# <u>Title: The Correlation of Experimental Microsomal Stability with Redox</u> <u>Properties of Drugs</u>

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## Abstract

This investigation aims to conduct a comprehensive review of the earlier studies conducted to investigate the correlation of experimental microsomal stability with the redox properties of drugs. The study indicated that the effect of a drug is the aggregate of a wide variety of different and intricate processes that take place inside the body as a direct consequence of the consumption of the substance. The research also indicated that a substance is said to have a low degree of metabolic stability if it is a molecule with a low degree of metabolic stability. Using the CASP tool, the researcher was able to evaluate the degree of quality by analysing the reliability of the results, and 8 papers were selected for inclusion in the current study because they met all of the criteria for inclusion in the prior study. The study has assessed the effect of different molecular descriptors on drug clearance: however, the 26 drugs considered in this study were taken. The result observed a negative correlation between clearance and molecular descriptors, especially ionisation potential and electron affinity

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

The effect of a drug is the aggregate of a wide variety of different and intricate processes that take place inside the body as a direct consequence of the consumption of the substance. In the vast majority of cases, there is a chain of occurrences that can be broken down into three distinct phases in the order in which they were listed. These phases are referred to as succeeding, and their names are the pharmaceutical, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacodynamic phases, respectively

(Tuntland et al., 2014). The following illustration (fig 1) illustrates the path that a drug takes through the body of a human being after it has been taken orally, as well as the most effective



Investigations now being carried out at the pharmaceutical stage focus mainly on the oral administration of a solid dosage form as their principal area of concentration. During the pharmacokinetic stage, the primary focus is given to Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Elimination processes, abbreviated as ADME processes. Consequently, the measurement of a variety of distinct and complex pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters is carried out (Han and Zhao,

2014). Interactions between drugs and receptors are analysed and characterised while the pharmacodynamics stage is carried out. It is predicted that these interactions, which will take place after the medicine has been administered in vivo, will result in the planned effect.

In particular, the pharmacokinetic stage is the one that stands out as having the potential to be regarded as the most sophisticated of the three stages that have been presented up to this point in the discussion. This is because it is the stage that examines how the drug interacts with the body as it moves through its system. Research into how the body absorbs medicine after being administered to an organism is one method for determining how efficiently the organism can use the treatment (Galmés et al., 2021). In order to accurately characterise the distribution behaviour that affects, in conjunction with, protein binding, biotransformation, and elimination processes, indepth analyses of tissue and distribution partitioning are necessary. When someone refers to 'eliminating' a process, they mean 'lowering the amount of a xenobiotic present in an organism' (Herzog et al., 2014). A chemical compound not customarily found in biological systems is a xenobiotic.

Due to this, the body's natural goal is to get rid of xenobiotics as quickly as possible. They may take the form of naturally occurring chemicals, medications, environmental pollutants, carcinogens, pesticides, and many other things. It is feasible to deduce the biotransformation and metabolic pathways that lead to the identification of chemicals as a result of the existence of this property (Altveş, Yildiz and Vural, 2019). It is for the goal of supporting the optimisation and decision-making processes that a large number of in vitro and in vivo tests are carried out for the intricate steps that have been discussed.

## 1.1 Role of Early ADME Studies in Drug Discovery & Development

ADMET studies were often carried out at the very last stages of the pre-clinical drug development process in the days, notably in the 1980s and 1990s of the century that came before the current one. An unacceptably high failure rate of discovery compounds developed as a direct result as a direct consequence of this. The problems with PK and ADME were to blame for this high failure rate (Vrbanac and Slauter, 2017). Figure 2 shows several review articles produced and published in 1991 on the critical reasons for the failure of discovery compounds. These publications discussed the primary aspects contributing to the failure to discover compounds. Among these issues is an inability to determine the pharmacologically relevant chemical structure of the

medication (El-Kattan et al., 2016). The research presented in these publications evaluated a broad range of variables that may have had a part in the unfavourable results of the discovery of chemicals. At that time, insufficient pharmacokinetic features mixed with toxicity concerns were the most often mentioned reasons for failure:



Throughout the past few years, numerous strategies for the early assessment or prediction of drug metabolism of discovery compounds have been proposed and introduced by pharmaceutical companies to facilitate the development of new drug molecules that have an overall suitable profile (Krüger et al., 2019). This endeavour was done to assist ease the development of new drug molecules with an appropriate profile. Since ADME is such an essential aspect in predicting where a drug will end up in the body, undertaking research on the characteristics of ADME at an early stage in the process of producing a new medicine is highly vital (Tibbitts et al., 2016) (as shown in Figure 1). The procedure of drug discovery and development currently consists of some steps, beginning with the identification and screening of potential drug targets, followed by the generation and optimization of a drug, and finally the introduction of the drug to the market:

Target Lead Lead D/Validation Finding Optimisat	on Precinical Phase I Phase I trials Phase I trials	II Phase III Registration Market trials approval introduction
Drug Discovery	Early Development	Full Development
	ADMET Studies in the past	
ADMET Studies	nowadays	

Due to this, the premature optimisation of ADMET-related parameters—absorption, distribution, metabolism, elimination, and, more recently, toxicology—is a critical component of the preclinical lead optimisation (LO) phase (Dong et al., 2018). It is necessary to view the incorporation of ADMET profiling and optimisation during the early stages of drug discovery and development to compensate for significant shortcomings inherent in the drug development procedures. The potential to save both time and money is one of the most significant benefits of ADMET profiling and is also one of the most significant advantages.

The ultimate goal of the early ADMET-related optimisation activities is to find clinical candidates with favourable pharmacokinetic features and safety profiles. As a direct result of the pharmaceutical industry's failures in the early 1990s, when it attempted to produce revolutionary medicinal molecules but was unsuccessful, the pharmaceutical industry has grown as a direct result of these mistakes (Vrbanac and Slauter, 2017). This growth can be attributed to the lessons that the pharmaceutical industry gained as a result of these failures. They have focused most of their efforts, as a direct consequence of this fact, on refining the metabolic profiles of discovery compounds and optimising discovery chemicals themselves.

In today's world, problems with toxicity and effectiveness are to blame for the large majority of failed attempts to produce new pharmaceuticals. Nevertheless, attritions linked with pharmacokinetics may be minimised if proper precautions are taken. In the modern day, ADMET research, particularly studies on the metabolism of discovery compounds, is investigated in tandem with LO to reduce the possibility of failure in late drug development (Dong et al., 2018). This action is taken to reduce the likelihood that there will be adverse effects as a result of the situation. Early metabolic profiling of discovery compounds include evaluations of the compounds' metabolic stability, investigations into meaningful drug-drug interactions and CYP450-dependent inhibition studies, and investigations into critical drug-drug interactions (Ekstrand et al., 2015).

