug effects. Examples of highly protein-bound drugs include warfarin, phenytoin, and diazepam.14 For most chronic medications, these changes are not clinically important because although the changes affect peak level of a single dose, mean serum concentrations at steady state are not altered unless clearance is affected. 4 For highly proteinbound drugs with narrow therapeutic indices (eg, phenytoin), however, it is important to appropriately interpret serum drug levels in light of the older patient's albumin status. In a malnourished patient with hypoalbuminemia, a higher percentage of the total drug level consists of free drug than in a patient with normal serum albumin. Thus, if a hypoalbuminemic patient has a low total phenytoin level and the phenytoin dose is increased, the free phenytoin concentration may rise to a toxic level.¹⁵

Metabolism

Drug metabolism is affected by age, acute and chronic diseases, and drug-drug interactions. The liver is the primary site of drug metabolism, which undergoes changes with age; though the decline is not consistent, older patients have decreased metabolism of many drugs. 13,15 Liver mass is reduced by 20% to 30% with advancing age, and hepatic blood flow is decreased by as much as 40%. These changes can drastically reduce the amount of drug delivered to the liver per unit of time, reduce its metabolism, and increase the half-life.14 Metabolic clearance of some drugs is decreased by 20% to 40% (eg, amiodarone, amitriptyline, warfarin, and verapamil), but it is unchanged for drugs with a low hepatic extraction.¹⁴ Drugs that have high extraction ratios have significant first-pass metabolism, resulting in higher bioavailability for older adults. For example, the effect of morphine is increased due to a decrease in clearance by around 33%. Similar increases in bioavailability can be seen with propranolol, levodopa, and statins. Thus, older patients may experience a similar clinical response to that of younger patients using lower doses of these medications.14

The effect of aging on liver enzymes (cytochrome P-450 system [CYP450]) may lead to a decreased elimination rate of drugs that undergo oxidative phase I metabolism, but this is controversial. Originally, it was thought that the CYP450 system was impaired in the elderly, leading to decreased drug clearance and increased serum half-life, but studies have not consistently confirmed this. Thus, variations in the CYP450 activity may not be due to aging but to lifestyle (eg, smoking), illness, or drug interactions. A patient's nutritional status plays a role in drug metabolism as well. Frail elderly have a more diminished drug metabolism than those with healthy body weight. Aging does not affect drugs that undergo phase II hepatic metabolism, known as conjugation or glucuronidation, but conjugation is reduced with frailty. Temazepam and lorazepam are examples of drugs that undergo phase II metabolism.