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# PKPD Variability

## Quantifying Variability to aid Dose Individualization

Nick Holford  
University of Auckland

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## Objectives

- 1) Learn about the sources of variability in clinical pharmacology
- 2) Appreciate how a target concentration (TC) strategy is essential for rational drug development and clinical use
- 3) Distinguish target concentration intervention (TCI) from therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM)
- 4) Understand how to make rational choices for dose individualization

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PK = Pharmacokinetics: What the body does to the drug  
PD=Pharmacodynamics: What the drug does to the body  
Rx=Treatment: What the prescribed and patient need to know.

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## Clinical Pharmacology

Pharmacokinetics    Pharmacodynamics

CL    V    Emax    C50

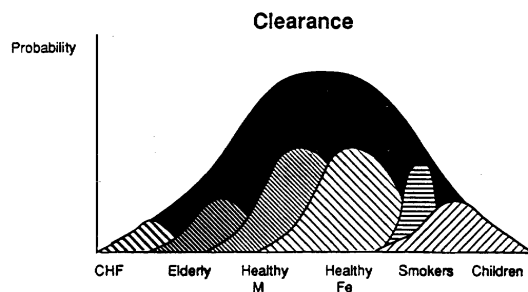
Dose    Concentration    Effect

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Clinical pharmacology describes the effects of drugs in humans. One way to think about the scope of clinical pharmacology is to understand the factors linking dose to effect. Drug concentration is not as easily observable as doses and effects. It is believed to be the linking factor that explains the time course of effects after a drug dose. The science linking dose and concentration is pharmacokinetics. The two main pharmacokinetic properties of a drug are clearance (CL) and volume of distribution (V). The science linking concentration and effect is pharmacodynamics. The two main pharmacodynamic properties of a drug are the maximum effect (Emax) and the concentration producing 50% of the maximum effect (C50).

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## Variability



N.Sambol CDDS/SUMC1997

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## Target Concentration Drug Development and Clinical Use

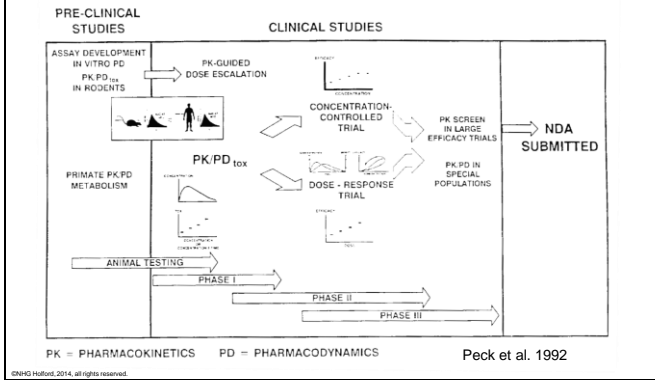
- Effective drug development needs a plan
  - » A good plan has a clear objective
  - » TC provides a clear objective in all phases of drug development
- TC is the rational basis for dose individualization
  - » Choose the target effect to determine the TC
  - » Use TC to predict individual dose

Holford NHG. The target concentration approach to clinical drug development. Clin Pharmacokinet. 1995;29(5):287-91.

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## Target Concentration in Drug Development



The 1992 view was based on using PKPD for drug development but did not explicitly include how to use medicines in patients.

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## Target Concentration in Clinical Use of Medicines

$$\text{Target Conc} = \text{Target Effect} \times C50 / (\text{Emax} - \text{Target Effect})$$

Target Conc	Dose Model
Initial Peak	Loading Dose = <b>Target Conc</b> × <b>Volume of Distribution</b>
Average Steady State	Maintenance Dose Rate = <b>Target Conc</b> × <b>Clearance</b>

Ideal dose prediction requires **individual** estimates of **Emax, C50, V and CL**

The target concentration approach links PKPD to prediction of the right dose for a patient.

If Emax and C50 and Target Effect are not known then the Target Conc may be estimated from:

$$\text{Target Conc} = \frac{\text{Typical Average Daily Dose}}{\text{Typical Clearance}}$$

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## TDM or TCI?

- Therapeutic Drug Monitoring
  - » TDM Therapeutic Range



Imprecise

- » Sub-optimal at borders of the range

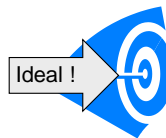


- Target Concentration Intervention
  - » TCI Single Target



Accurate

- » Optimal – do the best you can



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## How to Find the Target?

