





Dr. Nathalie Zgheib, Associate Professor at the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine (AUBFM)

Drug Metabolism in Liver Disease




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Acknowledgements



Robert A. Branch, MD
University of Pittsburgh



2 NIH Grant # 5 R01 DK059519 and NIH/NCRR/GCRC Grant #5 M01 RR00056.

Outline

- Drug metabolism in liver disease
 - Evidence of change
 - Clinical relevance
- Pathophysiology of liver disease
- Physiology of hepatic elimination
- Effect of liver disease on drug metabolism
 - Intact hepatocyte theory
 - Progressive sequential model in liver disease
- Effect over time and disease prognosis
- Specific disease entities
- Gene expression
- Epigenetic mechanisms
 - DNA methylation
 - miRNA expression

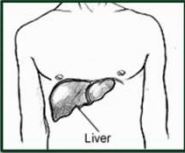
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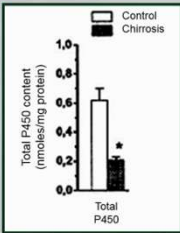
Drug metabolizing enzymes are concentrated in the liver

Liver disease affects their **expression** and **activity**



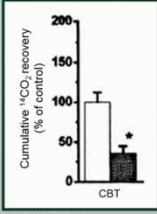
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Evidence of change



Group	Total P450 content (nmole/mg protein)
Control	~0.6
Chirrosis	~0.25*

CYP isoenzymes protein levels



Group	Cumulative ¹⁴ CO ₂ recovery (% of control)
Control	100
Chirrosis	~40*

CYP *in-vivo* activity

CBT: caffeine breath test

5 Bastien et al. 2000, Can. J. Physiol. Pharmacol. 78

Clinical relevance

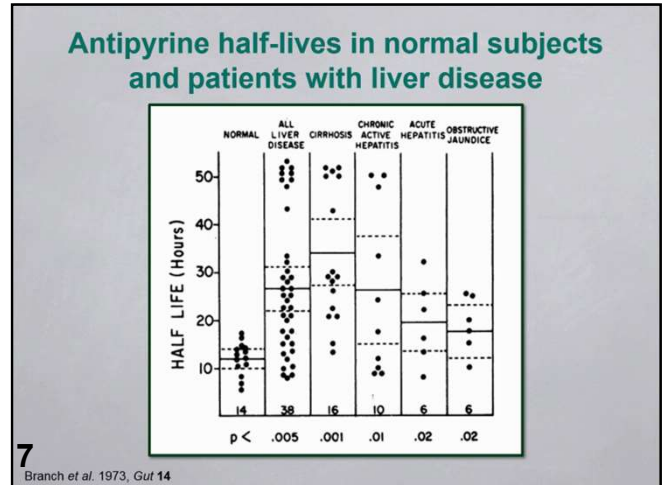
- Can the extent of change be anticipated in an individual patient?
- Can a quantitative liver function be developed?

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Drug metabolism in liver disease



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Clinical relevance

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Child-Pugh Score

Score	+1	+2	+3
Bilirubin	< 2 mg/dl	2-3 mg/dl	> 3 mg/dl
Serum Albumin	> 3.5 g/dl	2.8-3.5 g/dl	< 2.8 g/dl
INR	< 1.7	1.71 to 2.2	> 2.2
Ascites	None	Controlled medically	Poorly controlled
Encephalopathy	None	Controlled medically	Poorly controlled

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Child CG and Turcotte JG 1964, Major Probl Clin Surg. 1:1-85



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The Child-Pugh score: limitations

- Lack of discrimination in fully compensated liver diseases **BUT** good at high values
- Categorical variables: lack of a continuous variable that spans a range of function
- Large number of factors that contribute to each variable

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Drug metabolism as a marker of liver disease

Prognostic Value of the Aminopyrine Breath Test in Cirrhotic Patients

JEAN-PIERRE VILLENEUVE, CLAIRE INFANTE-RIVARD, MICHEL AMPELAS, GILLES POMIER-LAYRARGUES, P.-MICHEL HUET AND DENIS MARLEAU
Liver Unit, Department of Medicine, Hôpital Saint-Luc and Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2X 3J4

- An aminopyrine breath test was obtained at the time of inclusion in the study and results were expressed as per cent of the dose excreted in 2 hr
- At very high Child-Pugh score, in decompensated liver disease ABT is a good marker, **but** this is not the case at lower values of CPS
- A 2 year follow up showed that the ABT test is as good as the CPS in liver disease prognosis

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Villeneuve et al. 1986, *Hepatology* 6(5), p928

