

be inhibition of steroid ring A reductase activity with a resultant increase in the amount of cortisol metabolized to 6-OHF. This does not appear to have occurred, since the excretion of those steroids with ring A reduced (THF and THE) was not significantly altered during the treatment period.

Conney¹ has suggested that the ratio of 6-OHF to total 17-OHCS in urine may be an index of induction of hepatic microsomal enzymes in man. Our results indicate that, compared with a placebo, pentobarbital given twice within 24 hours significantly increases this ratio (table 4), suggesting that pentobarbital is capable of acutely stimulating hepatic microsomal enzymes. This raises the possibility that urinary cortisol metabolites may be an indirect index of acute microsomal enzyme stimulation in man.

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Drugs

ANTICONVULSANT ACTIVITY Both diphenylhydantoin (Dilantin) and diazepam (Valium) are useful antiepileptic drugs. Although not chemically related, their molecular conformations are similar. These similarities suggest that their anti-convulsant activities may be on a steric basis and provide new lines of investigation regarding the receptor sites for these types of drugs. (Cameron, A.: *Diphenylhydantoin and Diazepam Molecular Structure Similarities and Steric Basis of Anti-convulsant Activity, Science* 168: 1457 (June) 1970.)