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HEPATIC BIOTRANSFORMATION OF DRUGS AND DRUG-INDUCED LIVER DISORDERS

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Drugs are an important cause of liver injury. More than 900 drugs, toxins, and herbs have been reported to cause liver injury, and drugs account for 20-40% of all instances of fulminant hepatic failure. Physicians must be aware in identifying drug-related liver injury because early detection can decrease the severity of hepatotoxicity if the drug is discontinued. The manifestations of drug-induced hepatotoxicity are highly variable, ranging from asymptomatic elevation of liver enzymes to fulminant hepatic failure. The liver metabolizes virtually every drug or toxin introduced in the body. Most drugs are lipophilic (fat soluble), enabling easy absorption across cell membranes. In the body, they are rendered hydrophilic (water soluble) by biochemical processes in the hepatocyte to enable inactivation and easy excretion. Metabolism of drugs occurs in 2 phases. In the phase 1 reaction, the drug is made polar by oxidation or hydroxylation. All drugs may not undergo this step, and some may directly undergo the phase 2 reaction. The cytochrome P-450 enzymes catalyze phase 1 reactions. Most of these intermediate products are transient and highly reactive. These reactions may result in the formation of metabolites that are far more toxic than the parent substrate and may result in liver injury. As an example, the metabolite of acetaminophen is N -acetyl-p-benzoquinone-imine (NAPQI) and is produced with ingestion of high doses. We will present case series of patients presented by hepatotoxicity to The Poison Control Centre at Ain Shams University Hospitals during the las three years.

Biography

Mona E Moussa has completed her MD and Postdoctoral studies from Ain Shams University. She is the Chairman of the Toxicology and Forensic department at Ain Shams University, one of the eminent universities in Egypt. She is the Director of Egyptian fellowship program of Clinical Toxicology and Head of Clinical Toxicology at Helwan University. She has published more than 80 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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