General Principles of Calculations

Dimensional Analysis, Estimation, Errors



Objectives





- Properly use units, units conversion and dimensional analysis method
- Apply estimation to predict and confirm pharmaceutical calculations
- Calculate significance figures and ranges of accepted limits

Units

- The magnitude of each pharmaceutical quantity is made of number and unit.
- $1 \neq 1(1 \text{ mg} \neq 1 \mu g)$
- 1 = 2.2 (1 kg= 2.2 lb)
- Units must be indicated during calculation.
- Indicating the units facilitates the use of dimensional analysis.



Dimensional Analysis



- A method that manipulates units and ratios between units in calculating desired quantity with the required unit.
- You have to know the relations between different units to use this method:
- Kg = 2.2 lb, 1 ft =12 inches, 1 kg = 1000 grams, 1 day =24 hours...

Problem 1



 The recommended amoxicillin dose is 20 mg/kg/day orally divided into 3 doses (every 8 hours). How many milligrams of amoxicillin can be given to an adult 165 lb patient per day?

Problem 2



- A child dose of medicated syrup is 0.1 mL /kg once a day. How many teaspoonfuls should be given to a 55 lb child/day?
- 1 kg = lb
- 1 tsp =mL

Estimation



- Before solving a problem estimate the answer
 - Round your numbers to one digit.
 - Perform the calculation without calculator.
 - Do the exact calculation and compare the results.

Result Estimation



- Example : 2025 grams of cream are used to fill 45 cream vials. How many grams does each vial contain?
 - Round 2025g to 2000g
 - Round 45 vials to 50 vials

Result Estimation



• Rx

Zinc Oxide	7.5 g
Calamine	7.5 g
Starch	15 g
M/hite petroletum 20 a	

White petrolatum 30 g

Estimate who many prescriptions you can fill if you have 98 grams of calamine

Tolerance

- 1- Amount and Percentage (USP)
- 2- Compounding & Manufacturing
 - 3- Based on the number of figures



Tolerance 1-Amount and Percentage (USP)



- Accepted amount and percentage
- Errors can be expressed in the following forms
 - Exact value \pm accepted error (150 mg tablet \pm 15 mg)
 - Exact range 150 mg tablet accepted range is (135mg-165mg)
 - Exact value ± % accepted error (true value ± 10%)
 - Range of accepted % error (90 %- 110%)



Express the tolerance in mean (median) value± %error







- A cream batch with a weight range of 35- 50 grams of cream/jar.
- A syrup batch with total volume range of 180-220 mL/ bottle.
- A total tablet weight range of 470- 520 mg.



Tolerance

2- Compounding & Manufacturing

What if the % error is not indicated?

A- For compounding prescription

• 5% is the maximum accepted error.

B- In pharmaceutical manufacturing

• Tolerance in measurement should be less than 1%.





3- Based on the number of figures



- How many significant figures are the following numbers?
 - 23
 - 3298
 - 2787
 - 9
- Initial zeros to the left of the first digit are never significant. They indicate the location of the decimal point.
- 0.09, 0.008, 0.0071

3- Based on the number of figures



- Significant figures are the number of consecutive figures that express the value of a number accurately enough for a given purpose.
- The last figure is always approximate.

3- Based on the number of figures



- Zeros to the right of the decimal point are significant.
- 20.0, 15.0, 14.00
- Zeros to the left of the decimal point do not indicate the right significance.
- 2000 may be 1, 2, 3 or 4 figures.

Question



- Which zeros indicate significant figure?
 - 0.339
 - 0.0037
 - 34.0
 - 45.90
 - 6500

- 345 cm (345 cm \pm cm)
- 345.0 cm (345.0 cm ± cm)



- 345 cm (345 cm \pm 0.5 cm)
- 345.0 cm (345.0 cm ± cm)



- 345 cm (345 cm \pm 0.5 cm)
- 345.0 cm (345.0 cm \pm 0.05 cm)



Extra problems

- What is the accepted tolerance of 5.56 mL?
- What is the accepted tolerance of $3.3 \times 10^2 \text{ mg}$?

