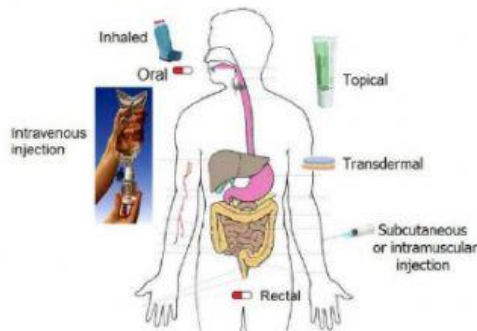


# Administering medication

## Routes of Administration



Administering medication involves the process of giving medications to individuals to treat various medical conditions. The route of administration refers to the method by which the medication is delivered into the body. There are several routes commonly used for medication administration, each with its own advantages and considerations.

**Oral Administration (PO):** This is the most common and convenient route of medication administration. Medications are taken by mouth in the form of tablets, capsules, or liquids. Oral administration allows for medication to be absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract and provides systemic effects. Oral administration is easy, non-invasive, and suitable for most individuals. However, it may have slower onset of action due to the time required for absorption.

**Topical Administration (TOP):** This involves applying medication directly to the skin surface. Topical medications include creams, ointments, gels and lotions. They are absorbed through the skin and can act locally or systemically, depending on the medication. Topical administration is useful for localized skin conditions.

**Inhalation Administration (INH):** Medications can be administered through inhalation. Inhalers, nebulizers, and nasal sprays are commonly used for respiratory conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Inhalation allows medications to reach the lungs directly, providing quick relief for respiratory symptoms.

#### Injectable Administration:

**Intramuscular (IM):** IM injections provide relatively rapid absorption and are commonly used for vaccines and certain medications.

**Subcutaneous (SC or SQ):** Medications are injected into the fatty tissue just below the skin. This route allows slower absorption and is often used for insulin, certain hormones, and some other medications.

**Intravenous (IV):** Medications are administered directly into a vein. IV administration offers rapid and complete absorption, immediate onset of action, and precise dosage control. It is commonly used in emergency situations or when medications need to be administered quickly.

**Rectal Administration (PR):** Medications are inserted into the rectum in the form of suppositories. This route allows for local or systemic absorption, depending on the medication. Rectal administration is often used when oral administration is not possible or practical.

**Vaginal Administration (PV):** Medications are administered into the vagina, typically in the form of tablets, creams, or gels. This route is useful for local treatment of vaginal infections or conditions.

**Transdermal Administration (TD):** Medications are delivered through the skin using patches. Transdermal patches provide controlled, continuous release of medication over time. This route is commonly used for hormone therapy, pain relief, and nicotine replacement therapy.

**Sublingual Administration (SL):** Medications are placed under the tongue, where they dissolve and are absorbed into the blood stream. This route allows for rapid absorption. Sublingual administration allows for rapid absorption and bypasses the gastrointestinal tract, making it suitable for patients experiencing nausea and vomiting.

## Which one would be more suitable for

Write down the abbreviation according to the most suitable route of administration.

A patient that requires a medication for a systemic infection.

A patient who is unable to swallow oral medications and has nausea and vomiting, making other routes of administration challenging.

A patient has a chronic respiratory condition and requires daily medication.

A patient needs a medication that requires rapid absorption and immediate onset of action.

A patient who is experiencing sudden onset symptoms of allergic rhinitis, including sneezing, itchy and watery eyes, and nasal congestion. The patient needs immediate relief from these symptoms.

A patient who needs hormone replacement therapy.

A patient requires anesthesia for a surgical procedure.

A female patient who is experiencing symptoms of vaginal dryness, itching, and discomfort during sexual intercourse.

A patient needs a medication for a gastrointestinal condition.

A patient who has a localized ear infection.