



Bioavailability and Bioequivalence of Locally Acting Colon-Targeted Products: In Vivo and In Vitro Considerations

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Abdul W. Basit

Department of Pharmaceutics,
UCL School of Pharmacy,
University College London, 29/39
Brunswick Square, London WC1N
1AX, UK

Dr. Jozef Al-Gousous

1. Department of
Biopharmaceutics and
Pharmaceutical Technology,
Johannes Gutenberg University
Mainz, D-55099 Mainz, Germany
2. Department of Pharmaceutical
Sciences, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Targeting drug release to the colon has been a major research topic over the past three decades. Potential applications for colon-targeted products include localized therapy of colonic pathologies (e.g., inflammatory bowel disease and colon cancer). Multiple approaches to colonic delivery exist, such as pH-dependent, microbe-dependent, time-dependent and pressure-dependent drug delivery systems. One of the aspects that sets localized drug delivery apart from systemic drug delivery is the fact that the site of action is located before systemic circulation, making the value of traditional bioavailability and bioequivalence studies questionable. This is sometimes compounded by the poor colonic permeability of many drug substances, resulting in drug release and availability at the site of action being poorly reflected by the drug plasma concentration profile (if observable), which is then shaped by the strong rate-limiting permeation step. Therefore, research into alternative in vivo approaches as well as into in vitro testing methods that exhibit satisfactory in vivo predictivity (preferably without entailing high complexity) is often needed.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Patrick J. Sinko

Department of Pharmaceutics,
Ernest Mario School of
Pharmacy, Rutgers University,
Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA

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Pharmaceutics Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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