

## Nephrotoxic Drugs

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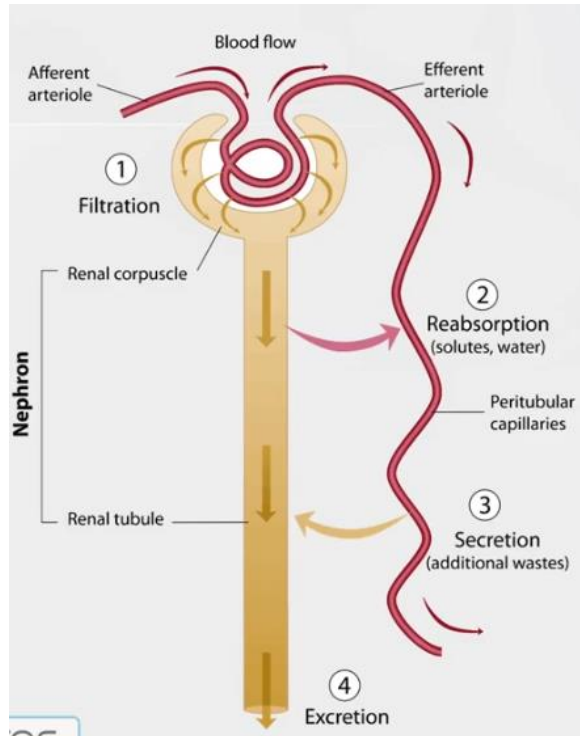
# ILOS

- Outline the pharmacology of most drugs implicated in nephrotoxicity.

# Outline

- 1- Nephrotoxicity
- 2- Mechanisms of drug-induced nephrotoxicity
- 3- Assessment of renal function
- 4- drugs

# 1-Nephrotoxicity



## Drug-induced Nephrotoxicity

- Damage to the kidneys from:
  - Decreased blood flow (pre-renal)
  - Direct nephron injury (intrinsic)
  - Obstruction (post-renal)

**Nephrotoxicity** is an adverse **functional and/or structural change** in the kidney.

- caused **directly or indirectly** by **chemicals**, biological **drugs**, or **metabolites** of these products when systemically absorbed.

the kidneys are **vulnerable to toxic injury** more than any other organ in the body because of:

- 1- **High blood flow**, the kidneys constitute only 0.4% of the total body weight, yet they receive **20-25%** of the cardiac output.
- 2- **Large endothelial surface** area more than any other organ.
- 3- **Metabolic activity** e.g. transformation of paracetamol into highly reactive metabolites.
- 4- Unique concentrating ability that **exposes** the tubular lumen to **high chemical concentrations**.

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# Risk Factors

## ☐ Patient related factors:

- Age
- sex
- race
- Pre-existent renal disease
- Specific disease (DM)
- Dehydration

## ☐ Drug-related factors :

- Inherent
- Dose
- Duration
- frequency of administration

## ☐ Drug interactions



# Clinical Presentation

## General

- Most common manifestation is a decline in glomerular filtration leading to a rise in serum creatinine and blood urea nitrogen.

## Symptom

- Malaise, anorexia, vomiting, shortness of breath or edema.

## Signs

- Decreased urine output

# Mechanism

**1-Change in  
glomerular hemodynamics**

**2-Tubular Cell Toxicity**

**3-Crystal Nephropathy**

**4-Diabetes Insipidus**

**5-Others**

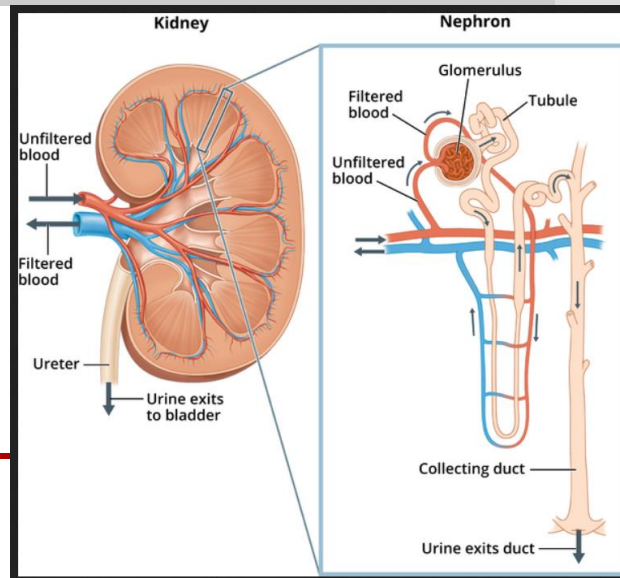


# 1-Change in glomerular hemodynamics

- Kidneys can keep a constant **GFR (120 ml/min)** by regulation of blood flow in **afferent and efferent** arteries through renal **Prostaglandins (PGs)** and **angiotensin II(AGII)**.

- **Anti-prostaglandin drugs** (as non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs NSAIDs)

**drugs having anti-angiotensin** activity (as Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors ACEIS and angiotensin receptor blockers ARBS) induce nephrotoxicity by **decreasing GFR**.



