

Drug discovery is the process which aims at identifying the compound useful in curing & treating disease. In this process involves the identification of candidates, synthesis, validation, optimization, characterization, screening and assays for therapeutic efficacy [5,9,10].

Stages of drug discovery^[1,2,3,7,9]

1. Target Identification
2. Target Validation
3. Lead compound Identification
4. Lead Optimization
5. Product Characterization
6. Formulation & Development
7. Preclinical Research
8. Investigation of New Drug
9. Clinical Trial
10. New Drug Application
11. Approval

Target Identification

It is first step in drug discovery. Identification of target is followed by characterization of the molecular mechanism addressed by the target. Identifying target must be efficacious, safe, meet clinical and commercial requirements & be druggable also. It is also based on Molecular Biology & Biochemistry.

Tools for Target Identification & Validation

- Disease association (genetic & expression change)
- Bio-active molecules.
- Cell based models.
- Protein interaction (Pull-down assay, yeast 2 hybrid)
- Analysis of signalling pathways.
- Functional analysis (Overexpression, gene variants, transgenic)

Target Validation

It shows that a molecular target is directly involved in a disease process & that modulation of target is likely to have a therapeutic effect.

Approaches

- Genetic manipulation of target genes
- Antibodies
- Chemical genomic.

Lead compound Identification

The identification of lead is the process of identifying & creating a compound that interacts with the target. The drugs are tested for how they are metabolized and how they affect various cellular functions.

Lead Optimization

After identification they need to be optimized for safety & efficiency. It is a process in which a drug designed after an initial lead compound is identified. NMR & Mass spectrometry is helpful in discovery & optimization of lead molecules.

Product Characterization

Any new drug molecules show promising therapeutic action. Therefore, a molecule is characterized by its shape, size, strength, weakness, toxicity, use & biological activity.

Formulation & Development

The physicochemical properties of an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) are characterized to produce a stable, bioavailable and optimal dosage form for a specific administration route.

Preclinical Research

This stage involves the evaluation of drug safety and efficacy in animal species. The preclinical trial also has to acquire approval by corresponding regulatory authorities. Specially, side effects of the drugs need to be monitored and addressed in this stage.

Investigation of New Drug (IND)

At the beginning of the clinical trial, IND application is submitted to the FDA and it includes the following steps -

- Animal study data & toxicity
- Manufacturing information
- Clinical protocol for the proposed human trials
- Data from any prior human research
- Information about the preclinical investigators

Clinical trials

Laboratory Source: Cell or animal studies test to see if the new treatment will be safe and can it work on people.

- PHASE 1: Safety of medication & treatment on people
- PHASE 2: Safety & effectiveness on people
- PHASE 3: Safety, effectiveness & dosing on people
- PHASE 4: Studies the long term effectiveness & compares new treatment to standard treatment on people.

New drug application

The new drug application expresses the full story of drug & purpose to verify the drug is safe and effective for its proposed use in the people studied.

Drug design

1. Identify structure activity relationship
2. Identify the pharmacophore
3. Improve target interaction (Pharmacodynamics)
4. Improve pharmacokinetic property.

Identify structure activity relationship

The physiological action of a molecule and its function and chemical constituents. This observation is on the basis of SAR studies. SAR includes interpretation of drug and structure features of drug molecule.

Identify the pharmacophore

Pharmacophore is a group of vital properties of drug. Pharmacophore is a geometrical description of the chemical functionalities necessary of ligand, it directly interacts with receptor. The goal of computer-aided molecule design methods in modern medicinal chemistry is to reduce costs associated with the discovery and development of new drugs.

Improve target interaction (pharmacodynamics)

Pharmacodynamics is defined as the branch of pharmacology concerned with the effect of medicine in the body. Pharmacodynamics is the study of biochemical and physiological

effect of Drug and it's bind with receptor. Interact with cellular protein.

Improve Pharmacokinetic properties

Pharmacokinetic is a study of ADME process

Absorption

Distribution

Metabolism

Excretion

All process cross the biological membranes.

Advantages

- Its ability to reduce the time and cost.
- The goal of drug design is the chemical entities with desirable pharmacological properties.
- Structure based drug design played a large role in the discovery.

The Fractionation of medicines available in solid formulation [4, 6]

Fractionation of drug can be seen in clinical practice, Fractionation is mostly observed in solid dosage forms, because of intact tablets. Tablets are available of the pharmaceutical market. Factor affecting in solid drug fractionation in that patients related factor is involved in age, body weight, sex, pathological conditions, evaluation of genetics, easily to swallowing etc. It availability of a big therapeutic arsenal fractionation aspects of the tablets standard of quality, dimension, shape, hardness, presence of score, uniformity of active ingredient stability, packing material etc. This technique available for drug fractionation. Fractionation is important health and disease of people.

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Conclusion

Regarding to this Review article I am happy to conclude that this review paper is going to be one of most important topic in future related to drug discovery and development of new drug. For new scientists and researchers this paper will be very useful for further research studies.

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