

# Pharmaceutics

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## The science of dosage form design

Edited by M E Aulton

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Medical Division of Longman Group UK Limited  
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Baxter's Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH1 3AF), or  
a Licence permitting restricted copying in the United  
Kingdom issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd,  
90 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 9HE.

First published 1988

Reprinted 1989

Reprinted 1990

Reprinted 1991

Reprinted 1992

ISBN 0-443-03643-8

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Pharmaceutics: the science of dosage form  
design.

1. Pharmaceutics

I. Aulton, Michael E.

615'.19 RS403

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Pharmaceutics: the science of dosage form design.

Replaces: Cooper and Gunn's tutorial pharmacy.  
6th ed. 1972.

Includes bibliographies and index.

1. Drugs — Design of delivery systems. 2. Drugs  
— Dosage forms. 3. Biopharmaceutics.

4. Pharmaceutical technology. 5. Chemistry,  
Pharmaceutical. 6. Microbiology, Pharmaceutical.

I. Aulton, Michael E.

[DNLM: 1. Biopharmaceutics. 2. Chemistry,  
Pharmaceutical. 3. Dosage Forms. 4. Technology,  
Pharmaceutical. 5. Microbiology, Pharmaceutical.

QV 785 P5366]

RS420.P48 1987 615.5'8 86-25888

Printed in Hong Kong

CDD/05

The  
publisher's  
policy is to use  
paper manufactured  
from sustainable forests

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## Parenteral products

### THE BIOPHARMACY OF INJECTIONS

#### Routes of administration

*Intracutaneous or intradermal route*  
*Subcutaneous or hypodermic route*  
*Intramuscular route*  
*Intravascular routes*  
*Intracardiac route*  
*Intraspinal routes*  
*Intra-articular and intrabursal routes*  
*Ophthalmic routes*

#### Bioavailability of drugs from injections

### FORMULATION OF INJECTIONS

#### Volume of the injection

#### The vehicle

*Water and pyrogens*  
*Water-miscible vehicles*  
*Water-immiscible vehicles*

#### Osmotic pressure

*Intravascular injections*  
*Intrathecal injections*  
*Intramuscular injections*  
*Intracutaneous injections*  
*Subcutaneous injections*

#### Hydrogen ion concentration (pH)

*To increase the stability of the injection*  
*To minimize pain, irritation and necrosis on injection*  
*To provide unsatisfactory conditions for growth of micro-organisms*  
*To enhance physiological activity*  
*Buffers*

#### Specific gravity of injections

#### Suspensions for injection

*Wettability*  
*Sedimentation rate*  
*Claying*

*Size and shape of particles*

*Thixotropy*

*Preparation of aqueous suspension injections*

*Suspensions in oily vehicles*

**Addition of a gelling agent**

**Particle size**

#### Emulsions for injection

*Intravenous therapy and emulsions*

#### Colloidal dispersions and solubilized products

### QUALITY ASSURANCE OF INJECTIONS

#### Microbiological preservation

*The use of bactericides in single-dose injections*  
*The use of bactericides in multiple-dose injections*  
*Bactericides suitable for aqueous injections*  
*Bactericides suitable for oily injections*  
*Limitations in the use of bactericides*  
*Incompatibilities of common bactericides*

#### Chemical stability of the medicament

*Adjustment of pH*  
*Addition of a reducing agent or antioxidant*  
*Replacement of air by an inert gas*  
*Use of a sequestering agents*  
*Inclusion of specific stabilizers*

**Calcium Gluconate Injection BP**

**Sodium Bicarbonate Injection BP**

**Mersalyl Injection BP**

*Limitations in the use of additives*

#### Particulate contamination

### PACKAGING OF INJECTIONS

#### Containers for injections

*Ideal properties*  
*Types of container*  
*Single-dose versus multiple-dose containers*

#### Materials for injection containers

*Glass*  
**Types of glass**

**Associated problems for parenterals***Plastics***Types of plastics****Associated problems for parenterals***Closures***Types and properties of closure materials****Associated problems for parenterals**

## STERILIZATION OF INJECTIONS

Injections are sterile products intended for administration into the bodily tissues. Their formulation involves careful consideration of all the following inter-relating factors:

- 1 the proposed route of administration,
- 2 the volume of the injection,
- 3 the vehicle in which the medicament is to be dissolved or suspended,
- 4 the osmotic pressure of the solution,
- 5 the use of preservative,
- 6 the pH of the solution,
- 7 the stability of the medicament and methods of sterilization,
- 8 the specific gravity of the injection,
- 9 the properties of suspensions for injection,
- 10 the properties of emulsions for injection,
- 11 containers or closures for injections,
- 12 particulate contamination,
- 13 biopharmacy of injections.

## THE BIOPHARMACY OF INJECTIONS

Injections are administered into the body by many routes. The route of administration affects the formulation and biopharmaceutics of the preparation. There now follows a description of routes of administration to clarify nomenclature used throughout the rest of the chapter. Fig. 21.1 shows the sites of injection.

**Routes of administration**

The most important routes are as follows.

*Intracutaneous or intradermal route*

Injections are made into the skin between the

inner layer (dermis) and the outer layer (epidermis). The volume that can be injected intradermally is small, usually 0.1–0.2 ml, due to the poor vascularity of the site which gives poor dispersion of the drug, and leaves blisters or weals at the site of the injection. The route is used mainly for diagnostic tests.

*Subcutaneous or hypodermic route*

Injections are made under the skin into the subcutaneous tissue. The volume injected is usually 1 ml or less. This route is not used for aqueous suspensions or oily suspensions and fluids since these would cause pain and irritation at the injection site.

*Intramuscular route*

Injections are made by passing the needle into the muscle tissue via the skin, subcutaneous tissue and membrane enclosing the muscle. The volume is usually no greater than 2 ml and should not exceed 4 ml. This route is used for aqueous and oily suspensions and oily solutions, since if they were injected intravenously blockage of small blood vessels might occur leading to poor vascular supply of local tissues possibly resulting in gangrene.

*Intravascular routes*

These are either intra-arterial (into arteries) or intravenous (into veins). The intra-arterial route is used for an immediate effect in a peripheral organ, e.g. to improve circulation to the extremities when arterial flow is restricted by arterial spasm or early gangrene. Tolazoline hydrochloride, a peripheral vasodilator, is sometimes administered by this route.

Substances are introduced directly into the blood stream by the intravenous route. The most common site is the median basilic vein at the anterior surface of the elbow. The volume can vary from less than 1 ml to in excess of 500 ml. Small volumes may be administered for a rapid effect (e.g. anaesthetics) and large volumes (perfusion or infusion fluids) to replace body fluid loss in shock, severe burns, vomiting and diarrhoea.

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