## 2-Tubular Cell Toxicity

**Cytotoxicity** occurs due to **mitochondrial damage** of renal tubular cells, disturbed tubular transport system and ↑ oxidative stress by **free radical generation**.

EX:

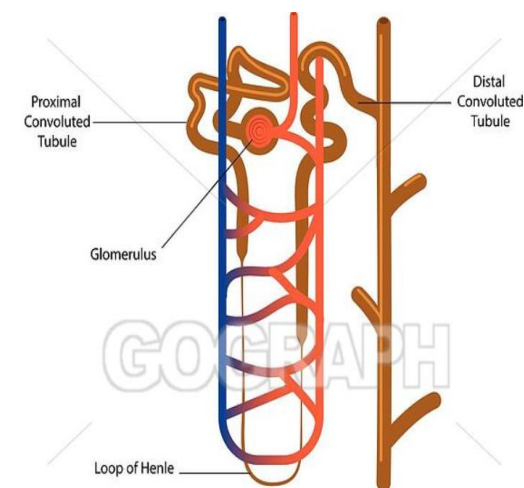
- **Aminoglycosides**, **amphotericin B**, **anticancer drugs** as cisplatin.
- Heavy metals e.g. mercury, **gold**, **iron** and lead.
- Radiocontrast media.

- **Glomerulonephritis**: e.g. **gold** salts and penicillamine

- **Acute interstitial nephritis**: e.g. NSAIDs and rifampicin.

- **Chronic interstitial nephritis**: e.g. long-term use of **cyclosporin**, lithium.

Early diagnosis is essential to preserve kidney function



### 3-Crystal Nephropathy

- Formation of **insoluble crystals** in human urine. It depends on **acidity** of urine and solute **concentration**.

EX: fonamides, cytotoxic and uricosuric drugs

### 4-Diabetes Insipidus

e.g. **Lithium**, demeclocycline decrease the adenyl cyclase response to ADH.

### 5-Others

e.g. **Calciferol** (Vit. D) →→ Renal calcifications in hypervitaminosis D.

# Assessment of renal function

## Creatinine clearance (Cr. CL) (75-125 ml/min).

- 1- It represents the **GFR**
- 2- it is **better than estimating serum creatinine** (Sr. Cr) (0.6-1.2 mg/dl).
- 3- Sr. Cr. does not reflect **acute changes** in renal function and may increase in face of improved GFR.

## Urine analysis:

- 1- **albumin** in urine suggests defect in the glomeruli
- 2- **RBC cast** suggests glomerular lesion,
- 3- while **WBC casts** suggest tubular or **interstitial damage**.

### 3- Tubular function:

PCT: if it is damaged by e.g. heavy metals, salicylates or sugar and amino acids will appear in urine although normal serum levels. aminoglycosides,

DCT: damaged by drug like amphotricin B leading to inability to acidify urine to pH 5.5 or less after 0.1 g/kg of ammonium chloride.

# Drugs-induced Nephrotoxicity

- ☐ **Antibiotics** (Aminoglycoside . Vancomycin)
- ☐ **Antifungal** (Amphotericin B)
- ☐ **Antidepressants** (Amitriptyline . fluoxetine ).
- ☐ **Antiviral** (Acyclovir)
- ☐ **Antihypertensive** (ACE inhibitor. ARBs. Diuretics)
- ☐ **NSAIDs/ COX2 inhibitor**
- ☐ **Cocaine, Heroin & Ketamine**
- ☐ **Statins**
- ☐ **Antihistamines:** (Diphenhydramine)



Drug	Mechanism	Disease
NSAIDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-↓ renal perfusion</li> <li>- Direct toxicity.</li> <li>- Immune reactions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Renal papillary necrosis</li> <li>-Acute kidney injury(AKI)</li> <li>Chronic renal disease(CRD)</li> <li>-Interstitial nephritis</li> </ul>
Captopril	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-↓ renal perfusion</li> <li>-Immune reaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nephrotic syndrome</li> <li>-Glomerulonephritis</li> <li>-Acute tubular necrosis (ATN) &amp; (AKI).</li> <li>- Interstitial nephritis</li> </ul>
Radio-contrast media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct tubular toxicity</li> <li>- tubular obstruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Renal ischemia</li> <li>-renal failure with risk factors</li> </ul>
Aminoglycosides	-Direct tubular toxicity	-Non-oliguric AKI



Cyclosporin	-Direct toxicity	-Interstitial nephritis
Cisplatin	-Direct toxicity	-ATN
Cyclophosphamide	-Direct toxicity	-Hemorrhagic cystitis ATN & AKI
Rifampicin	-Hypersensitivity reaction primarily with irregular therapy	-Interstitial nephritis & AKI
Cimetidine	-Delayed reversible hypersensitivity	-Interstitial nephritis
Lithium	-B-blocks activation of adenylyl cyclase in response to ADH	-Nephrogenic diabetes Insipidus (DI)

# Measures to prevent drugs-induced Nephrotoxicity

- ☐ Adjust medication dosages
- ☐ Avoid nephrotoxic combination.
- ☐ Correct risk factors for nephrotoxicity before initiation of drug therapy.
- ☐ Ensure adequate hydration before and during therapy.
- ☐ Use equally effective non-nephrotoxic drugs whenever possible.