Clin. Pharmacokinet. 25 (6): 495-505, 1993

### Theophylline Target Concentration in Severe Airways Obstruction – 10 or 20 mg/L? A Randomised Concentration-Controlled Trial

Nicholas Holford<sup>1</sup>, Peter Black<sup>1</sup>, Ron Couch<sup>2</sup>, Julia Kennedy<sup>3</sup> and Robin Briant<sup>1</sup>

1 Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

2 Department of Clinical Chemistry, Auckland Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand

3 Department of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

- Randomized concentration controlled trials are the gold standard

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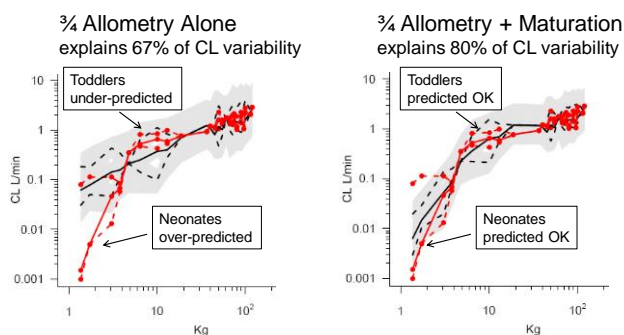
## Why does PKPD vary?

- Systematic (predictable)
  - » Body size
  - » Disease state (liver, kidney)
  - » Genotype
  - » etc...
- Random (not predictable)
  - » Between Subject Variability
  - » Within Subject Variability

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## Predictable Variability Size and Maturation



Original data from Peeters MY, Allegaert K, Blusse van Oud-Alblas HJ, Cella M, Tibboel D, Danhof M, et al. Prediction of propofol clearance in children from an allometric model developed in rats, children and adults versus a 0.75 fixed-exponent allometric model. Clin Pharmacokinet. 2010 Apr 1;49(4):269-75.

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## Unexplained Clearance Variability

Drug	BSV <sub>U</sub> %	WSV <sub>U</sub> %	Source
Metoprolol	53	35	Lunn (1997)
Fenoterol	12	16	Bouillon (1996)
Riluzole	51	28	Bruno (1997)
Felodipine	34	33	Wade (1995)
Drug A	57	29	Karlsson (1993)
Drug B	35	19	Karlsson (1993)
Drug B	33	19	Jonsson (1996)
Moxonidine	22	15	Karlsson (1998)
Artemisinin	48	53	Sidhu (1998)
<b>Average</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	

BSV<sub>U</sub>=Between Subject

WSV<sub>U</sub>=Within Subject

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BSV<sub>U</sub>=Between Subject Variability unexplained by predictable factors such as weight, etc.  
WSV<sub>U</sub>=Within Subject Variability unexplained by predictable factors such as weight, etc.

% expresses an apparent co-efficient of variation

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## Safe and Effective Variability

- CLINICAL JUDGMENT

Suppose medicine use is **safe and effective** if:

1. Individual C<sub>ss</sub> is on average at the Target Conc  
– Aim for the optimum target
2. 90% of the time C<sub>ss</sub> is within 80%-125% of Target Conc  
– 'therapeutic range' with optimum target

- STATISTICS

Assume log-normal distribution for C<sub>ss</sub>

90% of C<sub>ss</sub> must lie within  $\pm 1.64 \times SD$

– Therefore SD must be 0.136

The **Safe and Effective Variability (SEV)** is 13.6%

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C<sub>ss</sub> = Average steady state concentration  
SD = Standard Deviation  
SEV=Safe and Effect Variability around target concentration

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## Three Ways to Dose

- Population

- » Same dose for everyone  
– The dream dosing method!

