

Practical pharmacology

3rd Class

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((Nature and Source of Drugs))

Definitions:

Pharmacology is the **branch** of science relating to drugs and **medicines**.

Pharmacology is the scientific study of the effects of drugs and chemicals on living organisms where a drug can be broadly defined as any chemical substance, natural or synthetic, which affects a biological system.

Medicine is a substance that you drink or swallow in order to cure an illness.

Drugs; chemical substances prepared and sold as pharmaceutical items, either by prescription or over the counter.



Nature and Source of Drugs

What is the Nature and Source of Drugs?

Drug substance can affect the body in different ways. They can be derived from natural sources, such as plants, animals, or minerals or they can be synthetic and made in a laboratory. Drugs can be used for medical purposes, such as to treat diseases or relieve pain, or for recreational purposes, such as to induce euphoria or altered states of consciousness.

***The nature and source of drugs can vary greatly, as certain drugs are derived from natural sources while others are synthetically produced in a laboratory. Additionally, some drugs are legal and regulated, while others are illegal and unregulated.**

Examples of Drugs and their Sources

•One example of a natural source for drugs is **plants. Many plants, such as cannabis, contain psychoactive compounds that can produce effects on the body. Additionally, some plants, such as opium poppies and coca leaves, can be used to manufacture drugs such as opiates and cocaine.**

•• Another example of a natural source is **animals. Certain animals, such as snakes, can produce toxins that can be used in the manufacture of drugs. Additionally, some animals, such as civet cats, can produce secretions that can be used in the manufacture of drugs.**

•• Finally, some drugs are **synthetically** produced in a laboratory. These drugs are usually designed to mimic the effects of natural drugs, but with more powerful or prolonged effects. Some examples of these drugs include MDMA (Ecstasy) and LSD (acid).

To summarize, the different sources of drugs include:

1- Plants

2- Animals

3- Synthetic drugs produced in a laboratory

Effects of Drugs on the Body

The effects of drugs on the body can vary greatly depending on the type of drug and the amount consumed. Some drugs, such as cannabis and alcohol, can produce mild effects, such as relaxation and euphoria. Other drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, can produce more intense effects, such as heightened senses, increased energy, and altered states of consciousness. Additionally, some drugs, such as opioids and sedatives, can produce dangerous and potentially life-threatening effects, such as slowed breathing and decreased heart rate.

It should be noted that drug use can also have long-term effects on the body, including organ damage, mental health problems, and an increased risk of addiction. Additionally, some drugs can have adverse interactions with other drugs or alcohol, so it is important to always consult a doctor before taking any drugs

GOOD LUCK