As part of the early ADMET-related optimisation efforts carried out during the pre-clinical discovery phase, studies on the metabolic stability of a drug are carried out. The relevance of this area of investigation is shown by the meteoric rise in the number of research papers and review articles dedicated to metabolic stability over the last decade. The chapters after this one will go over some other fundamental concepts and terminology associated with maintaining metabolic stability.

## 1.2 Metabolic Stability: Definitions and Key Concepts

## 1.2.1 Metabolic stability

In the context of characterising the rate at which a chemical is metabolised and the extent to which it is metabolised, the term "metabolic stability" is often employed. A molecule is said to have low metabolic stability if it is rapidly and wholly metabolised (Wang et al., 2021). A substance is said to have a low degree of metabolic stability if it is a molecule with a low degree of metabolic stability.

## 1.2.2 Microsomal assays

The main goal of microsomal assays is to figure out how the cytochrome P450 system (phase I enzymes) affects the whole cellular metabolism of the test molecule. On the other hand, hepatocyte assays look at the test molecule's metabolism in a more in-depth way (phase I and phase II enzyme pathways) (Walgama et al., 2015). The clearance rate of a test chemical during microsomal incubations can be calculated with these tests, and the results are used to figure out the molecule's intrinsic clearance.

It also means how sensitive drugs are to the action of biotransformational enzymes like CYPs and UGTs, which are found in large amounts in the liver (Sharma, Durairaj and Bureik, 2020). Microsomes from liver tissue are often used in in vitro research on how drugs are broken down. They are perfect for high-throughput screening, which means that many compounds can be tested quickly and cheaply.

In humans and animals, the liver breaks down most drugs and removes them from the body. "Intrinsic clearance" is another name for the ability of hepatic enzymes to break down a drug on their own (Sodhi and Benet, 2021). This capacity is used to estimate total hepatic clearance, which also considers hepatic blood flow and how well a drug binds to a protein. Clients can quickly find metabolic weaknesses using data from metabolic screening tests (Vich Vila et al., 2020). This lets them focus on improving drug candidates using structure-activity relationships. Due to the information microsomal testing gives, clients may find metabolic factors more quickly and then focus on making drug candidates by looking at structure-activity relationships.

## 1.2.3 Hepatocyte Stability Assay

Toxins are broken down and metabolised by the liver, making it the primary organ in this process. The clearance of about three-quarters of the medications that are metabolised and removed by the body is accountable for the cytochrome P450 (CYP)-mediated metabolism that occurs in the liver (J Richardson et al., 2016). Hepatocytes are an excellent candidate for use as a model for determining the in vitro clearance of a substance because they contain the full spectrum of phase I and phase II hepatic drug-metabolising enzymes. Hepatocytes are also an excellent candidate for use as a model for determining the in vivo clearance of a substance (Di and Obach, 2015).

Primary human hepatocytes are the "Gold Standard" for examinations of metabolism because they have all of the hepatic enzymes, transporters, and co-factors necessary for drug metabolism (Gu et al., 2018). Because of this, they are an excellent choice for such a study. Hepatocytes may be used in various assays to determine metabolic stability, drug efflux, uptake studies, metabolite identification, CYP induction and inhibition investigations, and other tests of a similar kind.

## 1.2.4 Intrinsic Clearance and Metabolic Stability

In most instances, the intrinsic clearance values are derived by monitoring the rate at which the drug is cleared as a function of the passage of time (Di and Obach, 2015). This is done in order to compute the clearance values. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance to illustrate the relationship between intrinsic metabolic clearance and metabolic stability, as shown in the next paragraph. Since the middle of the 1970s, several reported attempts have been made at employing practical ways to relate in vivo pharmacokinetics to in vitro drug metabolism. Peters et al. (2016) demonstrated that in vitro metabolism rates coincide with hepatic extraction ratios obtained from isolated perfused rat livers for a selected group of model compounds.

# 1.2.5 Half-life of drugs

The number of days it takes for a drug's concentration or quantity in the body to decline by precisely one-half is referred to as its half-life. This is a rough estimate of how long it will take to complete the necessary tasks (50 per cent). After three hundred minutes, it is theoretically possible to calculate that more than 97 per cent of this medicine would have been eliminated by the time that moment had reached (Kontermann, 2016).

After four or five half-lives, it is widely believed that the effects of the great majority of drugs have almost disappeared (Cardinal et al., 2016). It is conceivable for the actual half-life of medicine to differ from person to person owing to the vast number of patient and drug-specific factors that influence it. These criteria influence not just the pace at which a person removes a drug from their system but also the efficacy with which a particular medication is distributed throughout the body, commonly known as the volume of distribution (called the drug clearance) (Smith et al., 2017).

## 1.2.6 Chemical Space

In cheminformatics, the term "chemical space" refers to the property space covered by all possible molecules and chemical compounds that adhere to a specific set of construction principles and boundary conditions (Gromski et al., 2019). It contains millions of distinct compounds, all readily accessible to researchers and may be accessed by them uncomplicatedly. The Lipinski criteria, in particular the molecular weight limit of 500, are used as the basis for the assumptions utilised in determining the number of potentially pharmacologically active compounds (Benet et al., 2016). According to the estimate, the only chemical elements used in the computation are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and sulphur.

This amount is sometimes misquoted as the expected size of the whole organic chemistry space in subsequent articles. However, if halogens and other components were added, this space's accurate dimensions would reveal a far larger volume. In addition to the drug-like space and the lead-like space, both described in part by Lipinski's rule of five, the idea of the known drug space (sometimes referred to as KDS) has also been presented. In addition to the drug-like space and the lead-like space, this notion was also presented to the audience. When the structures of molecules currently undergoing design and synthesis are compared to the molecular descriptor parameters that the KDS establishes, the KDS can be used to assist in the prediction of the limits of chemical spaces associated with the creation of drugs. This is accomplished by comparing the molecules' structures to the established molecular descriptor parameters.

