

ESTROGEN RECEPTOR BETA: A VITAL TARGET FOR PROSTATE CANCER

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ABSTRACT : Estrogens produce diverse physiological effects acting through estrogen receptor alpha ($ER\alpha$) and estrogen receptor beta ($ER\beta$). The activation of $ER\alpha$ leads to aberrant proliferation, inflammation, and the development of premalignant lesions, while, in contrast, the activation of $ER\beta$ is critical in prostatic stromal-epithelial cell signaling and mediating antiproliferative effects. $ER\beta$ remains a tantalizing target due to its ligand binding domain is very similar to $ER\alpha$, and this makes it difficult to develop $ER\beta$ selective ligands. Though, some natural and synthetic molecules have been identified as $ER\beta$ selective ligands, this review will provide the details about the structure, ligand binding preferences, signaling and tissue distribution of two ERs. This review will also address the structural features of ERs that determine tissue and subtype selectivity with an importance on current approaches to selectively target ERs for prostate cancer treatment.

DEVELOPMENT OF HERBAL FORMULATIONS – PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT: Increasing awareness about adverse effects of synthetic drugs has boosted up the demand for medicinal herbs in domestic and export markets. In western world as the people are becoming aware of the potency and side effects of synthetic drugs, there is an increasing interest in the natural product remedies with a basic approach towards the nature. To compete with the growing market, there is urgency to expeditiously utilize and scientifically validate more medicinally useful plants. A need has been generated for enforcing more stringent quality control on such products and for this, the plant material grown, harvested and processed for manufacturing should be as per the standardized protocols to ensure product uniformity, efficacy and safety. The development of dosage forms containing herbal extracts and products will help in their easier usage, storage and acceptability. The herbal medicine will act as an alternate for the class who cannot afford the allopathic drugs with the new product patient regime act under WTO provisions. The problems in development of herbal formulations are aplenty and pose a challenge to the pharmaceutical technologist. We are discussing the problems faced during development of herbal dosage forms like tablets, capsules and liquid preparations and the methods to overcome them including the successful trials conducted using new drug delivery systems.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON ACUTE AND DRUG INDUCED RENAL FAILURE

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ABSTRACT: Acute renal failure (ARF) is a potentially life threatening complication. The aim of the study was to assess the epidemiology, etiological factors and outcome of acute and drug induced renal failure. This was carried out in the nephrology department of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences for a period of one year. 114 patients were selected based on the inclusion criteria, of which 40 patients had drug induced renal failure. The mean age was 55.2 ± 13.5 years and 16.6% patients had prerenal, 22.8% had postrenal, 25.4% had intrinsic and 35% had drug induced renal failure. Most of the drug induced renal failures were due to nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (27.5%), angiotensin receptor blocker (12.5%), radiocontrast dye (12.5%) and antibiotics (10%). The outcome variables included were recovery of renal function, number of patients needed dialysis, mortality and length of hospital stay. The recovery of renal function revealed that 28% of patients had total recovery, 52.6% had partial recovery and 19.3% had no recovery. It was found that 64% of patients had undergone dialysis and an average of four dialysis session was needed to the patients. The mortality rate was 11% and the major underlying cause of death were sepsis, ventilator associated pneumonia and multi organ failure. Out of the 40 drug induced renal failure, 45% were probable, 30% were definite and 25% were possible reactions. The severity assessment revealed that 70% of the reactions were moderate and 30% were severe. ARF remains one of the major medical problems that require special attention in hospitalized patients.

Key words: Acute renal failure, Drug induced renal failure, Naranjo scale.

COMPARATIVE PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF PHARMACY SERVICES TO PATIENT IN HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY PHARMACY

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ABSTRACT: This study was planned to assess the patient satisfaction levels on the hospital pharmacy in a hospital and in a community pharmacy in town in Central Travancore, Kerala .A questionnaire was designed with 27 items on the various aspects of services like availability of medicines, waiting time at the counter, professionalism of pharmacists, and any inconvenience at the pharmacy etc... A total of 147 filled questionnaires were collected from patients of the hospital pharmacy and 198 filled questionnaires were collected from patient at community pharmacy. The patient expressed satisfaction on the information provided about the route of administration, precautions, measures taken if missed a dose, enquiry about previous medications ,disease history, method of dispensing, means of management of drugs, pharmacist answering a query, privacy of conversation, amount of time spend with pharmacist and advice on health problems are similar in Hospital and Community pharmacy. On the other hand customers expressed more satisfaction with the hospital pharmacies services like information about drug action, adverse drug reactions, health promotion activities, courtesy for patient, and availability of medications from the pharmacies. This study highlighted the lacunae in the services in the hospital and community pharmacy. Pharmacy department may take suitable measures to improve the pharmacy services to its patients.

Keywords: Hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy, patient satisfaction, pharmacy Practice