- Group (Covariate guided)

- » Same dose for similar group  
– e.g. same weight, CL<sub>Cr</sub>, genotype

- Individual

- » Dose determined by individual response  
– e.g. BP, INR, blood conc

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CL<sub>Cr</sub> = Creatinine clearance, BP = Blood Pressure, INR=International Normalized Ratio

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## Identifying Variability

- PPV<sub>total</sub> = Population Parameter Variability total of predictable and unexplained sources
- PPV<sub>u</sub> = Population Parameter Variability that is unexplained
- BSV<sub>p</sub> = Between Subject Variability that is predictable
- BSV<sub>u</sub> = Between Subject Variability that is unpredictable
- WSV<sub>u</sub> = Within Subject Variability that is unpredictable
- SEV = Safe and Effect Variability around target concentration

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## Dosing Individualization Method Depends on SEV

Suppose PPV<sub>total</sub> = 0.7, BSV<sub>u</sub> = 0.4, WSV<sub>u</sub> = 0.3

$$PPV_u = \sqrt{BSV_u^2 + WSV_u^2} = 0.5 \quad BSV_p = \sqrt{PPV_{total}^2 - BSV_u^2} = 0.57$$

SEV	Method Criteria	Example	Dosing Strategy
0.9	SEV > PPV <sub>total</sub>	0.9 > 0.7	Population dosing
0.55	PPV <sub>total</sub> > SEV SEV > PPV <sub>u</sub>	0.7 > 0.55 0.55 > 0.5	Group dosing (WT, CLcr, etc) (BSV <sub>p</sub> ↗ 0)
0.35	PPV <sub>u</sub> > SEV SEV > WSV <sub>u</sub>	0.5 > 0.35 0.35 > 0.3	Individual response dosing (TCI) (BSV <sub>u</sub> ↗ 0)

Note: If SEV < WSV<sub>u</sub> then medicine cannot be used safely

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Holford NHG, Buclin TMD. Safe and effective variability - A criterion for dose individualization. Ther Drug Monit 2012; 34: 565-68

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## Safe and Effective Variability (SEV) Aminoglycosides

PPV <sub>u</sub>	BSV <sub>u</sub>	WSV <sub>u</sub>
0.33	0.30	0.13

- Suggested Therapeutic Success Criterion  
90% of Concs Within 80%-125% of Target C<sub>ss</sub>  
∴ SEV is 0.136 (log normal SD)
- Unpredictable PPV<sub>u</sub> is 0.33 and is > SEV  
∴ Covariate (WT, CLcr) prediction alone will be inadequate
- Unpredictable WSV<sub>u</sub> is 0.13 and is < SEV (just!)  
∴ TCI can achieve safe and effective target

Matthews I, Kirkpatrick C, Holford NHG. Quantitative justification for target concentration intervention - Parameter variability and predictive performance using population pharmacokinetic models for aminoglycosides. British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology 2004;58(1):8-19

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## Which Way to Aim?

- Phase 2 Drug Development
  - » PK and PKPD relationships (Target Effect  $\rightarrow$  Target Conc)
  - » Predictable and Unpredictable variability ( $PPV_T$ )
  - » Between ( $BSV_U$ ) and within subject ( $WSV_U$ )
- Phase 3 Drug Development
  - » Safe and effective variability (SEV)
  - » The BIG difficulty is deciding on SEV !
- Clinical Use of Medicines
  - » Use quantitative criteria to decide on dosing method
    - » Covariate Dosing if  $PPV_T > SEV > PPV_U$
    - » TCI Dosing if  $PPV_U > SEV > WSV_U$

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The target for PKPD is improving patient outcome by developing medicines which can achieve the target effect

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## Why TCI?

Clin. Pharmacokinet. 25 (6): 495-505, 1993

Theophylline Target Concentration in Severe Airways Obstruction – 10 or 20 mg/L?  
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Nicholas Holford<sup>1</sup>, Peter Black<sup>1</sup>, Ron Couch<sup>2</sup>, Julia Kennedy<sup>3</sup> and Robin Briant<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Clinical Chemistry, Auckland Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand

<sup>3</sup> Department of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

- How can a target concentration of 10 mg/L be achieved and maintained?

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## Which Drugs for TCI?

1. Effect is hard to measure (drug is working when the response is not observable)
  - » Anti-arrhythmics e.g. lignocaine
  - » Anti-convulsants e.g. phenytoin
  - » Anti-coagulants e.g. warfarin
  
2. Big unpredictable variability (using weight, renal function, etc) and small within subject variability
  - » Too much variability means either inadequate beneficial effect or too much adverse effect
  - » Observing patient response can predict future dose needs

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The first reason for using TCI uses a response, such as BP, as a substitute for being able to measure the clinical disease state that is being treated. When the medicine is working well or it is not working at all the clinical disease state may appear to be the same. It is assumed that trying to reach a typical response that is usually associated with benefit is better than giving everyone the same dose.