ABT: Aminopyrine Breath Test

Questions

- Is there a differential effect of liver disease on different routes of metabolism (**selectivity**)?
- Does the **severity** of the underlying disease influence the magnitude of change (**sensitivity**)?
- Do diseases of differing **etiology** alter the metabolism of different drugs being given to a variable extent (**selectivity**)?
- Can we use drug metabolizing enzymes genomic and epigenomic markers for liver disease (**biomarkers**)?
- **Clinical relevance:**
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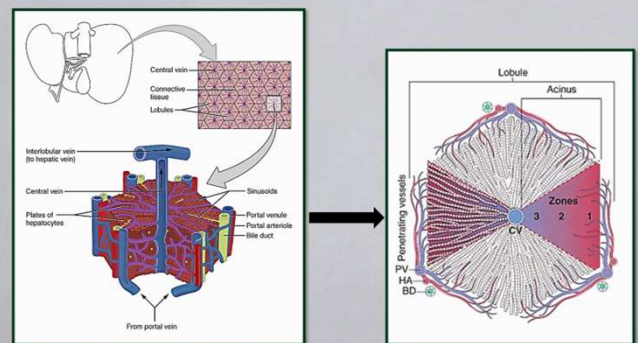
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Hepatic acinar unit: basis for liver disease



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Neil D. Teise, Liver and Gallbladder, Chapter 18, 821-881 in Robbins and Cotran. Pathologic Basis of Disease, 2015

Pathophysiology of liver disease/cirrhosis (I)

- PATHOLOGY**
- Viral disease (hepatitis B and C)
 - Chemical toxicity (alcohol)
 - Immune disease (primary biliary cirrhosis)
 - Inborn errors of metabolism (hemochromatosis, Wilson's disease)

Initial hepatocellular damage

Inflammation

Collagen secretion by fibroblasts

- Increased collagen in the space of Disse
- Formation of a basal lamina
- Decrease in the number of fenestrations and porosity of endothelial cells

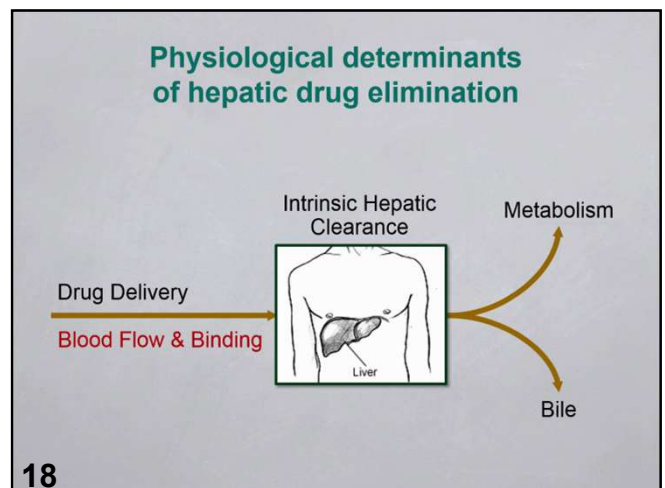
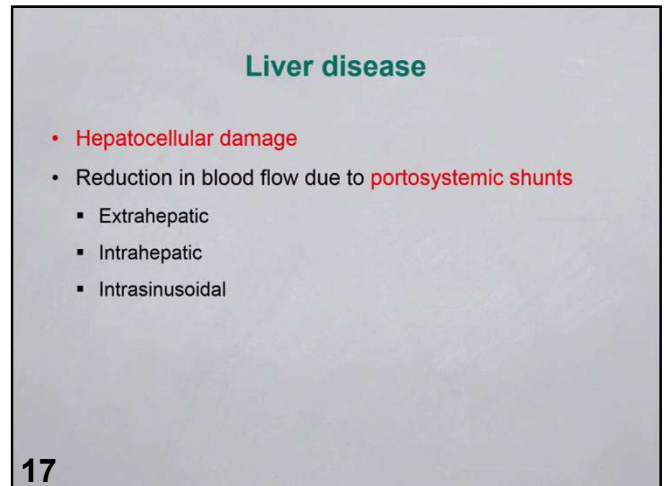
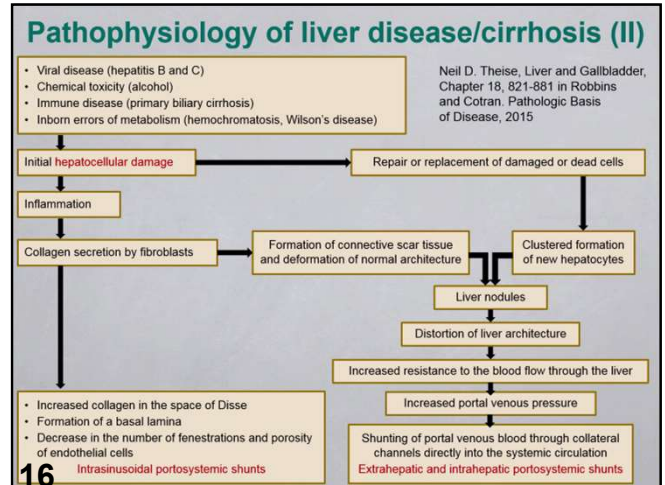
Sinusoidal portosystemic shunts

