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Today I'll be giving a lecture on the introduction to clinical pharmacology

The objectives of this presentation are to describe how drugs are developed and where clinical pharmacology studies are performed; what involves pharmacokinetic studies which is part of the absorption distribution metabolism and elimination of drugs and how the exposures are associated with those the definition of pharmacodynamic studies as related to explaining key terms such as dose response relationships including receptors and actions of drug targeting and predict how individual variability in the pharmacokinetics effect of pharmacodynamics such as efficacy and toxicity

This slide depicts the process of drug discovery and development and the different phases of drug development

There's pre-discovery which is identification of molecules

There's the early drug development in this part

And then obviously there's preclinical drug development which involves pharmacology studies in animals

This will not be part of this lecture but just understand that a lot of the studies that we perform in clinical pharmacology which are involved in patients as part of clinical trials are also performed in preclinical studies

So in most cases the clinical pharmacology studies that we're going to be discussing are performed in phase one and phase two studies of drugs during development. Sometimes in phase three which are a much larger study and then also in postapproval studies which are called in many cases phase four studies

Clinical pharmacology has two basic parts: pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics

Pharmacokinetics is what the body does to the drug

So how the body handles the drug clears it distributes it and other factors

And then pharmacodynamics is what the drug does to the body

What are the effects of the drug on the body such as for efficacy targeting and also toxicity?

So pharmacokinetics we can explain the pharmacology of the drug mathematically

It's basically the drug's journey through the body and how the drug is handled by the body

There are four different basic processes to pharmacokinetics which is called ADME: absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination

When a drug is dosed either orally or IV it goes into the central compartment which is the absorption phase

It then goes into the peripheral compartment which is a distribution phase

And then lastly the drug is eliminated which is the elimination phase

So we'll talk about how these studies are performed for various drugs in development

This slide depicts the concentration versus time curve which is involved in the pharmacokinetic studies

Time on the X axis, concentration on the Y axis

What we're looking at is a term such as the minimum effective dose or exposure and the maximum tolerated dose

This would be the therapeutic range which we'll also talk about in a second

There are important pharmacokinetic terms such as the C_{max} or maximum concentration

There's T_{max} which is the time of the maximum concentration

And then area under the concentration time curve which is the AUC and a measure of overall exposure

And so what we try to do in these studies is to evaluate these different pharmacokinetic parameters and eventually see how they predict the pharmacodynamic response

Drugs can be administered through various routes of administration

There's parenteral administration such as IV, IM or subcutaneous

Most drugs that use a parenteral administration are IV

There's oral administration with various formulations such as tablets, capsules, suspensions and liquids

There's newer administrations such as sublingual tablets

And then there's also local administration

This is just a reference that can go through different information on routes of administration

Bioavailability is a very important pharmacokinetic term

It's the fraction or percentage of a drug that reaches the systemic circulation

And what I mean by that is the blood exposure

So if you give a dose orally it goes in and it dissolves or breaks down into the gut

That is then absorbed into the blood and is metabolized by the liver through first-pass effect

And then ultimately what gets to the blood after the liver is what is bioavailable

So the bioavailability here would be 0 percent

Obviously influenced by absorption and metabolism and bioavailability

Ultimately the fraction absorbed is calculated as F which is the AUC of the desired dosage form for example the oral over the AUC achieved with IV administration

So that would be the fraction absorbed through various formulations or dosing besides IV

There are several factors affecting the distribution

There's factors that affect absorption: tissue permeability, blood flow, binding to plasma proteins which we'll talk about in a second and there's binding to additional cellular compartments which all determine where the drug goes and how fast the drug distributes throughout the body

Again the distribution here related to the capillary permeability

And also a specific site of exposure is in the brain with the blood brain barrier
And so concentration time curves based on distribution are different based on the different
tissues

So the exposure in the plasma which is a compartment within the blood is represented
by the black line

But how a drug distributes to a fat versus lean muscle versus what gets into the brain
is highly variable and drug dependent

Protein binding is also a very important kinetic term
It's related to the binding of the drug to plasma proteins such as albumin, beta globulin
and alpha acid glycoprotein

It's important to remember that drugs that are bound to these proteins have no effect

So the term for amount of drug bound is determined by different concentrations
There's the free drug concentration, the protein bound concentration and the affinity for
binding sites

So percent of drug bound is the bound exposure over the bound exposure plus the free exposure
times a hundred

But this fraction here which can be relatively small is the most important parameter

Because again that is the active form of the drug

So what could change the percent drug that is bound?

Renal failure, inflammation, malnutrition or fasting and also drug interactions where
two drugs administered together would be binding to the same particular protein or site

Now we'll move to elimination as a pharmacokinetic mechanism

And there'll be three different types of elimination

The first one we'll talk about is enzymatic metabolism

The goal of this is to enhance the elimination from the body

The enzymatic metabolism mostly occurs in the liver by reactions that increase the water

solubility

The metabolites are then secreted back into the blood or into the bowel where they're eliminated from the body

There are different phases of enzymatic metabolism

There's phase one which is making the drug more hydrophilic such as CYP450 enzymes would be this case

And then there's phase two metabolism which involves conjugating it to also make it more water soluble so that it is eliminated

A second type of elimination is renal elimination

And there's two different types of renal elimination

There's filtration which goes through the renal glomerulus here and its elimination through the urine

There is also secretion where the drugs are actively secreted through the renal tubules of certain drugs

And again they go through elimination through the kidney and out in the urine

So again two types of renal elimination filtration and secretion

The last type of elimination like to discuss is a relatively new or novel form of elimination

