

Cardiovascular Drug Therapy In The Elderly

Table 1 | Aging-associated physiological changes that affect pharmacokinetics

Process	Physiological change	Pharmacokinetic effect	Drugs affected
Distribution	Decreased total body mass; increased proportion of body fat	Increased V_d of highly lipid-soluble drugs	β -blockers, central α -agonists
	Decreased proportion of body water	Decreased V_d of hydrophilic drugs	Digoxin and ACE
	Decreased plasma albumin, disease-related increase in α_1 -acid glycoprotein, altered relative tissue perfusion	Changed % of free drug, V_d , and measured levels of bound drugs	Inhibitors
			Disopyramide, warfarin, lidocaine, and propranolol
Metabolism	Reduced liver mass, liver blood flow, and hepatic metabolic capacity	Accumulation of metabolized drugs	Propranolol, nitrates, lidocaine, diltiazem, warfarin, labetalol, verapamil, and mexiletine
Excretion	Reduced glomerular filtration, renal tubular function, and renal blood flow	Accumulation of renally cleared drugs	Digoxin, ACE inhibitors, antiarrhythmic drugs, atenolol, sotalol, and nadolol

Abbreviations: ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; V_d , volume of distribution. Reprinted with permission from Elsevier Ltd © Hui, K. K. in *Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics* (Eds Singh, B. N., Dzau, V. J., Vanhoutte, P. M. & Woosley, R. L.) 1127-1136 (Churchill-Livingstone, New York), Copyright 1994.

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