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Neil D. Teise, Liver and Gallbladder, Chapter 18, 821-881 in Robbins and Cotran. Pathologic Basis of Disease, 2015



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Determinants of hepatic clearance

- Intrinsic hepatic clearance
- Liver blood flow
- Protein binding

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Physiological determinants of hepatic elimination

High Intrinsic Clearance Drug

Flow sensitive

Enzyme Insensitive

High extraction

Binding insensitive

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Physiological determinants of hepatic elimination

Low Intrinsic Clearance Drug

Flow Insensitive

Enzyme Sensitive

Low extraction

Binding insensitive or sensitive

Low binding to plasma proteins: enzyme-limited and binding-insensitive	Extensive binding to plasma proteins: enzyme-limited and binding-sensitive
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If we know:

- The pathophysiology of liver disease
- The physiology of elimination of a drug
 - Can guess the effect of liver disease on the elimination of that drug

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Single oral dosing

--- Patients with cirrhosis
 — Normal subjects

Low clearance drug
Enzyme-limited

High clearance drug
Flow-limited

- Decrease in rate of elimination
- Loss of systemic "first pass effect"
- Prolonged adverse effects
- Higher peak plasma concentration
- Potential for early adverse effects

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Branch 1982, *Hepatology* 2(1):97-105

Metabolism of Mephénytoin

S-mephénytoin
4'OH by
CYP2C19
**high intrinsic
clearance drug
(flow sensitive)**

Aromatic Hydroxylation to 4-OH-M

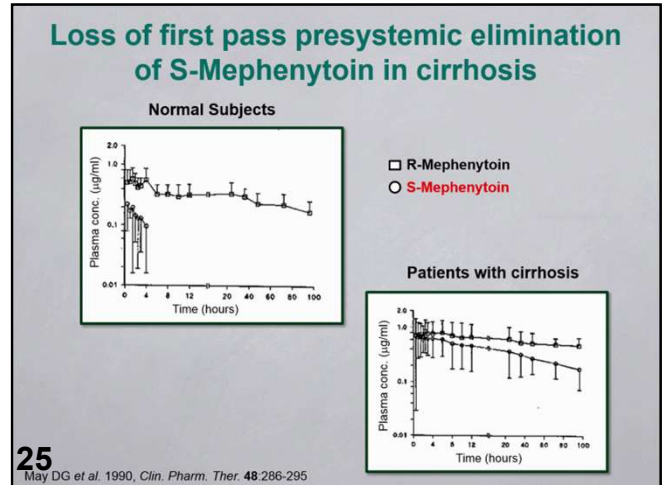
Oxidative Demethylation to PEH (Nirvanol)

R-mephénytoin demethylation
**low intrinsic
clearance drug
(flow insensitive)**

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May DG et al. 1990, *Clin. Pharm. Ther.* 48:286-295



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- ### Proposed theories that explain impairment of drug metabolism in liver disease
- Sick cell theory
 - Intact hepatocyte theory
 - Impaired drug uptake theory
 - Oxygen limitation theory
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Palatini et al. 2008, *Current Clinical Pharmacology* 3:1



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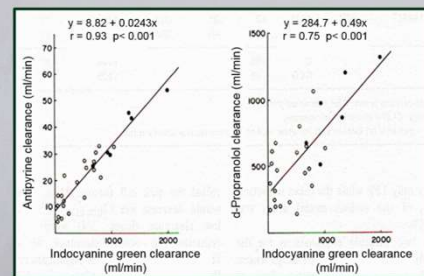
Intact Hepatocyte theory

Reduced number of functionally intact hepatocytes with corresponding reduction in blood flow due to intrahepatic portosystemic shunt

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Branch 1982, *Hepatology* 2(1):97-105

Enzyme-limited and flow-limited drugs: same fractional decrease in clearance in liver disease



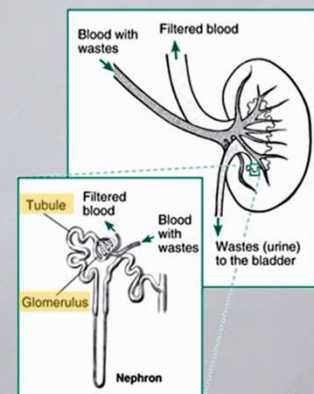
Antipyrine: high intrinsic clearance drug (biliary transport)
Indocyanine Green & d-propranolol: low intrinsic clearance drugs

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Branch & Shand 1976, *Clinical Pharmacokinetics* 1

Intact Nephron

- In kidney disease, nephrons number decreases to a clinically significant point: 70-80% loss
- The decrease in glomerular filtration rate is associated with a similar decrease in tubular secretion



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Intact Nephron hypothesis

In renal disease:

- Reduction in number of nephrons
- Each surviving nephron maintains normal function

Implication: GFR (glomerular filtration rate) can be used as a measure of all aspects of renal function

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Intact Hepatocyte hypothesis

In liver disease:

- Reduction in number of hepatocytes
- Each surviving hepatocyte maintains normal function
- Functional intrahepatic shunts

