

Human Antiparasitic- Drugs: Pharmacology and Usage

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Preface

The need for a text devoted exclusively to the pharmacology of antiparasitic drugs became evident to the principal author in the course of teaching pharmacology to medical and science students in the tropics. This need is now more cogent with academic institutions worldwide becoming increasingly involved in the tropical and parasitic diseases. Drugs are an integral factor in parasitic disease studies whether they are employed for their curative and related pharmacological effects or as tools to reveal the nature of the disease processes. A knowledge of their fundamental properties in the context of parasitic disease is therefore mandatory for such studies.

This text is intended primarily as an introduction for those embarking on studies in the tropical and parasitic diseases at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It aims to integrate the biological principles of the more common human diseases with the important pharmacological properties of specific drugs that are of value therapeutically. There is also much information of value to the practising clinician especially that relating to drug kinetics, toxicity and dosage regimens.

The first section, which deals with fundamental principles, provides a basis for the two subsequent sections in which the drugs relating to the two subkingdoms (Protozoa and Helminths) are considered. In these latter sections, all drugs in current use as well as those in an advanced stage of development are discussed in detail. Also included, where relevant, are some obsolete drugs which are still of academic interest.

In order to achieve greater coherence and ease of reading, the documentation of references relating to individual findings is excluded. However, the selected texts and reviews which are listed for further reading should yield more extensive information on specific areas, where required.

We are greatly indebted to our colleagues, Dr S.L. Croft, Dr P. Dukes, Dr R.L. Muller and Dr D.C. Warhurst, for reading specialized areas of the text and for their invaluable comments and suggestions. Dr Warhurst kindly provided the photograph of the Corey-Pauling-Koltun model of the quinine structure for inclusion in Fig. 3.3.

Contents

Preface	xiii
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SECTION A A BACKGROUND TO PARASITIC DISEASE AND DRUG TREATMENT

Chapter 1 General Considerations	3
1.1 Parasitism	3
1.2 Hosts	3
1.3 Geographical distribution	6
1.4 Methods of control	9
1.5 The role of drugs	10
1.6 Antiparasitic drugs	10
Further reading	13
Chapter 2 Principles of Drug Treatment in Parasitic Diseases	14
2.1 Introduction	14
2.2 Pharmacodynamics	16
2.2.1 Basis for selectivity	17
2.2.2 Drug – receptor interactions	17
2.2.3 Nature of receptor response	19
2.2.4 Biological evaluation of antiparasitic activity	21
2.3 Pharmacokinetics	23
2.3.1 Drug absorption	23
2.3.2 Drug distribution	26
2.3.3 Drug metabolism	29
2.3.4 Drug excretion	29
2.3.5 Pharmacokinetic data	30
2.4 Secondary factors	32
2.4.1 Untoward host effects	32
2.4.2 Drug resistance	33
2.4.3 Host – parasite interactions—pathogenesis	34
2.4.4 Host – parasite interactions—immunological	36
Further reading	38

Chapter 3 Drug Development	40
3.1 Introduction	40
3.1.1 Outline of operation	40
3.1.2 Legislation	41
3.1.3 Drug sources	42
3.2 Drug design	43
3.2.1 Designed discovery	45
3.2.2 Planning	45
3.3 Chemical considerations	46
3.3.1 Basis for drug design	46
3.3.2 Quantitative structure – action relationships (QSAR)	50
3.4 Biological considerations	52
3.4.1 Selectivity of action	52
3.4.2 Bioavailability	52
3.4.3 Drug resistance	53
3.4.4 Drug toxicity	53
3.4.5 Untoward effects	53
3.5 Preclinical evaluation	54
3.5.1 Pharmacodynamic methodology	54
3.5.2 Pharmacokinetic methodology	57
3.5.3 Safety assessment	58
3.5.4 Preclinical data analysis and evaluation	58
3.6 Chemical and pharmaceutical development	59
3.6.1 Chemical procedures	59
3.6.2 Pharmaceutical procedures	59
3.7 Clinical trial	62
Further reading	63

