

SALIVARY LEVELS OF ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS DRUGS

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The study deals with monitoring of isoniazid and rifampicin levels in saliva compared with that in serum because of various advantages including convenience and non-invasive nature of the former procedure.

Among 31 tuberculosis patients, of whom 19 were slow and 12 rapid acetylators, salivary levels of isoniazid were found quite comparable with those in serum. A few pharmacokinetic variables of the drug calculated on the basis of the observed salivary levels were similar to that of serum levels, both in slow and rapid acetylators of INH. As regards rifampicin, about 10% of the serum concentration was present in saliva, which is in accord with the knowledge that about 90% of this drug gets bound to plasma proteins, suggesting that few pharmacokinetic variables could not be calculated.