Implication: quantitative measures can be used as measure of all aspects of hepatic function

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Implications of intact nephron and intact hepatocyte hypothesis

If you know:

- Relative proportion of renal and hepatic clearance of a **drug** in normal subjects
- Renal and hepatic function in an **individual** patient

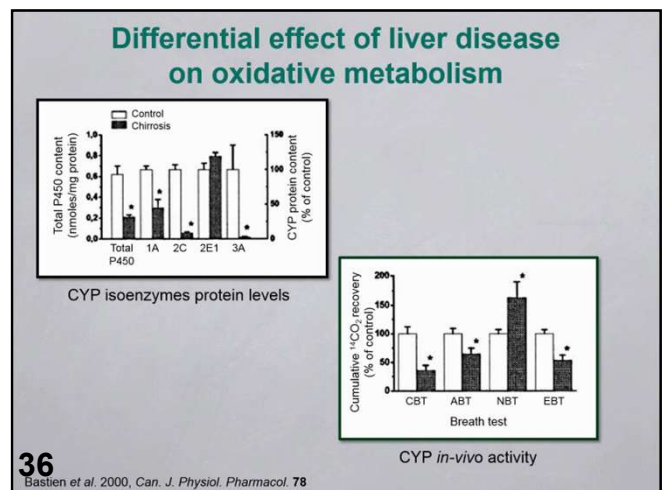
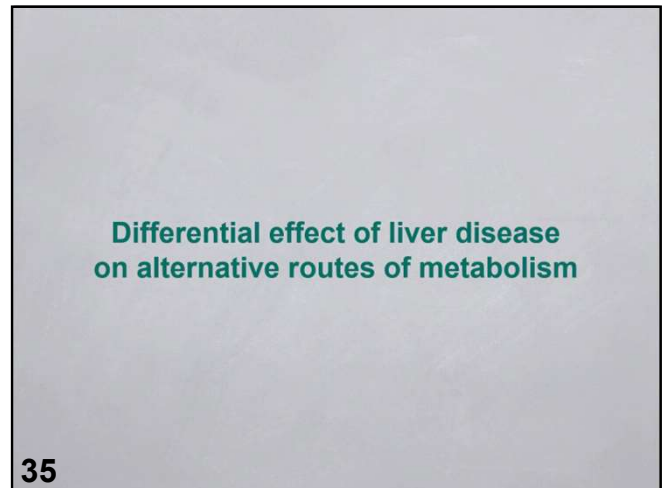
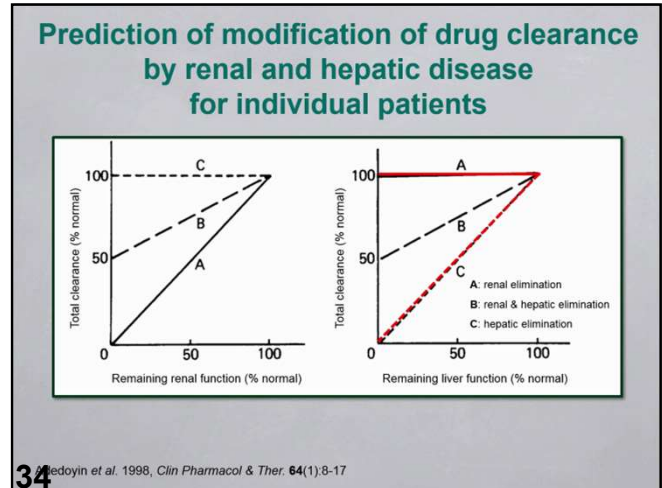
Then:

- Rational individualized dose of that drug can be predicted in that individual patient

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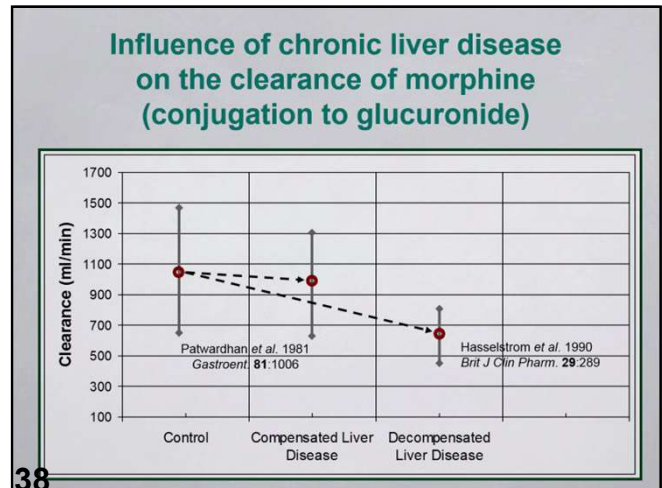
Influence of liver disease on oxidation vs. conjugation of drugs

Hoyampa AM, Branch RA, Schenker S. 1978, *Annu. Rev. Med.* 29:205-18

Effect of liver disease on the disposition of tranquilizers, sedatives and analgesics