It's a cellular elimination via the mononuclear phagocyte system or MPS system

And this is for complex drugs such as nanoparticle conjugates and biologics

And by biologics I mean antibodies or antibody drug conjugates

And so when an antibody or a nanoparticle is administered usually IV in most cases they reach the plasma

And then they are cleared via the kidney but it's not metabolism via the kidney

It's these active cells of monocytes and macrophages or other phagocytic cells that are clear that phagocytose and uptake the particles to remove them from the blood

And this occurs in the liver and the spleen and also through circulating monocytes in

the blood

So this is a cellular active process by which these complex agents are removed from the circulation

An important pharmacokinetic parameter is half-life

And by half-life what I mean is it is defined as the time it takes for half the drug to be administered

So each drug has its own half-life that needs to be characterized

And so as you're giving repeated doses of a drug either if it's a IV infusion and then you stop the infusion

Then the drug clears

The wash out period here and the time it takes for half the drug to be eliminated is what we would call the half-life

And then within five to seven intervals or five to seven half-lives is how long it takes the drug to be completely cleared from circulation

And also if you're giving repeated oral dosing how long it would take to get to steady state

So again five to seven half-lives is a very important pharmacokinetic term

Pharmacodynamics now is the opposite

This is what the drug does to the body

It's related to the drug's destination or purpose

Again this definition of what the drug does to the body it involves efficacy and toxicity

We'll talk about important terms such as therapeutic index, sites of action and an affinity for receptors

And so when you give a dose or a concentration of a drug measured in pharmacokinetic studies the degree of response goes from zero up to 100 percent

And you get this sigmoidal curve here

Once you reach a point where giving more or a higher concentration of drug you get no

more added effects

So this would be the maximum effect that can occur

And you never want to dose above that because you don't get added response

You just get off target effects or toxicity

And so again there's different drugs will have different concentration versus response

relationships as related to which drug would be more efficacious

Obviously if this drug only reaches a 0 percent response versus this drug reaches a hundred percent response the drug represented by the red would be more efficacious

Potency is a term a dynamic term related to the relative strength and response for a given dose

The effect of concentration or dose needed to elicit half the maximum dose or response either called the EC_{50} or ED_{50} are important terms

And the potency is inversely related to the EC_{50} or ED_{50} which I'll show you here

So for example this would be the dose or exposure of a particular drug

This is an elevation or treatment of pain from zero to a hundred percent

And as the potency curve moves to the left that means these drugs are more potent

And as the dose or exposure response curve moves to the right these agents are less potent

Therapeutic index is a very important pharmacodynamic term

Therapeutic index is related to the toxic or lethal dose at 0 percent

An easier way to think about the therapeutic index is to look at the range or distance between what is required for efficacy or what is required for toxicity

Again looking at the dose or exposure versus response relationship

The efficacy curve represented by the blue

The toxicity curve represented by the red line

The distance or interval or exposure range between what causes efficacy and what causes

toxicity is called a therapeutic index

This agent here would have a wider therapeutic index which is a good parameter or a good characteristic of the drug

This particular agent has a narrow therapeutic index

So the which means the exposure that causes are associated with efficacy or causes toxicity is very close

This can be problematic for a particular drug due to variability in kinetics and exposure from patient to patient and dynamic response

So in pharmacodynamics there are different molecular mechanisms of actions

Drugs must bind to a specific site to elicit a response called the drug receptor site interaction

There are many different targets for these receptors and interactions: lipids, nucleic acids or proteins which are most receptors, and many of those have not been fully characterized or identified

So it's a lock and key analogy

So basically you have a receptor

You need the drug either drug A or drug B to bind to the receptor to achieve a response

If drug A binds it achieves a response or an action that's going on

And which one exactly happens is by affinity

And these have to do with chemical bonds and interactions

The interactions are either reversible or irreversible

Irreversible but also called covalent binding

So multiple drugs bind to multiple different receptors to elicit a pharmacologic response

There are different types of interactions or agents

There are agonists and antagonists

These are therapeutic effects can be via these different mechanisms

Drug interactions can also occur when an agonist and antagonist are dosed together

The affinity for a receptor actually ends up driving what their response will be

The amount of the attraction between the drug and receptor and how much drug is needed to bind to the receptor

So it's related to the affinity and also drug exposures which then gets us back to pharmacokinetic studies and responses

So agonists bind to the receptor and cause a measurable effect

Agonists are again driven by affinity and intrinsic activity

There are partial agonists that have affinity and less intrinsic activity

And again if you look at the response versus the curve here this would be an agonist

This would be a partial agonist representation

Here is depicted

Antagonist binds to a receptor but no measurable cellular or physiological change occurs

It blocks the usual receptor effect and it can reduce the effect of an agonist

Again they do have affinity but no intrinsic activity

The different antagonists can be competitive or they're binding to the same site as the

agonist can be overcome with higher concentrations which is represented here

And then it can also be noncompetitive where it binds to a different site besides the site where the agonist binds

And that's depicted by the cartoon now

So this slide depicts the summary of clinical pharmacology which again involves pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics

Kinetics are what the body does to the drug

Pharmacodynamics are what the drug does to the body

They are highly interactive

Obviously the kinetics affect the dynamics but in many cases when a system is affected

by a drug you can have a feedback loop that may change the kinetics

And so studies are ongoing for all drugs at different phases of development to understand how variability in pharmacokinetic parameters such as absorption distribution elimination

and the overall exposures affect the pharmacodynamic response

Whether it makes the response steeper or less steep

And so these are important concepts that need to be performed for all drugs

Thank you very much