#### **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

#### 2.1 Introduction

The quantity of free drug exposed at the site of action is the primary factor that determines the pharmacological and toxicological outcomes, respectively (e.g., blood, liver, brain, and muscle). For this reason, it is of the highest relevance in modern pharmacological research to create an accurate calculation of both the pharmacokinetics (PK) of persons and the exposure of tissues. Not only is it possible for PK information to assist in planning clinical trials during the early stages of drug development, but it can also make it possible to design medicinal chemistry, which is necessary to produce an appropriate dosage regimen. The capacity of the information to make accurate predictions about pharmacokinetics is the source of both of these advantages.

For the last ten years, tremendous progress has been made in estimating hepatic metabolic clearance, which has led to significant advancement. This clearance is caused by enzymes that are a part of the metabolic process of medications, such as cytochrome P450s and UDP-glucuronosyltransferases. As a result of these advancements, as well as high-throughput screening of metabolic stability and early metabolite identification, project teams are now able to successfully reduce metabolic clearance by such a significant amount that low-clearance assays are frequently required in order to measure the intrinsic clearance of many drug discovery compounds.

This is one of the reasons why low-clearance assays are often required to evaluate the intrinsic clearance of a great deal of the compounds used in the drug development process. The role of transporters in eliminating medicines is becoming increasingly recognised, even though metabolism is the principal route of elimination for the bulk of drugs.

Forecasting human metabolic clearance has seen a significant amount of progress over the last several years, as can be seen, shown by the enormous amount of work that has taken place in this area (Bediako et al., 2018; Gastaldelli, Abdul Ghani and DeFronzo, 2021; Wambaugh et al., 2018). These advancements range from using single species scaling or allometry of preclinical species to in vitro-in vivo extrapolation (IVIVE) with human-derived systems such as human liver microsomes (HLM) or human hepatocytes.

IVIVE is an acronym that stands for "in vitro-in vivo extrapolation," and it refers to a methodology that allows researchers to extrapolate the results of in vitro experiments to animals that were

observed in their natural settings (HHEP) (Wambaugh et al., 2018). When creating new drugs, it is better to employ methods that use human reagents rather than scaling up from data collected from animals to predict human clearance. This is because human reagents represent human physiology more accurately. One of the reasons this phenomenon happens is because the enzymes responsible for the metabolism of drugs might significantly differ from species to species.

HLM was the reagent used the vast majority of the time throughout the first phases of research into the metabolic processes of various medicines. The quality of cryopreserved HHEP has improved as a direct result of developments in cryopreservation technology, and more people are now able to get their hands on it as a result of these breakthroughs. Due to this, it is now being put to extensive use in the area of drug development, more especially to research metabolic rate and biotransformation. When developing new drugs, it is routine practice to run high-throughput HLM and HHEP metabolic stability studies on many candidates compounds utilising 384-well designs. These tests evaluate the compounds' ability to withstand the body's natural breakdown processes.

## 2.2 Hepatic microsomal intrinsic clearance

More than 5000 members of the hemethiolate protein superfamily, represented by cytochromes P450 (CYP), have been identified as existing around the globe at this moment in time. The action of these enzymes is connected, in the vast majority of instances, to the first phase of the oxidative metabolism of foreign compounds (Guomao, Yi and Jianying, 2016). The interpretation of pharmacokinetic data obtained in vivo, which was previously only possible through in vitro data on drug metabolism, has recently resulted in the emergence of a new subfield within scientific research. This new field of study emphasises the relationship between the various data sets that have been gathered.

In recent years, many studies have found a correlation between the clearance values that were measured in vivo and the clearance values that were obtained from the intrinsic clearance data gathered from human liver microsomal metabolism (Li et al., 2021; Masuo et al., 2017; Guomao, Yi and Jianying, 2016). These clearance values take into account not just the in vitro T1/2 but also the in vitro CL0 int as well. One can obtain the intrinsic clearance values by first calculating the maximal velocity of the enzyme-catalysed reaction (Vmax) and then calculating the Michaelis constant for the complex of the enzyme and substrate. This allows one to arrive at the answer to

the question of what the intrinsic clearance values are (Km). If there is just one major route for the chemical, then applying this strategy to the metabolism of pharmaceuticals might be of great use.

#### **Chapter 3: Methods**

The correlation of experimental microsomal stability with redox properties of drugs will be investigated as part of this case. This methodology section refers to a confident approach often implemented in chemical sciences. This method analyses a component while doing so within the natural settings in which it is present, which is a method that is both innovative and useful. This strategy considers the methodology of the conducted study and the analytical procedures that were carried out. It is the habit of directing one's attention toward conducting in-depth research of a particular person, group, or event to establish the reasoning that serves as the foundation for fundamental ideas. As was said earlier, one of the primary objectives of this particular line of research was to evaluate the correlation of experimental microsomal stability with the redox properties of drugs.

#### 3.1 Literature search

A specific technique of searching was used for the whole of the databases PubMed, CINAHL, MEDLINE, Cochrane, and Google Scholar, in addition to BNI's inclusion. This process was carried out between the years 2016 and 2022. The search for published works was carried out in English, and it comprised books and articles covering a wide range of historical eras and periods from all over the globe. As a consequence of an analysis of unlimited text keywords and a combination of these numerous phrases, the research was steered onto a more fruitful path, which was accomplished by taking a particular route.

Combining these two approaches was what ultimately made the difference in being able to complete this work effectively. In addition to categorising patients according to their age and gender, the essential search phrases were "microsomal stability," "redox properties of drugs," "correlation of experimental microsomal stability," and "microsomal stability with redox properties of drugs." As can be seen, the framework for getting data has used the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT, which further aided in restricting or expanding the search. This was done to make it easier to identify more relevant results, and in some contexts, this can be seen as advantageous.

INCLUSION	EXCLUSION
This inquiry takes into consideration the	In the course of this research, no pieces of
many pieces of literature that are relevant to	previous literature that were not relevant to
the keywords that were under examination.	the keywords in the issue were considered.
Articles that provide a significant quantity	The research does not consider the inclusion
of evidence supporting their claims were	of articles with a body of supporting
considered for inclusion in the research.	insufficient evidence.
Articles that are thought to have strong	Articles that are not included because it is
ethical standards are included.	not believed that they adhere to ethical
	standards.
To compile this list, I only included articles	Articles not published initially in the
that were first released in the English	English language were disqualified from
language.	consideration for inclusion in this collection.
Articles that provided contrasting points of	In order to further the investigation, we did
view on the investigation were considered	not consider any articles that offered a one-
for inclusion in the research.	sided viewpoint on the topic under
	consideration.
Only the publications that provided clear	During the study, we did not consider any
answers to the research questions were	documents that included allegations that
considered in the study.	were not entirely understandable.