Drug	T _{1/2} (hr)			C (ml/min)			Plasma protein binding (%)			
	Ref.	Normal	Hepatitis	Cirrhosis	Normal	Hepatitis	Cirrhosis	Normal	Hepatitis	Cirrhosis
Tranquilizer										
Benzodiazepines										
Diazepam	25	32.7	74.5*	—	26.6	—	13.8*	97.8	—	95.3*
Chlordiazepoxide	33	31.1	—	164.0*	35.0	—	17.1*	—	—	—
Oxazepam	37	26.3	—	62.3*	15.0	—	7.7*	96.4	—	94.6
Lorazepam	38	6.4	6.1	7.8	156	137	155	86.7	86.0	87.6
Meprobamate	39	22.1	23.8	31.9*	54.8	46.9	59.1	93.7	91.8*	88.6*
Chlorpromazine	40	12.6	21	25.5*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chlorpromazine	41, 42	31	—	—	640	—	—	91-99	—	—
	43	31.0	—	15 no drugs 26 on drugs	—	—	—	279 333	—	—
Barbiturates										
Phenobarbital	26	86	104	150*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambobarbital	44	21.1	—	I = 39.4 II = 17.4	34	—	—	I = 28 II = 42	61	-41.5
Hexobarbital	45	4.35	8.6*	—	3.57	1.94*	—	—	—	—
Pentobarbital	46	21.8	25.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Narcotic/Analgesics										
Mepheridine	27	3.37	6.99*	—	1261	680*	—	—	—	—
Morphine	28	3.20	—	—	7.0*	1316	—	66*	64	—
Morphine	14, 48	2.6	—	—	1800	—	—	—	35.1	25
Aspirin	49, 50	12.0	19.5	33.8*	30.9	—	16.7*	< 20	—	—
Aspirin	51	7.9	—	—	31.8*	58.5	18.5*	—	—	—
Phenylbutazone	23	78	—	100 ± *	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phenylbutazone	52	81.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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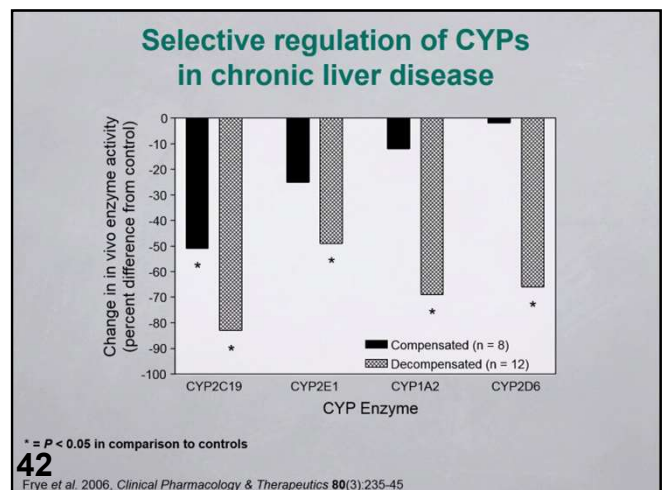
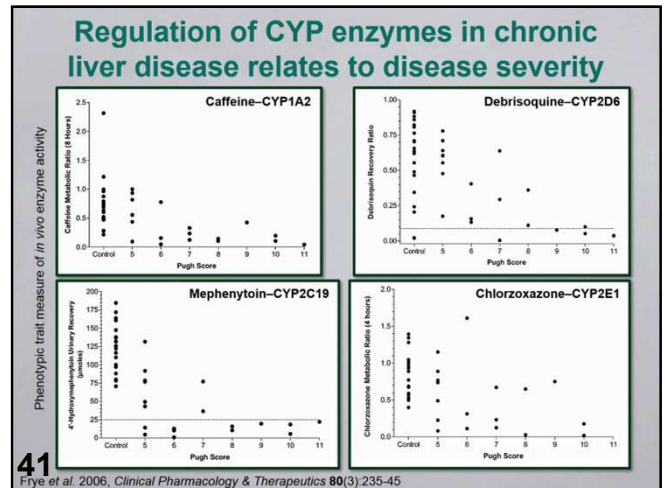
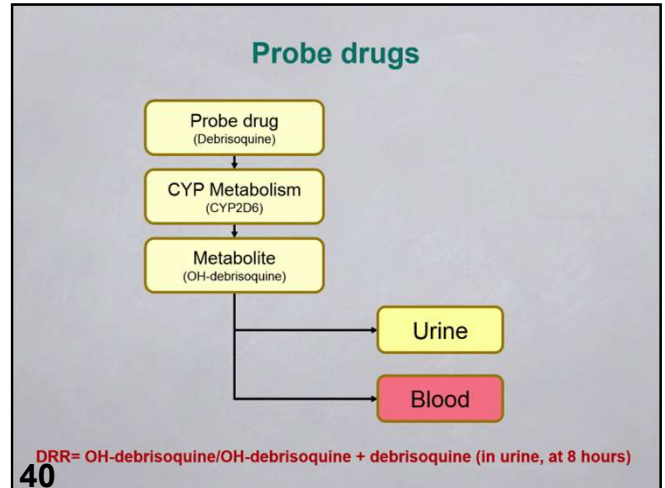
Administration of several probe drugs in the same cohort of patients

