

Amount of Drug Absorbed Dose of New From Current Dosage Form Dosage Form F of New Dosage Form Eq. 2

dosage form of the same drug.

For example, if a patient who has been receiving digoxin 250 μg (0.25 mg) in the tablet dosage form, needs to receive digoxin elixir instead, an equivalent dose of the elixir would be calculated as follows:

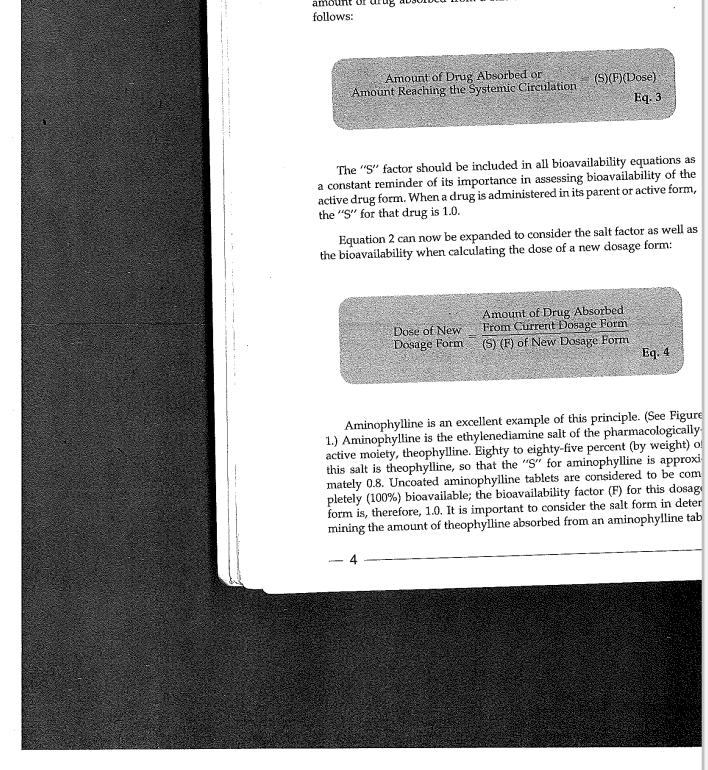
Dose of Elixir =
$$\frac{175 \mu g}{0.77}$$

= 227 μg

If the soft gelatin capsules of digoxin were to be administered, the bioavailability or F of the new dosage form would have been 1.0 and the equivalent dose would have been 175 μg.

The bioavailability of parenterally-administered drugs usually is considered to be 1.0. Drugs which are administered as inactive precursors that must then be converted to an active product are an exception to this rule. If some of the inactive precursor is excreted or eliminated from the body before it can be converted to the active compound, the bioavailability will be <1.0. For example, parenteral chloramphenicol is given as the succinate ester, and this chloramphenical ester must be hydrolyzed to the active compound. The bioavailability of the parenterally-administered chloramphenicol succinate ranges from 55% to 95%, because from 5% to 45% of the chloramphenicol ester is eliminated renally before it can be converted to the active compound.7





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