# Table 1: Inclusion/exclusion criteria

This investigation aims to conduct a comprehensive review of the earlier studies conducted to investigate the correlation of experimental microsomal stability with the redox properties of drugs. The investigation that is now being carried out has been tasked with the primary objective of finding the correlation between experimental microsomal stability. The investigation made use of an effective search strategy that was backed by various approaches in order to collect the essential information on the subject in order to get a better understanding of the redox properties of drugs.

Reading the abstract is the first step in the process of picking works of literature that are relevant to the topic at hand. The second step in the process is reading the whole body of the chosen piece of writing, beginning with the introduction. This procedure has been split into two steps so that it may be understood more straightforwardly and more in-depth. When selecting the pertinent literature, a systematic approach is used to filter the articles that will be evaluated based on a set of present inclusion and exclusion criteria. The articles that pass this filter are then selected for inclusion in the relevant literature. These standards are decided upon before the actual selection process gets underway.

In addition to making it easy to exclude studies from the inquiry that do not fulfil the standards to be included therein, it also makes it feasible to choose research that is important to the topic that is the focus of the study. During the initial phase of the research project, which included the collection and analysis of 115 papers, 56 of the articles were discarded because it was found that they were similar to earlier publications that had been carried out. The criteria for inclusion in the study and exclusion from it were applied to these abstracts, and a determination was made based on that evaluation.

Based on the results of our investigation, the researcher was able to determine which 21 publications had sufficient amounts of investigation to warrant doing more study on the subject matter. This would mean that every piece of information offered within these articles has been thoroughly evaluated and analysed in a considerable level of detail before being included. After analysing these 21 publications, five papers were selected for inclusion in the current study because they met all of the criteria for inclusion in the prior study.

They were able to fulfil this condition and make it possible to acquire the most up-to-date data since they were publications based on primary research published between 2016 and 2020. This time was chosen to be the central focus of this investigation because it provided the opportunity to collect the most current information, which was a factor considered throughout the process of selecting judgments. The many sorts of references offered include publications such as case studies, peer reviews, and follow-up reports, just a few examples of these kinds of resources.

# 3.2 PRISMA CHART



Source: Adapted from Page, Matthew J., et al. "The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated

guideline for reporting systematic reviews." Bmj 372 (2021).



#### 3.3 Data Analysis

In order to undertake an evaluation of the overall quality of the articles created as a direct result of the data search, the method often referred to as the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) was used (Long, French and Brooks, 2020). The CASP technique was used in order to get over the difficulties that were brought about by the process of assessing the benefits and drawbacks of doing qualitative research. The CASP tool comprises questions for data collection that the analyst may ask to assess the suitability of the research technique stated in published publications (Singh, 2013).

Using the CASP tool, one can evaluate the degree of quality by analysing the reliability of the results and the application of evidence-based practices (Purssell, 2020). This evaluation is based on those criteria, which serve as the basis for the standards mentioned in the preceding sentence and as the foundation for this study. The CASP tool is not as successful in analysing the reliability and validity of articles; however, it is the strategy used most frequently for evaluating effectiveness in health-related studies and is recommended by researchers (Horsley et al., 2011). In addition, there is a possibility to make use of additional assessment tools, such as the JBI tool, the ETQS tool, and a great deal of other similar programmes.

#### **Chapter 4: Results & Discussion**

#### 4.1 Interpretation and Discussion

The research has taken information on drugs from about nine articles; this study has then found the effect of ionisation potential, electron affinity, LogP, HB donors, HB acceptors, rotatable bonds, molecular weight, KDI2a and KDI2b on the clearance of drugs by the liver, in vivo, in vitro, in rats and inhuman. The clearance of drugs has been determined by calculating the variables' correlation with the clearance rate. The study will also discuss the microsomal stability of drugs and their link to drug clearance. Microsomal stability is often used in drug discovery to indicate the stability of drugs during different pharmacokinetics mechanisms, specifically cytochrome P450 metabolism; this study will focus on cytochrome P450 metabolism in the liver to assess the effect of different molecular descriptors on drug clearance. Additionally, in pharmacokinetics, electron affinity helps the drug bind well with the respective receptor and eventually enhances the microsomal stability of the drug. Moreover, the ionization potential of a drug helps the absorption of the drug, thus stimulating the microsomal stability of the drug (Gajula et al., 2021).

The study has assessed the effect of different molecular descriptors on drug clearance: however, the 26 drugs considered in this study were taken from the research of Nikolic & Agababa (2009) (1- as per the result table), including amitriptyline, desipramine, tolbutamide, amobarbital, imipramine, diazepam, diphenhydramine, hexobarbital, prednisone, zolpidem, dexamethasone, tenoxicam, quinidine, ibuprofen, triazolam, methoxsalen, clozapine, tenidap, chlorpromazine, ketamine, diltiazem, lorcainide, methohexital, diclofenac, verapamil, and propafenone. Nikolic and Agababa (2009) calculated in vitro drug half-life concerning the abovementioned variables. A theoretical QSAR study was performed by Nikolic & Agababa (2009) on the essential clearance (in vitro CLint and in vitro T1/2) and total body clearance of 29 drugs with varying structures. There was a substantial variation in the calculated intrinsic clearance values among the substances Nikolic & Agababa looked at. The established QSAR model used in the study assists in studying the kinetics of cytochrome P450-mediated processes in intrinsic clearance and whole-body clearance because the microsomal in vitro TIM data (a dynamic gastrointestinal model) can be utilised to calculate in vitro CLint and in vivo blood. The QSAR analysis predictions found that the correlations are often excellent, especially when looking at intrinsic clearance data. However, the mean correlation of drug clearance concerning the variables, as per the present study, is R2

=0.03150. However, the graph for ionisation potential was moderately positive, showing a moderate linear relationship between in vitro half-life of drugs and ionisation potential, with  $R^2 = 0.0311$ . On the contrary, the plat among in vitro half-life of drugs and electron affinity showed a moderate negative relation indicating a negative relationship, as the decrease in one variable causes an increase in the other variable. The correlation value is, however, found to be 0.0471.



