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Hospital-pharmacie: Compatibility of active components in parenteral infusions

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Parenteral medication today is standard procedure in clinical therapy not only in hospitals but also in the ambulant and practical sector. Extremely important is this kind of application for intensive care because it is the only way to provide medication and nutrition. Frequently, physicians and care personnel are not aware that drugs strongly differ in pH-value and solubility and arbitrary mixing can cause serious consequences and a worse outcome for the patients. Incompatibilities are unwanted physical-chemical reactions of a drug with a solvent which take place before or during an application. These reactions are not to be mistaken as interactions which change the effect of a drug by impact of another substance. Physical or “manifest” incompatibilities usually can be seen as a change of colour, separation, tarnish or precipitation caused by a change of proportion between ionisation and solubility. Chemical or “concealed” incompatibilities are characterized by chemical disintegration and macroscopically not recognizable. Analytical methods (i.e., HPLC) have to be used. For a secure parenteral therapy critical or problematical situations have to be identified before the application which is a major task for pharmacists with their widespread chemical-pharmaceutical knowledge. Our aim is to achieve a clearly arranged tool for the wards to enable the daily application of parenteral medication through central or peripheral-venous catheters in an easy and safe way.

Biography

Wolfgang Lechner has completed his studies for pharmacy and has been promoted as Mag. Pharm. at Karl-Franzens Universität in 1985 and continued with Postdoctoral Research in a pharmaceutical laboratory of the same university with HPLC (High Pressure Liquid Chromatography). He was CEO of different pharmacies in Austria and is now the Owner of a provincial pharmacy.

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