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Drug metabolism in liver disease

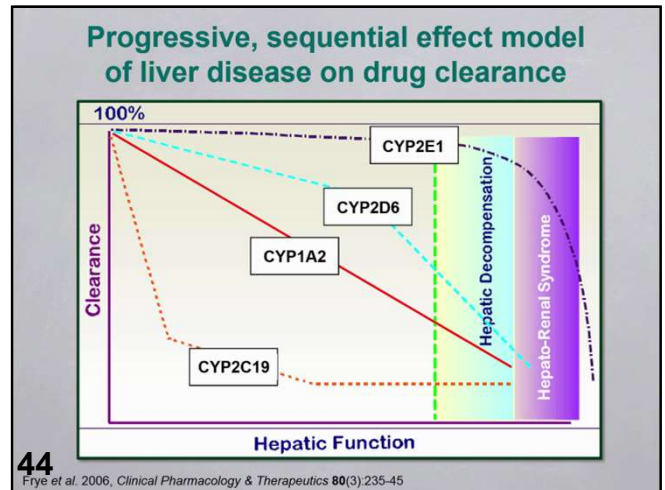
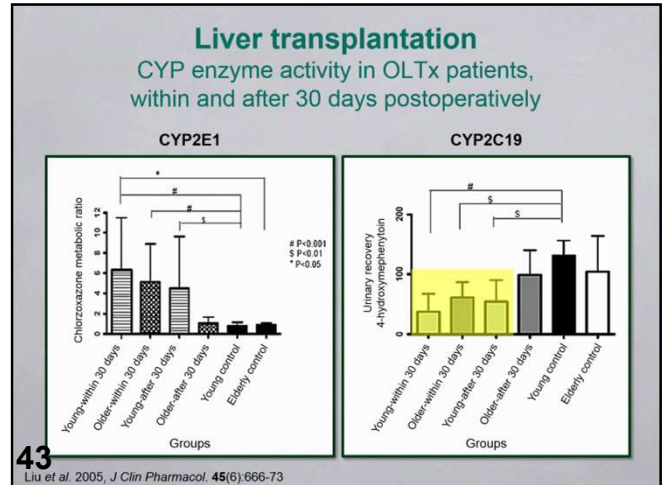


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Applications

Irrespective of the mechanism involved, the progressive sequential model of the effect of liver disease on drug metabolism can provide a framework to assess:

- **Hepatic function**
- **Disease prognosis**

provided that the sensitivity of the metabolizing enzyme of that drug to liver disease is known

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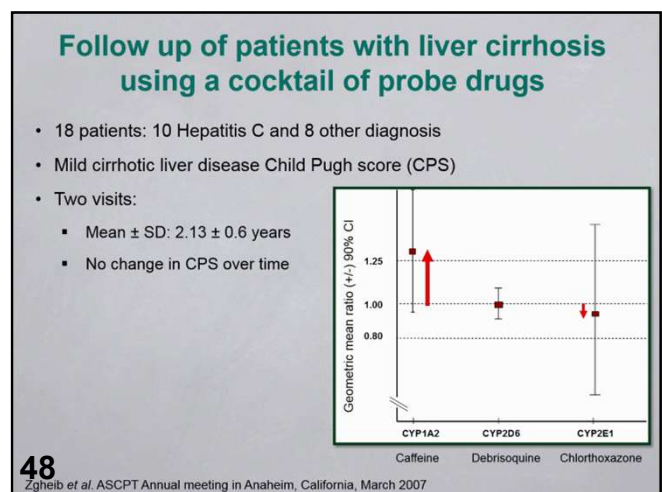
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Extended Pittsburgh cocktail

Enzyme	Drug	Phenotypic measure	Genotyping
CYP1A2	Caffeine 100mg	Caffeine metabolic ratio	*1A, *1C, *1F
CYP2C9	Flurbiprofen 50mg	Formation clearance of 4-hydroxy flurbiprofen	*1, *2, *3
CYP2C19	Mephenytoin 100mg	Total recovery of 4-hydroxymephenytoin at 8 hours	*1, *2, *3
CYP2D6	Debrisoquine 10mg	Debrisoquine recovery ratio	*1, *3, *4, *6, *7, *8
CYP2E1	Chlorzoxazone 50mg	Ratio of 6-hydrochlorzoxazone to chlorzoxazone at 4 hours	*1, *5B
NAT	Dapson 100mg	Ratio of monoacetyl dapson to dapson	NAT1 13 variants NAT2 13 variants

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Zgheib et al. 2006, *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics* 80(3):257-63