Drugs namely astemizole, atenolol, bifonazole, bupivacaine, chlorpromazine, cimetidine, debrisoquine, isoxicam, labetalol, miconazole, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, quinidine, sulfamethoxazole, terbutaline, thymidine, triflupromazine, danazol, albendazole, ketoconazole,

piroxicam, probenecid, terfenadine, phenytoin, indomethacin, dipyridamole, verapamil, loperamide and zolpidem were aso included in this study from the data of Di et al. (2006). Di et al. (2006) demonstrated that high throughput metabolic stabilisation experiments are routinely used to assist in structural alteration, forecast in vivo performance, establish structure-metabolic stability connections, and prioritise compounds for in vivo animal investigations in drug development. Nonetheless, these procedures are often tested using marketed medications. Many compounds used in drug development are distinct from pharmaceuticals because they exhibit high molecular weight, high lipophilicity, and poor solubility. It investigated how reduced solubility affected the outcomes of the metabolic stability experiment. In this study, we compared the 'aqueous dilution technique' to the 'co-solvent approach' to test metabolic stability. The two approaches yielded equivalent results for commercially available medications and numerous discovery compounds with reasonably drug-like characteristics. The 'aqueous dilution approach' generated artificially better stability findings for extremely lipophilic, insoluble drug development molecules.

However, this study has utilised the results of the aqueous dilution methods of Di et al. (2006) to detect the relation between drug half-life and other variables. As per our results, the average correlation is 0.1628, indicating a negative relationship among the variables. However, the ionisation plot shows no relationship or slight negative relation, and the value has been  $R^2 = 0.0034$ . On the contrary, the electron affinity shows a moderate positive relationship with a value  $R^2 = 0.0108$ . It is noteworthy that the values observed through the cosolvation method were very similar and did not show any meaningful new trends. However, the  $R^2$  value for ionisation potential is 0.00009 and for electrons, potential is 0.043.





The purpose of the study by Ito & Houston (2005) analysis was to evaluate the performance of seven different approaches to predicting human hepatic clearance (CLh) based on preclinical animal data and in vitro microsomal data and five different approaches to predicting in vivo intrinsic clearance (CLint). Five different approaches were used to predict the human CLint for 33 drugs:

- using in vitro data scaled by a physiologic scaling factor (SF),
- using an empirical SF,
- using the physiologic and drug-specific SFs (in vitro CLint in rats and the ratio of in vivo),
- and using the rat CLint directly and with allometric scaling.

The drugs included FK1052, zolpidem, omeprazole, diazepam, diltiazem, midazolam, triazolam, flunitrazepam, alprazolam, phenytoin, tolbutamide, ibuprofen, diclofenac, imipramine, warfarin, hexobarbital, dofetilide, metoprolol, phenacetin, s-warfarin, r-warfarin, indinavir, lidocaine, ondansetron, antipyrine, caffeine, felodipine, propranolol, chlorpromazine, propafenone, verapamil, diphenhydramine, lorcainide, amitriptyline, desipramine, ketamine, quinidine, clozapine, dexamethasone, prednisone, methoxsalen, tenidap, tenoxicam, amobarbital, methohexital, mexiletine, theophylline, captopril, cocaine, coumarin, disopyramide, fentanyl, furosemide, indomethacin, meperidine, morphine, naproxen, reduced dolasetron, and troglitazone. Ito & Houston (2005) used the estimated CLint to predict the CLh in people using the well-mixed liver prototype. Two more techniques, direct allometric scaling and drug-specific SF and allometry

were also used to provide predictions about the CLh. CLint and CLh were consistently underestimated when in vitro microsomal data of humans was used with a physiological SF. Using an empirical SF tailored to a single medication or allometry helped mitigate this bias. The accuracy, however, was drastically reduced for allometry. Using in vitro human microsomal data with an empirical SF may be preferred since it does not need additional evidence from a preclinical investigation. However, the drug-specific SF and physiologic SF exhibit lower bias than the others and greater accuracy than allometric techniques.

According to the results of our study, the average R2 value for human In vitro microsomal clearance is found to be 0.04721, representing a negative relationship among variables. The ionisation potential graph shows no or slight negative relationship with R2=0.0634. Additionally, for human in vitro microsomal clearance, the graph with electron affinity explores a negative relationship of human drug clearance with electron affinity with  $R^2 = 0.0185$ .





However, the rat In vitro microsomal clearance had an average R2=0.04748, showing a negative relationship between drug clearance and other variables, just as the human in vitro microsomal clearance results. The graph between drug clearance and ionization potential shows no relationship with a value of  $R^2 = 0.0002$ ; however, the graph between drug clearance and electron affinity shows a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0993$ .

Furthermore, the relationship between human in vivo clearance and other molecular descriptors showed a negative relationship with an average R2=0.10975. The human in vivo clearance graph with ionization potential shows a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.2737$ . However, the graph with electron affinity demonstrated no relationship with  $R^2 = 0.001$ .



The relationship between rat in vivo clearance and molecular descriptors was found to have an average R2=0.053195, indicating a negative relationship with molecular descriptors. The graph between rat in vivo clearance and ionization potential demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0395$ . Nevertheless, the graph with electron affinity demonstrated a positive relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0147$ .

Shitara et al. (2013) demonstrated that the organic anion transporting polypeptide (OATP) family of transporters is rapidly being recognised as an essential element in regulating drug and metabolite pharmacokinetics due to its ability to accept a variety of medications. OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 are critical for drug uptake in the liver, whereas OATPI A2 and OATP2B1 may play crucial roles in drug absorption in the intestine and transport across the blood-brain barrier. Genetic variations and drug-drug combinations may influence the baseline activity and/or expression. The pace at which medicines are eliminated from the body or absorbed in the intestines may be affected

differently depending on the substrate medication. This is partly because various OATP isoforms contribute differently to intestinal absorption or clearance. The pharmacokinetics of substrate medicines should be drastically altered when the involvement of the DAFT-mediated mechanism is significant. The drugs examined by Shitara et al. (2013) were atorvastatin, diclofenac, fenoprofen, fluvastatin, gemfibrozil, glimepiride, glyburide, ibuprofen (2-hydroxylated), ibuprofen (3-hydroxylated), pitavastatin,, tolbutamide, alprazolam, diazepam, flunitrazepam, fluphenazine, ketamine, mephenytoin, nifedipine, nordiazepam, phenacetin, phenytoin, sildenafil, theophylline, triazolam, zolpidem, amitriptyline, bufuralol, bupiyacaine, chlorpromazine, clomipramine. dextromethorphan, diltiazem, dofetilide, doxepin, imipramine, labetolol, lidocaine, metoprolol (alpha-hydroxylation), metoprolol (o-demethylation), loxtidine, mexiletine (hydroxymethylation), mexiletine (p-hydroxylation), mianserin, prochlorperazine, promazine, promethazine, propafenone, propranolol, quinidine, risperidone, trazadone, trimipramine, and verapamil.

