

# *Review of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics*

ΕΠΙΘΕΟΡΗΣΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΚΙΝΗΤΙΚΗΣ  
ΕΠΙΘΕΩΡΗΣΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΚΙΝΗΤΙΚΗΣ  
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

VOLUME 22, 2008 ❁ No 2

Issue Devoted to Papers Presented at the

*5<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Congress  
of Pharmacology*

*Organized by the  
Hellenic Society of Pharmacology*

23-25 May, 2008  
Athens, Greece

ISSN 1011-6583

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**Review of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics**  
**Επιθεώρηση Κλινικής Φαρμακολογίας και Φαρμακοκινητικής**  
***Epitheorese Klinikes Farmakologias kai Farmakokinetikes***  
**INTERNATIONAL EDITION**



Journal of Applied Pharmacology and Current Therapeutics Reviews, Review Articles on  
Drugs and Drugs Therapy, Original Papers and Practical Therapeutics Articles



Published three times a year by PHARMAKON-Press  
145 Michalakopoulou str., 115 27 Athens, GREECE  
Phone-Fax (0030)2107784700 and (0030)2107700663  
Email: stplessas@hotmail.com



*Τετραμηνιαία Ιατροφαρμακευτική Έκδοση*  
*Εφηροσμένης Φαρμακολογίας, Φαρμακοκινητικής και Θεραπευτικής*

*Ιδιοκτήτης-Υπεύθυνος κατά το Νόμο:* Ελένη Πλέσσα και ΣΙΑ Ε.Ε.  
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*5<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Congress  
of Pharmacology*

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Hellenic Society of Pharmacology*

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## Letter from Guest Editor

The progress and contributions of 20<sup>th</sup> century pharmacology has been immense with over 20 pharmacologists to have received Nobel Prizes. This field of medical studies covers many areas; it is built upon and at the same time incorporates many disciplines such as biochemistry, biology physiology, pathology, anatomy, molecular biology, while the development of new analytical and experimental techniques and instruments has given a new boost in pharmacological research. Yet, although a remarkable progress has been made in developing new drugs and in understanding how they act, the challenges are endless. Integrating a depth of knowledge in many related scientific disciplines, pharmacologists offer a unique perspective to solving drug and chemical related problems which impinge on human health, with ultimate goal the treatment and prevention of major diseases.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Congress of Pharmacology focuses on four *hot* subjects: Regenerative Pharmacology, Herbal Medicines, Pharmacology of Abuse and Dependence, and Education in Pharmacology.

- *Regenerative Pharmacology* is one of the newest areas in Pharmacology, represents a groundbreaking field of research and has the potential to radically alter the treatment of diseases and disorders.

- *Herbal Medicines* have acquired an important percentage among the drug used; according to WHO 80% of people worldwide rely on herbal medicines for some aspect of their primary health care. This continuously increasing use of plant medicines imposes the need for establishing new regulations.

- *Pharmacology of Abuse and Dependence*, still not a well defined area, presents a lot of challenge for researchers and clinicians.

- *Education in Pharmacology* remains a hot subject in the Medical education, following the knowledge *explosion* of the last decades accompanied by a decreasing reliance on didactic teaching. The crucial question is: how and what should we teach?

We hope that the round table discussions along with the invited lectures, included in this abstract book, will raise new and intriguing ques-

tions that will further stimulate research, and will contribute to new therapeutic approaches and attitudes.

I would like to thank the Editorial Board of *Review of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics* in particular Journal Editors Prof. S.T. Plessas and Dr C.T. Plessas for invitation and for providing the suitable and high-standard forum through which new research findings will become available to the scientific community.

*The Guest Editor*

*Charis Liapi*

Assist. Professor in Pharmacology  
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## Gliadel Wafers in the Treatment of Malignant Glioma: our Experience

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*Key words:* Gliadel, carmustine, malignant glioma, glioblastoma multiforme, anaplastic astrocytoma

### INTRODUCTION

We present the safety and the efficacy of interstitial chemotherapy with Gliadel wafers in the treatment of newly diagnosed or recurrent malignant glioma (that is anaplastic astrocytoma or glioblastoma multiforme-GBM).

### METHODS

13 patients had been treated, in our department, for newly diagnosed malignant glioma, from September 2005 to April 2007. In all patients a craniotomy was performed with a near gross total resection of a histologically confirmed GBM in 11 patients and anaplastic astrocytoma in 2 patients, except one patient who had resected only a part of the mass. The cavity was subsequently lined with six to eight Gliadel wafers.

### RESULTS

The postoperative outcome underwent without problems. Clinical and radiological follow up in one, three, six and eight months, in some patients. We report a significant survival benefit for all patients as compared with patients before carmustine had been used. Two patients developed a cerebral edema with marked midline shift through out the operated hemisphere which was

more pronounced than preoperatively, with neurological symptoms. The patients were improved with dexamethazone and mannitol.

### DISCUSSION

Gliadel wafers are an option for selected patients with newly diagnosed malignant glioma where a near gross total resection is possible. No evidence is available comparing Gliadel with systemic therapy and the decision to combine Gliadel with systemic therapy should be made for patients individually. The patient's population that would benefit from Gliadel is unclear; further investigations are needed. Gliadel is also an option for patients with surgically respectable recurrent malignant glioma.

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