The second reason for using TCI is when group based dosing (e.g. using weight) is not enough to reduce the between subject variability so that the medicine can be used safely and effectively. TCI can only work however if the within subject variability (that cannot be influenced by TCI) is small enough so that dose individualization is really predictive for future use of the medicine in the same patient.

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## How? Target Concentration Strategy

1. Choose Target Concentration
2. Determine V and CL using WT etc.
3. Calculate LD and MDR
4. Measure Response (e.g. INR)  
Revise Target Conc
5. Measure Concs  
Revise V and CL
6. Goto Step 3

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The target concentration strategy is an algorithm for reaching the best individual dose. It starts with choosing a target concentration based on pharmacodynamic studies. A group value for volume (V) and or clearance (CL) can be determined before the medicine is given. These PK parameters are then used to calculate the initial loading dose (LD) and maintenance dose rate (MDR). A response is measured reflecting how the individual is different from the group of patients who are otherwise similar in weight, genotype, etc. If the response is a measure of drug effect e.g. INR, then it can be used to revise the target conc. If the response is a concentration then it can be used to revise V and CL. Most commonly the focus will be on CL so that a new individualized maintenance dose rate can be calculated.

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## Target Concentrations

**Target Concentrations and Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Selected Medicines (70 kg standard individual). C<sub>ss</sub> is the average steady state concentration.**

Drug	Target Conc	Clearance	Volume of distribution
Aminoglycosides	Peak 20 mg/L* C <sub>ss</sub> 3 mg/L	6 L/h	18 L
Ciclosporin**	150 ng/mL	17 L/h	245 L
Phenytoin	10 mg/L	V <sub>max</sub> =415 mg/d, K <sub>m</sub> =4mg/L	45 L
Digoxin	2 ng/mL	9 L/h	500 L
Theophylline	10 mg/L	3 L/h	35 L

\* 24 hour dosing      \*\* whole blood

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Target concentrations and PK parameters are known for most medicines which are helped by TCI.



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## Target Effects

**Target Effects and Pharmacodynamic Parameters for Selected Medicines.**  
**E<sub>max</sub>** is the maximum effect due to the drug, **EC<sub>50</sub>** is the concentration producing 50% of E<sub>max</sub>. **PEFR** is peak expiratory flow rate.

Drug	Target Effect	E <sub>max</sub>	EC <sub>50</sub>
Aminoglycosides	"cure"	?	?
Cyclosporine	"prevention of rejection"	?	?
Phenytoin	"prevention of seizures"	?	?
Digoxin	"control of atrial fibrillation"	?	?
Theophylline	"normal PEFR"	344 L/min	11 mg/L
Warfarin	INR 2-3	100% *	1.5 mg/L

- Inhibition of prothrombin complex synthesis

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The pharmacodynamic parameters for medicines that use TCI are typically not well known. This is a reflection of the difficulty of measuring a clinical response that can be related to concentration.

Holford NHG, Black P, Briant R, Couch R, Kennedy J. Theophylline target concentration in severe airways obstruction - 10 or 20 mg/L? A randomised concentration-controlled trial. *Clinical Pharmacokinetics* 1993; 25:495-505  
 Holford NHG, Hashimoto Y, Sheiner LB. Time and theophylline concentration help explain the recovery of peak flow following acute airways obstruction. Population analysis of a randomised concentration controlled trial. *Clinical Pharmacokinetics* 1993; 25:506-515

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## Determine Group V and CL

- Volume of Distribution
  - » size  $V = V_{pop} \times WT/WT_{std}$
  - » body composition
- Clearance
  - » size  $CL = CL_{pop} \times (WT/WT_{std})^{3/4}$
  - » renal function
  - » hepatic function
  - » concomitant drugs

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WT=patient weight  
 WT<sub>std</sub>=standard weight e.g. 70 kg  
 V<sub>pop</sub>, CL<sub>pop</sub>=population volume and clearance in a standard subject e.g. 70 kg.