Thus, using the data from the study by Shitara et al. (2013), the average correlation value for in vitro hepatocyte clearance is R2= 0.11675, indicating a negative relationship between in vitro hepatocyte clearance with molecular descriptors. The graph between in vitro hepatocyte clearance and ionisation potential demonstrated a negative relation with  $R^2 = 0.3937$ . However, in vitro hepatocyte clearance and electron affinity graph demonstrated a negative relation with  $R^2 = 0.0656$ .





However, the in vivo hepatocyte clearance from the study by Shitara et al. (2013), on average, demonstrated a negative relationship with the molecular descriptors with an average R2=0.09156. The graph between in vivo hepatocyte clearance and ionisation potential demonstrated a negative relation with  $R^2 = 0.276$ . However, the graph between in vivo hepatocyte clearance and electron affinity demonstrated a negative relation with  $R^2 = 0.0028$ .

Obach et al. (2008) demonstrated that evaluating covalent drug binding in vitro has helped understand the link between drug metabolism and toxicity in vivo. These data support regularly in vitro screening of medication candidates by covalent binding with liver microsomal proteins in the absence and presence of NADPH. Nine human non-hepatotoxins and nine hepatotoxins were tested for their covalent binding in human liver microsomes supplemented with NADPH in vitro. Seven medicines in each nine groups were found to form covalent bonds. Covalent binding in microsomes was shown to be highest for paroxetine, a non-hepatotoxin, in a quantitative comparison of in vitro intrinsic clearance, which failed to distinguish between the two classes of drugs. The ability to distinguish hepatotoxic from nontoxic medications depending upon data of in vitro covalent binding was enhanced by the inclusion of parameters such as the proportion of total metabolism represented by the total daily dosage of each drug and covalent binding. Obach et al. (2008) included drugs namely; acetaminophen, benoxaprofen, carbamazepine, diclofenac,

diphenhydramine, ibuprofen, indomethacin, meloxicam, nefazodone, propranolol, raloxifene, sudoxicam, and theophylline.

Nevertheless, this study has used the data of Obach et al. (2008) to detect the relationship between human in vitro microsomal intrinsic clearance and molecular descriptors. As per our analysis, the average correlation R2= 0.040263 indicates a negative relationship between molecular descriptors and human in vitro microsomal intrinsic clearance. However, the plot between intrinsic clearance and ionization potential demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2$ = 0.00003. The plot between intrinsic clearance and electron affinity also demonstrated a slight positive relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0044$ .





Nagilla et al. (2006) assessed the reliability of existing in vitro intrinsic advancement values reported for drugs from various labs in estimating in vivo clearance. The literature was scrutinized to find values of in vitro intrinsic clearance (CL,i) for comparison, and 103 compounds were chosen for further study. However, the drugs included in the study by Nagilla et al. (2006) were antipyrine, caffeine, clonazepam, lidocaine, phenytoin, propranolol and warfarin. Specifically, only human and rat hepatocytes and microsomes were used in this comparison. However, the present study used the information from Nagilla et al. (2006), and the average correlation between human intrinsic Hepatocyte clearance and molecular descriptors is R2=0.12871. The graph between human intrinsic Hepatocyte clearance and ionization potential demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0487$ . However, the graph between human intrinsic hepatocyte clearance and an electron affinity also demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.1197$ .





The average correlation between rat intrinsic Hepatocyte clearance (Nagilla et al., 2006) and molecular descriptors is R2=0.18122. The graph between rat intrinsic Hepatocyte clearance and ionization potential demonstrated a moderate negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0032$ . However, the graph between rat intrinsic hepatocyte clearance and electron affinity demonstrated no relationship or slight positive relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0011$ .

Sixteen drugs with varying physicochemical and disposition features were studied by Yabe et al. (2011) for their potential roles in determining hepatic uptake; these featured three sartans, repaglinide, five statins, erythromycin, saquinavir, ritonavir, nateglinide, clarithromycin, fexofenadine, and bosentan. The oil-spin technique produced kinetic parameters from a newly separated rat hepatocytes suspension. In contrast to saquinavir, for which passive solid permeability prevails over transporter-mediated uptake over the entire concentration range, active processes contributed mainly to uptake for ritonavir and repaglinide (despite their high Pdiff values). Both active and passive procedures were beneficial when dealing with bosentan and erythromycin. For 9 of the 16 medications, the ratio of unbound hepatocyte concentration to medium concentration was more than 10, with the lowest being bosentan (2.9) and the highest being atorvastatin (494.9). There was no correlation between the degree of intracellular binding shown by several medicines and their actual absorption into cells (fraction unbound ranged from 0.01-0.6). Pdiff and the degree of intracellular binding correlate strongly with LogD7.4, although active uptake was not. Implications of the research's results are examined. This study gives a thorough evaluation of active uptake's significance in comparison to the passive process. The drugs included by Yabe et al. (2011) included bosentan, cerivastatin, clarithromycin, erythromycin, fexofenadine, nateglinide, olmesartan, pitavastatin, pravastatin, repaglinide, saquinavir and valsartan.

However, the average correlation value for rat hepatocyte clearance and molecular descriptors is R2=0.11269. The graph for ionisation potential and rat hepatocyte clearance demonstrated a moderate negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0114$ . However, the graph for electron affinity and rat hepatocyte clearance demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.1118$ .



Riccardi et al. (2019) demonstrated that in vivo clearance may be anticipated more accurately after the metabolic stability in vitro has been adjusted by partition coefficients across hepatocytes and buffer containing 4% bovine serum albumin. As a result of this technique, a group of 32 structurally varied compounds, including substrates for transporters such as organic aniontransporting polypeptides, have been shown to have an excellent in vitro-in vivo correlation of human liver clearance. In the case of most chemicals, the predicted clearance values are within a factor of three of the measured values. When transporter-mediated clearance is present, this is the first time a "bottom-up" strategy combining numerous drugs has yielded excellent in vivo and in vitro extrapolation without the need for an empirical scaling factor. Compounds that leave the liver

quite quickly due to biliary and/or extra-hepatic mechanisms may be an exception. When numerous complicated processes are in play, the technique provides an alternate way to predict human hepatic clearance. The drugs included from Riccardi et al. (2019) in this research were diclofenac, ibuprofen, meloxicam, nateglinide, tolbutamide, atorvastatin, bosentan, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, glipizide, glyburide, irbesartan, pitavastatin, repaglinide, theophylline, timolol, lesinurad, Losartan, PF-05089771, PF-05186462, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, valsartan, disopyramide, maraviroc, ranitidine, and zolmitriptan.