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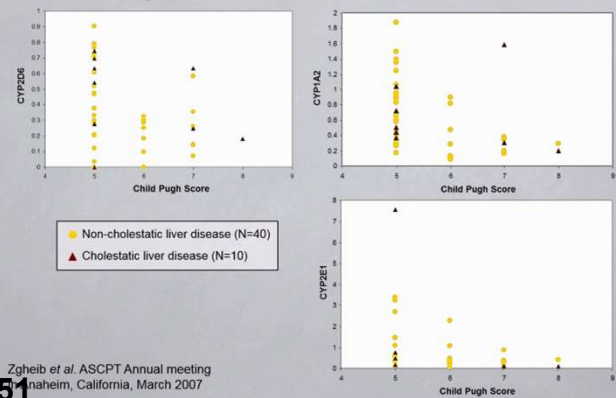
Cholestatic disease vs. other

In vitro evaluation of CYP protein content in human liver samples in comparison to control livers

Reference	Liver disease / cirrhosis	N	Enzyme				
			1A2	2C8	2C9	2E1	3A4
(Iqbal et al. 1990)	cholestatic	18	↓				
	non-cholestatic	13	↓				
(Guengerich and Turvy, 1991)	not defined	42	↓	↔*		↓	↔
(Lown et al. 1992)	non-cholestatic	9	↓	↔	↓	↔	↔
(Lucas et al. 1993)	mixed	42	↔			↔	
(George et al. 1995)	cholestatic	18	↓	↓*		↓	↔
	non-cholestatic	32	↓	↔*		↔	↓

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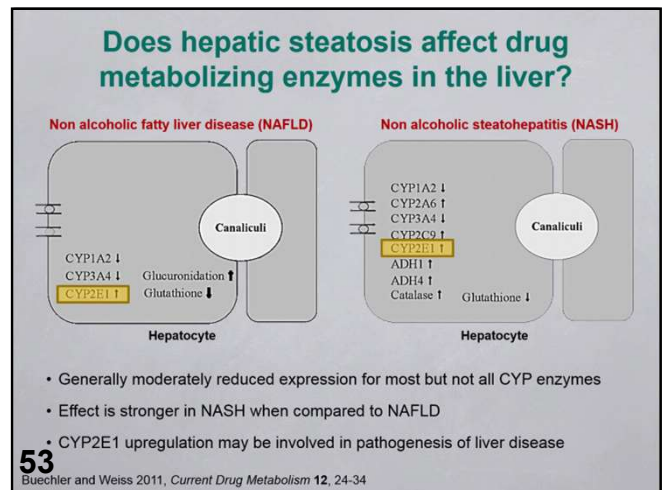
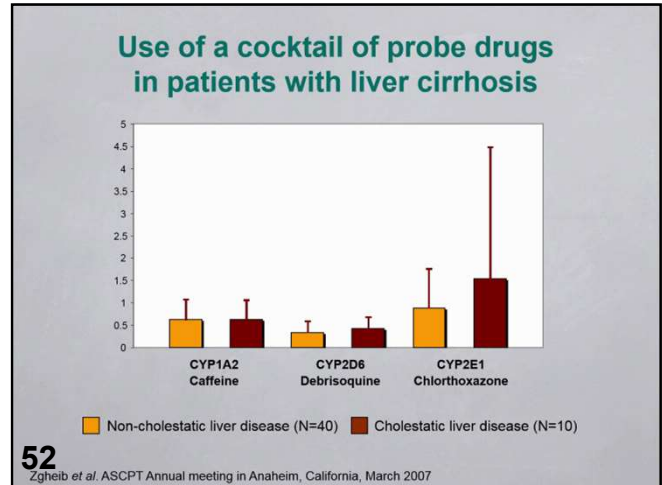
Use of a cocktail of probe drugs in patients with liver cirrhosis