SECTION B ANTIPROTOZOAL DRUGS

Introduction to Parasitic Protozoa	67
B.1 General introduction	67
B.2 Classification	67
B.3 Descriptive terms	68
B.4 Testing for antiparasitic action	70
Further reading	71
Chapter 4 The Trypanosomiasis	72
4.1 The genus <i>Trypanosoma</i>	72
4.1.1 Classification	72
4.1.2 Disease patterns	73
4.2 South American trypanosomiasis—Chagas' disease	73
4.2.1 Life cycle	75
4.2.2 Techniques for drug evaluation	75
4.2.3 Basis of drug treatment	76

4.3	African trypanosomiasis—human	78
4.3.1	Life cycle	79
4.3.2	Techniques for drug evaluation	80
4.3.3	Basis of drug treatment	80
4.4	Present position and future prospects	90
	Further reading	91
Chapter 5	The Leishmaniases	92
5.1	The disease complex	92
5.1.1	Classification	92
5.1.2	Disease patterns	92
5.1.3	Life cycle	94
5.1.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	95
5.1.5	Basis of drug treatment	95
5.2	Present position and future prospects	103
	Further reading	104
Chapter 6	Amoebiasis	105
6.1	The disease complex	105
6.1.1	Life cycle	105
6.1.2	Transmission	107
6.1.3	Clinical forms	107
6.1.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	108
6.1.5	Basis of drug treatment	109
6.2	Present position and future prospects	119
	Further reading	119
Chapter 7	Malaria	120
7.1	General introduction	120
7.1.1	Life cycle	121
7.1.2	Transmission	121
7.1.3	Clinical forms	123
7.1.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	126
7.2	Basis of drug treatment	131
7.2.1	Types of antimalarial activity	134
7.2.2	Classification of antimalarial drugs	135
7.2.3	Rapidly-acting blood schizontocides	135
7.2.4	Mechanisms of action of the rapidly-acting blood schizontocides	140
7.2.5	Antifolate drugs	144
7.2.6	Mechanisms of action of antifolate drugs	152
7.2.7	Tissue schizontocides	156
7.2.8	New compounds with antimalarial activity	157

7.3	Drug resistance	159
7.3.1	In falciparum malaria	160
7.3.2	In other species of human malaria parasites	161
7.3.3	In rodent and simian malarias	161
7.3.4	Resistance and drug use in the field	161
7.4	Present position and future prospects	162
	Further reading	164
Chapter 8	Other Protozoal Infections	165
8.1	Toxoplasmosis	165
8.1.1	Life cycle	165
8.1.2	Transmission	166
8.1.3	Clinical forms	166
8.1.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	167
8.1.5	Basis of drug treatment	168
8.2	Pneumocystis infection (pneumocystosis)	170
8.2.1	Clinical pattern	170
8.2.2	Techniques for drug evaluation	170
8.2.3	Basis of drug treatment	171
8.3	Naegleria infection	171
8.3.1	Life cycle	171
8.3.2	Techniques for drug evaluation	172
8.3.3	Clinical features	172
8.3.4	Basis of drug treatment	172
8.4	Acanthamoeba infections	173
8.5	Giardiasis	174
8.5.1	Life cycle	174
8.5.2	Clinical features	174
8.5.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	175
8.5.4	Basis of drug treatment	175
8.6	Balantidiasis	177
8.6.1	Life cycle and transmission	177
8.6.2	Clinical features	177
8.6.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	178
8.6.4	Basis of drug treatment	178
8.7	Isospora and sarcocystis infections (isosporiasis and sarcocystosis)	179
8.7.1	Life cycle of <i>Isospora belli</i>	179
8.7.2	Life cycle of <i>Sarcocystis hominis</i>	179
8.7.3	Clinical features	179
8.7.4	Basis of drug treatment	180
8.8	Trichomoniasis	180
8.8.1	Life cycle and transmission	181
8.8.2	Clinical pattern	181
8.8.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	181
8.8.4	Basis of drug treatment	182

8.9	Babesiosis	183
8.9.1	Life cycle and transmission	183
8.9.2	Human infection	183
8.9.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	183
8.9.4	Basis of drug treatment	184
8.10	Present position and future prospects	184
	Further reading	185