However, as per the present study, the average correlation between observed human hepatocyte clearance (Riccardi et al., 2019) and molecular descriptors is R2=0.11111. The graph for ionization potential and observed human hepatocyte clearance demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0002$ . However, the graph for electron affinity and observed human hepatocyte clearance demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0052$ .





However, as per the present study, the average correlation between apparent human hepatocyte clearance (Riccardi et al., 2019) and molecular descriptors is R2=0.05142. The graph for ionization potential and apparent human hepatocyte clearance demonstrated no relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0047$ . However, the graph for electron affinity and apparent human hepatocyte clearance demonstrated a positive relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0176$ .

Iwatsubo et al. (1997) discuss the scaling of in vivo metabolic clearance using in vitro data collected via human liver hepatocytes or microsomes as a novel way of forecasting drug metabolism in vivo in people. The chemicals verapamil, diazepam, loxtidine (lavoltidine), lidocaine, and phenacetin were all accurately predicted. However, for a few metabolic pathways, a change in CL of more than a factor of five was reported between in vitro and in vivo. The existence of active transport via the sinusoidal membrane, metabolism in organs other than the liver, the false assumption of quick equilibrium of medications across blood and hepatocytes, and inter-individual variability are all hypothesised to have a role in the observed discrepancies. Moreover, for a model compound, YM796, the ability to predict in vivo drug metabolic clearance from results obtained using a recombinant system of human P450 isozyme was described. Clearances employing human liver microsomes expressing varying levels of CYP3A4 were found to be equivalent to those anticipated by the recombinant system. Although the first-pass metabolism is nonlinear, metabolic clearance in vivo could be forecasted using metabolic data in vitro. The drugs included in the study by Iwatsubo et al. (1997) included alprazolam, diazepam, dofetilide, imipramine, lidocaine, loxtidine, metoprolol, mexiletine, phenacetin, quinidine, theophylline, tolbutamide, verapamil and warfarin.

However, as per the present study, the average correlation between human in vivo clearance (Iwatsubo et al., 1997) and molecular descriptors is R2=0.13519. The ionisation potential human in vivo clearance graph demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.3579$ . However, the graph for electron affinity and human in vivo clearance also demonstrated a negative relationship with  $R^2 = 0.0067$ .



Consequently, a primarily negative correlation is observed among clearance and molecular descriptors, especially ionization potential and electron affinity. This indicates that the greater the values of electron affinity and ionisation potential, the smaller the drug's half-life or vice versa.

Table 1: Results:  $R^2$  and correlations (+/-) of all data sets

	Ionisation Potential	Electron Affinity	LogP	HB Donors	HB Acceptors	Rotatable Bonds	MW	Polar Surface Area	KDI2a	KDI2B
1	0.0311	0.0471	0.0151	0.0099	0.0621	0.047	0.0896	0.0117	0.0406	5E-06
		(-)			(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(+)
2a	0.0034	0.0108	0.4938	0.0727	0.205	0.0708	0.1214	0.454	0.1432	0.0529
	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)
2b	0.00009	0.043	0.4009	0.0381	0.1796	0.0784	0.081	0.4578	0.1438	0.0506
	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)
3a	0.0634	0.0185	0.189	1E-06	0.0006	0.0687	0.0627	0.0557	0.0059	0.0076
	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)
3b	0.0002	0.0993	0.2447	0.0032	0.0005	0.0097	0.0663	0.0078	0.0061	0.0082
	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)
3c	0.2737	0.001	0.3946	0.0001	0.0134	0.0302	0.0496	0.256	0.0393	0.0396
	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)
3d	0.0395	0.0147	0.2844	0.008	0.00005	0.0011	0.0618	0.1011	0.0169	0.0044
	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(+)
4a	0.3937	0.0656	0.3164	0.124	0.0014	0.0413	0.1659	0.054	8E-08	0.0052
	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)
4b	0.276	0.0028	0.3682	0.0342	0.0161	0.0135	0.0741	0.1025	0.0246	0.0036
	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)
5	0.00003	0.0044	0.1077	0.0003	0.0131	0.116	0.0005	0.0936	0.056	0.011
	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)

Title: The correlation of experimental microsomal stability with redox properties of drugs	
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ба	0.0032	0.0011	0.4426	0.4976	0.4597	0.0885	0.111	0.0476	0.1545	0.0064
	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)
бb	0.0487	0.0881	0.1197	0.5205	0.0062	0.1385	0.1589	0.0088	0.1925	0.0052
	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)
7	0.0114	0.1118	0.1794	0.0348	0.2126	0.0009	0.0742	0.3101	0.0741	0.1176
	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)
8a	0.0002	0.0052	0.5525	0.0564	0.0028	0.111	0.2655	0.0288	0.0339	0.0551
	(-)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)
8b	0.0047	0.0176	0.2911	0.0074	0.0829	0.0231	0.0572	0.026	0.0004	0.0038
	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)
9	0.3579	0.0067	0.0988	0.0471	0.1248	0.0005	0.085	0.4893	0.0446	0.0972
	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)

Table 1: 1 - Nikolic and Agababa 2009 (In vitro half-life), 2a - Di et al., 2006 (In vitro half-life aqueous dilution method), 2b – Di et al., 2006 (in vitro half-life cosolvent method), 3a - Ito and Houston, 2005 (Human In vitro microsomal clearance), 3b- Ito and Houston, 2005 (Rat In vitro microsomal clearance), 3c- Ito and Houston, 2005 (Human in vivo clearance), 3d- Ito and Houston, 2005 (Rat in vivo clearance), 4a - Shitara et al., 2013 (in vitro hepatocyte clearance), 4b - Shitara et al., 2013 (in vivo hepatocyte clearance), 5 - Obach et al., 2008 (human in vitro microsomal intrinsic clearance), 6a - Nagilla et al., 2006 (rat intrinsic Hepatocyte clearance), 6b- Nagilla et al., 2006 (human intrinsic Hepatocyte clearance), 7 - Yabe et al., 2011 (Rat hepatocyte clearance), 8a - Riccardi et al., 2019 (Observed human hepatocyte clearance), 8b - Riccardi et al., 2019 (Apparent human hepatocyte clearance), 9 - Iwatsubo et al., 1997 (Human in vivo clearance).

