

Chapter-6

Radio Pharmaceuticals - Storage, dispensing and disposal of radiopharmaceuticals

Radio Pharmaceuticals:

- Radio pharmaceuticals, also known as radiopharmaceuticals, are drugs that contain radioactive isotopes. These isotopes emit radiation, which allows them to be used in medical imaging and therapy.
- They are used to diagnose and treat a variety of conditions, such as cancer, thyroid disorders, and blood flow problems.
- They can be administered by injection, orally or inhalation.

Storage of Radio Pharmaceuticals:

- Radio pharmaceuticals should be stored in a secure, designated area that is separated from other drugs and medical equipment. The storage area should be well-ventilated, with a low level of background radiation.
- The storage area should also have limited access, and be clearly labeled to indicate the presence of radioactive materials.
- The temperature and humidity of the storage area should be carefully controlled to ensure the stability of the radio pharmaceuticals.
- It's recommended to store them in a refrigerator or freezer, depending on the specific requirements of the drug.
- It's also important to maintain accurate records of the storage, use and disposal of radiopharmaceuticals, and to ensure that they are handled and disposed of properly to minimize the risk of exposure to radiation.
- Additionally, the storage area should be equipped with radiation detection and alarm systems, as well as emergency response protocols in case of a spill or other accident.

Dispensing and disposal of radiopharmaceuticals:

The dispensing of radiopharmaceuticals is an important step in their use in medical imaging and therapy. The following are some key points to consider when dispensing radiopharmaceuticals:

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- Verify the patient's identity to ensure that the correct drug and dosage is being given to the correct patient.
- Handle and administer radiopharmaceuticals using appropriate protective equipment, such as gloves, gowns, and shields, to minimize the risk of exposure to radiation.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and any applicable regulations for the storage, handling, and administration of the radiopharmaceuticals.
- Monitor the patient's condition and response to the radiopharmaceuticals, and report any adverse reactions promptly.
- Dispose of any unused or expired radiopharmaceuticals in accordance with regulations and guidelines.

Overall, the proper dispensing of radiopharmaceuticals is crucial to ensure the safety of patients and healthcare workers, and to ensure accurate and effective imaging and therapy.

Disposal of radiopharmaceuticals:

Disposal of radiopharmaceuticals is an important aspect of their use in medical imaging and therapy. The following are some key points to consider when disposing of radiopharmaceuticals:

- Disposal should be done in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations, as well as guidelines from professional organizations.
- Any remaining radiopharmaceuticals should be properly disposed of in accordance with regulations. This may involve returning the unused portion to the supplier or disposing of it in a licensed radioactive waste disposal facility.
- Patient's urine, feces, and other bodily fluids that may contain traces of radiopharmaceuticals should also be handled and disposed of properly.
- Equipment that has come into contact with radiopharmaceuticals should be properly decommissioned and decontaminated before it can be used again.
- It's important to keep accurate records of the disposal of radiopharmaceuticals, including the amount and type of material disposed of, the date, and the method of disposal.
- It's also important to ensure that proper protective equipment is worn and safety procedures are followed when handling and disposing of radiopharmaceuticals to minimize the risk of exposure to radiation.

Overall, the proper disposal of radiopharmaceuticals is crucial to ensure the safety of patients and healthcare workers, and to comply with regulations and guidelines.