

Terminology: Pharmacology

Pharmacology

absorption: the passage of a drug into the bloodstream after it is administered

binding capacity: a type of blood test that assesses whether the amount of iron in the bloodstream

detoxify: the removal of a toxic substance from the body

dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE): a persistent organochlorine produced by the metabolic breakdown of DDT, an insecticide

dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT): an organochlorine-based pesticide that was banned in the U.S. in 1972

distribution: the passage of a drug between the blood and body tissues

environmental contaminants: chemicals that enter the environment, by design or accidentally, sometimes with negative health consequences

excretion: the passage or elimination of a drug from the body

fungicides: substances used specifically to kill or limit fungi or mold populations

half-life: the time it takes for the concentration of a drug in the body to be reduced to half of the initial dose

herbicides: substances used specifically to kill or limit plant or weed populations

heroin: a highly-addictive opioid drug made from morphine

hydrophilic: characterized by being readily absorbed or dissolved in water

insecticides: substances used specifically to kill or limit insect populations

lipophilic: characterized by dissolving in fats, oils, or lipids

metabolism: physical or chemical processes in the body breaks down and converts food into energy, or medication into active substances

Pharmacology (continued)

milk/plasma ratio: average milk concentration compared with the maternal plasma concentration, used to estimate the amount of drug an infant is exposed to

molecular weight: weight of a molecule in a chemical compound

off-label use of medication: use of a medication for a purpose not specified in the FDA's approval

over-the-counter medication: a medication that can be bought without a doctor's prescription

persistent organic pollutants (POPs): organic compounds that don't degrade over time, also known as "forever chemicals"

pH: a measure of acidity or alkalinity of a substance

pharmacokinetics: the study of how a drug is absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and excreted

pharmacodynamics: the study of how a drug affects a body, biochemically and physiologically

phencyclidine hydrochloride: a psychedelic drug commonly known as angel dust, or PCP

protein-binding: the degree to which a medication is bound to the proteins in the blood

route of administration: manner by which a substance such as a drug is taken into the body

silicone: highly stable organic compound composed of silicon and oxygen

solubility: the amount of a substance that will dissolve in another substance