## **Chapter five: Conclusion**

The effect of a drug is the aggregate of a wide variety of different and intricate processes that take place inside the body as a direct consequence of the consumption of the substance. In the vast majority of cases, there is a chain of occurrences that can be broken down into three distinct phases in the order in which they were listed. These phases are referred to as succeeding, and their names are the pharmaceutical, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacodynamic phases, respectively (Tuntland et al., 2014). The following illustration (fig 1) illustrates the path that a drug takes through the body of a human being after it has been taken orally, as well as the most effective processes resulting from the drug's passage through the body.

The quantity of free drug exposed at the site of action is the primary factor that determines the pharmacological and toxicological outcomes, respectively (e.g., blood, liver, brain, and muscle). For this reason, it is of the highest relevance in modern pharmacological research to create an accurate calculation of both the pharmacokinetics (PK) of persons and the exposure of tissues. Not only is it possible for PK information to assist in planning clinical trials during the early stages of drug development, but it can also make it possible to design medicinal chemistry, which is necessary to produce an appropriate dosage regimen. The capacity of the information to make accurate predictions about pharmacokinetics is the source of both of these advantages.

Forecasting human metabolic clearance has seen significant progress over the last several years, as shown by the enormous amount of work that has taken place in this area. These advancements range from using single species scaling or allometry of preclinical species to in vitro-in vivo extrapolation (IVIVE) with human-derived systems such as human liver microsomes (HLM) or human hepatocytes.

IVIVE is an acronym for "in vitro-in vivo extrapolation," and it refers to a methodology that allows researchers to extrapolate the results of in vitro experiments to animals observed in their natural settings (HHEP). When creating new drugs, it is better to employ methods that use human reagents rather than scaling up from data collected from animals to predict human clearance. This is because human reagents represent human physiology more accurately. One of the reasons this phenomenon happens is because the enzymes responsible for the metabolism of drugs might significantly differ from species to species.

HLM was the reagent used the vast majority of the time throughout the first phases of research into the metabolic processes of various medicines. The quality of cryopreserved HHEP has improved as a direct result of developments in cryopreservation technology, and more people are now able to get their hands on it as a result of these breakthroughs. Due to this, it is now being put to extensive use in the area of drug development, more especially to research metabolic rate and biotransformation. When developing new drugs, it is routine practice to run high-throughput HLM and HHEP metabolic stability studies on many candidates compounds utilising 384-well designs. These tests evaluate the compounds' ability to withstand the body's natural breakdown processes.

In recent years, some studies have found a correlation between the clearance values measured in vivo and the clearance values obtained from the intrinsic clearance data gathered from human liver microsomal metabolism. These clearance values take into account not just the in vitro T1/2 but also the in vitro CL0 int as well. One can obtain the intrinsic clearance values by first calculating the maximal velocity of the enzyme-catalysed reaction (Vmax) and then calculating the Michaelis constant for the complex of the enzyme and substrate. This allows one to arrive at the answer to the question of what the intrinsic clearance values are (Km). If there is just one major route for the chemical, then applying this strategy to the metabolism of pharmaceuticals might be of great use.

#### 5.1 Future Implications

Qualitative research may be beneficial for both newly founded and well-established companies equally because it sheds light on the plethora of factors that play a role in determining the answer to the research question (Blaikie, 2018). As a result of the fact that the vast majority of researchers collect and examine quantitative data, these researchers are not always aware of how the target population or sample would behave or change in the future (Sahu, Padhy and Dhir, 2020); hence, there remains uncertainty. Hence, this research could be better conducted in the future via a qualitative method. Although the research design could be changed to secondary, it will benefit the entire research. According to Hornsey et al. (2016), it is possible for the research methods to alter in accordance with the industry being investigated as well as the needs of the firm carrying it out. In this concern, researchers could use various research strategies, such as secondary qualitative, in conjunction with one another to get the insights they need to improve their decision-making.

#### 5.2 Limitations of the research

Although quantitative research and qualitative techniques have been demonstrated to be effective, each has some limitations that must be considered. The limitations of qualitative research might also be attributed to various other variables. Among them are the following:

**Sample Sizes:** Researchers need to collect an appropriate data from a sufficient number of resources to ensure the results' reliability. If there is a short sample size, it is hard to gain an accurate picture of the outcome (Hennink and Kaiser, 2021). If an adequately large sample could not be obtained, the information acquired may not be enough for its intended purpose.

**Bias:** When researching a range of sources, there might be a concern for biasness in the findings (Pollock, 2020). This has the potential to have an effect that is adverse to the investigation findings.

**Self-Selection Bias:** The researchers have raised concerns that the data collected from a range but limited sources may not represent the population as a whole (Ross and Bibler Zaidi, 2019). On the other side, as a consequence, the process moves away from qualitative approaches and toward quantitative methodologies.

**Quality:** Since there is room for interpretation in every question, it may be difficult to assess whether or not the questions that researchers ask are of high quality. For researchers to get the most accurate replies, they need to question individuals about how and why they feel the way they do.

#### 5.2.1 Lack of Relevance

It is not typical for secondary research to provide all the requested answers. Likely, the objectives and methodology used in acquiring the secondary data were not appropriate for the matter now being addressed. Given that it was built to find answers to another problem, it is feasible and will expose gaps in the answers to the problem it was meant to tackle (Morgado et al., 2017). This is because it was developed to find solutions to other problems. In addition, the methods of data collection that are utilised cannot provide the information necessary to support the business decisions that need to be made (for example, qualitative research approaches are not appropriate for judgements that can be answered with a yes or no).

## 5.2.2 Lack of Accuracy

It is possible for secondary data to have errors and for there to be gaps in its coverage due to the following:

- How the research was designed (exploratory, descriptive, causal, primary vs repackaged secondary data, the analytical plan, etc.)
- Sampling techniques and data collection locations (target audiences, recruitment methods).
- The means through which the data are gathered (qualitative and quantitative techniques).
- A consideration of the perspective taken (focus and omissions)
- The stages of the reporting process (preliminary, final, peer-reviewed)
- The pace of evolution of the topic investigated in this study (slowly vs rapidly evolving phenomenon, e.g., adoption of specific technologies).
- There is a lack of concordance between the many diverse data sources.

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