SECTION C ANTHELMINTIC DRUGS

Introduction to Parasitic Helminths	189
C.1 General introduction	189
C.2 Classification	191
C.2.1 Nematodes	192
C.2.2 Cestodes	192
C.2.3 Trematodes	192
C.3 Principles of anthelmintic testing	194
C.3.1 Susceptibility to drug action	194
Further reading	196
Chapter 9 The Intestinal Nematodes	197
9.1 General introduction	197
9.2 Ascariasis	197
9.2.1 Life cycle	198
9.2.2 Clinical features	198
9.3 Trichuriasis	198
9.3.1 Life cycle	200
9.3.2 Clinical features	201
9.4 Enterobiasis	201
9.4.1 Life cycle	201
9.4.2 Clinical features	201
9.5 Hookworm infection	201
9.5.1 Life cycle	201
9.5.2 Clinical features	202
9.6 Strongyloidiasis	202
9.6.1 Life cycle	202
9.6.2 Clinical features	202
9.7 Techniques for drug evaluation against nematodes	202
9.7.1 <i>In vitro</i> methods	202
9.7.2 <i>In vivo</i> methods	203
9.8 Basis of drug treatment against nematodes	204
9.8.1 Principal drugs in use	205
9.8.2 Other intestinal nematocides	214
9.9 Present position and future prospects	215
Further reading	216

Chapter 10	The Filariases and Other Tissue Nematode Infections	218
10.1	The filariases	218
10.1.1	Life cycle	218
10.1.2	Transmission	219
10.1.3	Clinical forms	219
10.1.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	220
10.1.5	Basis of drug treatment in the filariases	221
10.2	Dracontiasis (Dracunculiasis: Guinea worm)	226
10.2.1	Life cycle	226
10.2.2	Transmission	226
10.2.3	Clinical pattern	226
10.2.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	227
10.2.5	Basis of drug treatment in dracontiasis	227
10.3	Trichinosis	227
10.3.1	Life cycle	228
10.3.2	Transmission	228
10.3.3	Clinical pattern	228
10.3.4	Techniques for drug evaluation	228
10.3.5	Basis of drug treatment in trichinosis	229
10.4	Present position and future prospects	230
	Further reading	230
Chapter 11	The Cestodes	232
11.1	General introduction	232
11.2	Adult worms	232
11.2.1	Life cycles	232
11.2.2	Clinical features	235
11.2.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	235
11.3	Larval forms	236
11.3.1	Life cycles	237
11.3.2	Clinical features	238
11.3.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	238
11.4	Basis of drug treatment	239
11.5	Present position and future prospects	245
	Further reading	245
Chapter 12	The Trematodes	247
12.1	Schistosomiasis	249
12.1.1	Life cycle	249
12.1.2	Clinical pattern	250
12.1.3	Techniques for drug evaluation	251
12.1.4	Basis of drug treatment in schistosomiasis	252
12.2	Fasciolopsiasis	260
12.2.1	Life cycle	262

12.2.2	Transmission	262
12.2.3	Clinical pattern	262
12.3	Fascioliasis	262
12.3.1	Life cycle	262
12.3.2	Transmission	262
12.3.3	Clinical pattern	263
12.4	Opisthorchiasis (clonorchiasis)	263
12.4.1	Life cycle	263
12.4.2	Transmission	263
12.4.3	Clinical pattern	263
12.5	Paragonimiasis	264
12.5.1	Life cycle	264
12.5.2	Transmission	264
12.5.3	Clinical pattern	264
12.6	Drug action in the hermaphroditic trematodes	264
12.6.1	Techniques for drug evaluation	264
12.6.2	Basis of drug treatment of hermaphroditic trematodes ..	265
12.7	Present position and future prospects	267
	Further reading	268
Appendix I		269
Appendix II		273
Appendix III		274
Index		276

SECTION A

A Background to Parasitic Diseases and Drug Treatment

Chapter 1

General Considerations

Drugs with curative effects against specific diseases are best studied within the context of the biology of the disease conditions they are designed to control. The parasitic diseases of man arise when healthy human tissue is invaded by organisms of an exogenous species belonging to one of the following biological groups: protozoa, helminths, bacteria, fungi, viruses and a few microorganisms of indeterminate classification. The protozoa and helminths together are generally referred to as parasites, or as animal parasites to distinguish them from the other pathogens. This difference is emphasized by the eukaryotic cellular organization typical of all animal parasites and by their complex life-cycles.