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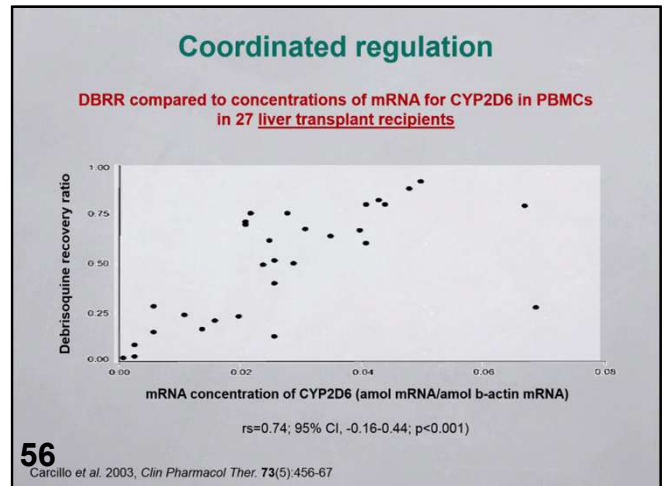
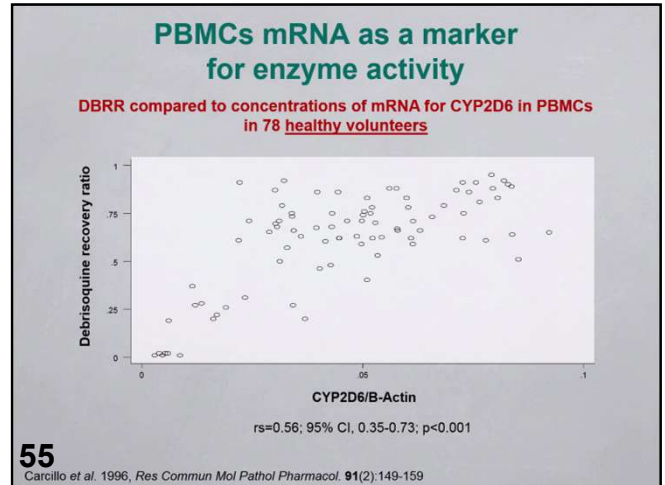
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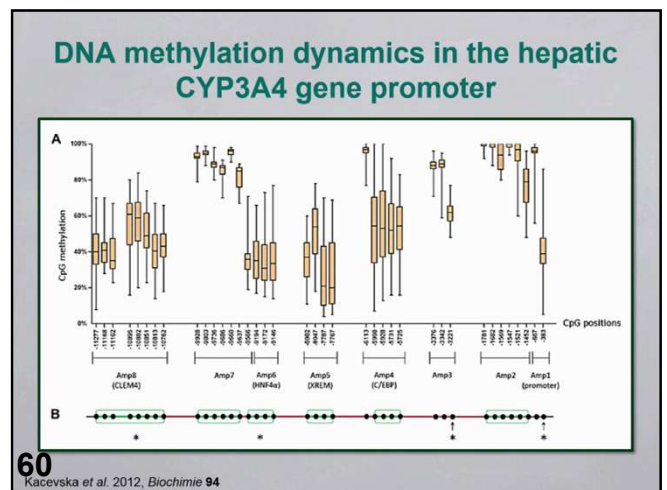
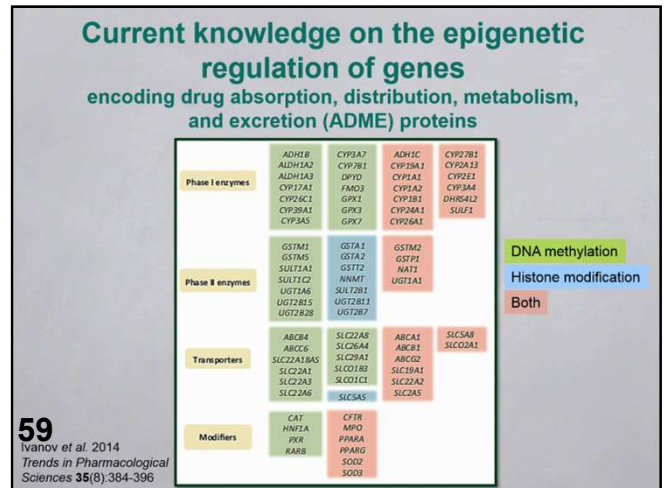
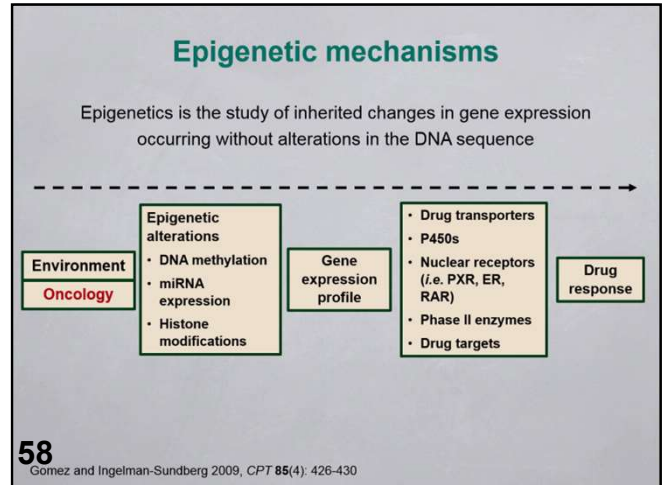
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Role of miRNA in fatty liver disease

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Pogribny and Beland 2013, *Expert Opin. Drug Metab. Toxicol.* 9(6)

Peripheral DNA methylation & circulating miRNA

- Arrese *et al.* 2015, Circulating microRNAs: emerging biomarkers of liver disease. *Semin Liver Dis* 35(01): 043-054
- Liao *et al.* 2015, Value of quantitative and qualitative analyses of circulating cell-free DNA as diagnostic tools for hepatocellular carcinoma: a meta-analysis. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 94(14)

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Summary

Knowledge of the physiology of drug disposition is of value to individualize drug therapy for patients with liver disease

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