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## Calculate LD and MDR e.g. gentamicin

- LD = TC x V  
 = 20 mg/L x 20 L = 400 mg
- MDR = TC x CL  
 = 3 mg/L x 6 L/h = 18 mg/h

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## When to Measure Concs?

Goal is to estimate PK e.g. CL

- Number of Samples
  - » Most medicines 1
  - » Gentamicin 2
- Timing of Sample
  - » Most medicines Middle of dosing interval
  - » Gentamicin "peak" and "trough"

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A rational approach to measuring drug concentrations is based on using the measurement to predict pharmacokinetic parameters – most commonly clearance.

The least informative time to measure concentrations is just before the next dose (the 'trough' concentration) unless this is paired with another 'peak' concentration. This is because clearance determines the average concentration. So measuring a concentration in the middle of the dosing interval will be closer to the average and therefore more useful for predicting clearance.

Gentamicin concentrations vary widely in a dosing interval so two concentrations are needed to reliably estimate clearance.

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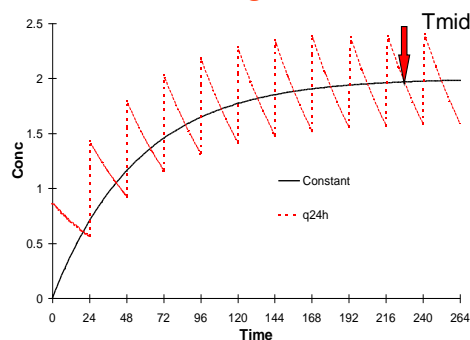
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## Digoxin



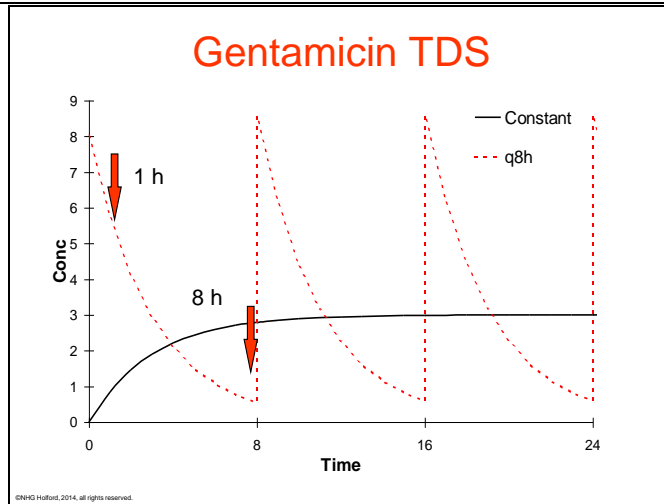
Tmid = middle of dosing interval

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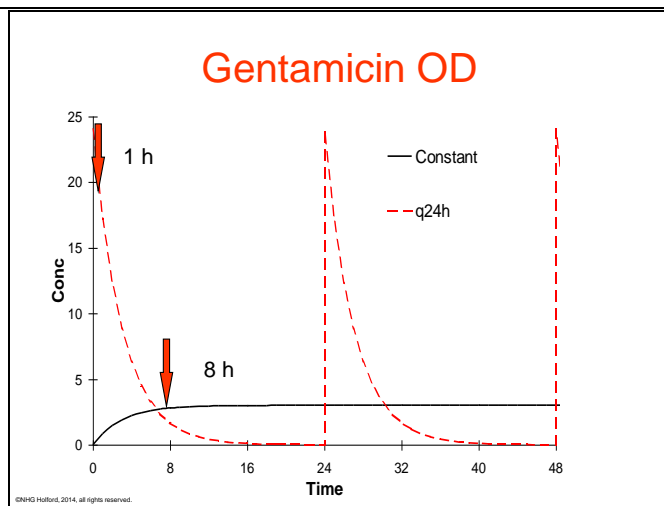
A concentration in the middle of the dosing interval (C<sub>tmid</sub>) will be closer to the average steady state concentration (C<sub>ss</sub>) than either a peak or trough concentration.

Clearance is easily calculated from  $CL = \text{DoseRate} / C_{ss}$  which can be approximated by  $CL = \text{DoseRate} / C_{tmid}$ .

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Gentamicin concentrations with once a day dosing vary considerably. The trough concentration at 24 h is often unmeasurable because it is below the limit of quantitation. Concentrations are best measured 1h and 8 h after the dose.

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