1.1 PARASITISM

Parasitism is generally defined as a relationship between two biological species in which one lives in a dependent association with the other. There are many such associations but the type relevant in this context involves two animal species, the parasite and its host, with the parasite invading the body of the larger animal (the host) at some phase of its life cycle. The parasite benefits from the association nutritionally which aids its survival and usually its reproduction. The association may not be detrimental to the host in the absence of environmental stress or ill-health, but host vulnerability is greatly enhanced in the harsh environment of Third World countries.

1.2 HOSTS

Parasites are selective with respect to the host species with which they become associated. The parasite undergoes its life cycle (Fig. 1.1) within a selected host and it may be *direct*, that is to reach completion within the host and to release an infective form which is capable of invading a second host; as in amoebiasis; or *indirect* and require one or two additional hosts to achieve completion. The host in which the parasite attains maturity is referred to as the *definitive* host to distinguish it from the *intermediate* host in which the parasite undergoes another phase of its life-cycle and which is mandatory for its completion, for example, in schistosomiasis. More than one intermediate host may be involved, as in other human trematode diseases.

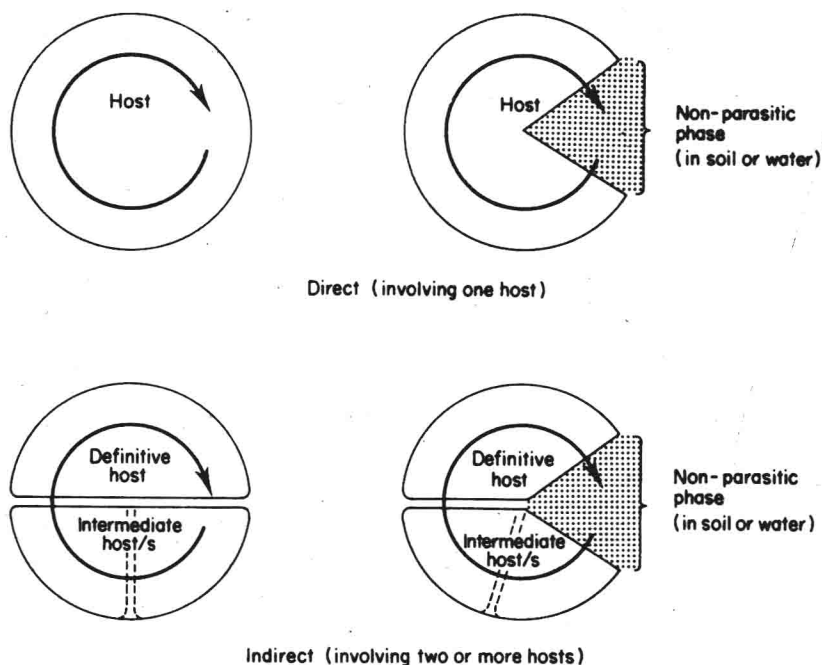


Fig. 1.1 Parasitic life cycle patterns

In either case, there may be a non-parasitic phase in soil or water.

The term *vector* is frequently used synonymously with intermediate host, as for example, the tsetse fly in trypanosomiasis or the snail in schistosomiasis where both terms are applicable, each parasite undergoing part of its life-cycle in the fly or snail before the latter performs the function of transmitting the infective agent to the new host. One must distinguish between such disease-carriers with a dual role from those that are exclusively mechanical carriers of disease for which vector alone is applicable.

The range of hosts which are susceptible to a particular parasite is varied and has an evolutionary basis. Our interest in relation to the spread of parasitic agents, however, lies in the current pattern of this specificity (Table 1.1). Man, his domestic animals and even certain pests often harbour the same parasitic species, but there is considerable variation in the intensity of the invasion and in its outcome in the different host species. For example, some game animals in East Africa harbour, without ill-effect, the trypanosome (*T. rhodesiense*) which is rapidly lethal on transmission to man. The term *reservoir* is applied to host species that can maintain the parasite with low or insignificant morbidity. Reservoir species are usually more stable sources of parasites than are the compromised hosts and often present a greater barrier to disease control. Many domestic animals, and particularly pets, fall into this category, their close proximity to man increasing their significance as reservoir hosts. The importance of

Table 1.1 Main protozoal diseases affecting man

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Causative organisms</i>	<i>Mode of transmission</i>	<i>Other natural hosts</i>	<i>Zoonosis confirmed</i>	<i>Geographical distribution</i>
<i>Trypanosomiasis</i> Sleeping sickness and Chagas' disease	<i>Trypanosoma</i> spp.	vector: tsetse, reduviid bug	game, domestic and small mammals	Z	Africa, South America
<i>Leishmaniasis</i> Kala-azar, tropical sore, espundia	<i>Leishmania</i> spp.	vector: sandfly	dogs and small mammals	Z	Africa, South America, Europe and Asia
<i>Trichomoniasis</i>	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	venereal	—	—	world-wide
<i>Giardiasis</i>	<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	ingestion	wild mammals	(Z)	world-wide
<i>Amoebiasis</i>	<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	ingestion	dogs, primates	(Z)	world-wide
<i>Amoebic meningo-encephalitis</i>	<i>Naegleria fowleri</i>	nasal m. membrane	domestic animals, rodents	—	world-wide
<i>Toxoplasmosis</i>	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	ingestion congenital	domestic and wild animals	Z	world-wide
<i>Malaria</i>	<i>Plasmodium</i> spp.	vector: mosquito	—	—	tropical areas
<i>Babesiosis</i>	<i>Babesia</i> spp.	vector: tick	cattle, sheep	Z	Europe, America
<i>Pneumocystis pneumonia</i>	<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i>	unknown	rodents, dogs	Z	Europe, America
<i>Balantidiasis</i>	<i>Balantidium coli</i>	ingestion	pigs	(Z)	Indonesia, Iran

feral species as reservoirs is becoming increasingly apparent with changes in ecosystems, the development of unexploited land bringing humans into closer proximity with wild animal species. The animal parasitic diseases which infect man are termed *parasitic zoonoses* and the term is defined as 'parasitic infections which are naturally transmitted between vertebrate animals and man'. Many of the most serious and widespread human parasitic infections which are confirmed zoonoses are listed in Tables 1.1 and 1.2.

Parasites with a multiplicity of definitive hosts are clearly the more difficult to control. Hosts in which more stable relationships between host and parasite have evolved are relatively unaffected by the association thus ensuring the continued maintenance of the parasite in nature. Most of the recently acquired human parasitic diseases are virulent and often lethal because the parasites have not adapted to the human host.

Table 1.2 Main helminth diseases affecting man

	Disease	Other natural hosts	Z Zoonosis confirmed	Geographical distribution
NEMATODES	<i>Ascariasis</i> (roundworm)	pigs	—	world-wide
	<i>Enterobiasis</i> (pin/thread-worm)	—	—	world-wide
	<i>Hookworm</i>	—	—	tropics, and subtropical areas
	<i>Trichuriasis</i> (whipworm)	—	—	world-wide
	<i>Strongyloidiasis</i>	dogs, cats, primates	Z	world-wide
	<i>Trichinosis</i>	pigs, rats	Z	world-wide
	<i>Dracontiasis</i> (guinea worm)	dogs	—	Africa, India, Iran
	<i>The filariases:</i>			
	Malayan and Bancroftian,	dogs, cats	Z	Asia
	onchocerciasis	—	—	Africa, Asia
CESTODES		—	—	Africa, South America
	loiasis	—	—	Africa
	<i>Tapeworm</i>	cattle, pigs	Z	world-wide
TREMATODES	<i>Hydatidosis</i>	dogs, cattle, sheep	Z	world-wide
	<i>Schistosomiasis</i> (blood fluke)	domestic and wild animals	—	Asia, Africa, South America
	<i>Fasciolopsiasis</i> (intestinal fluke)	domestic and wild animals	Z	Asia
	<i>Fascioliasis</i> (liver fluke)	domestic and wild animals	Z	world-wide
	<i>Opisthorchiasis</i> (Chinese liver fluke)	domestic and wild animals	Z	Asia, Eastern Europe
	<i>Paragonimiasis</i> (lung fluke)	carnivores, fish	Z	China, Japan

1.3 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Parasitic diseases have a worldwide distribution (Fig. 1.2); the bacterial and viral diseases are the more common invasive diseases of temperate climates, while parasitic diseases are both common and widespread in tropical and subtropical areas and constitute a major health and economic problem. The high