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Forensic Pharmacology- An Emerging Subspeciality in Medical & Pharmaceutical Sciences

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ABSTRACT

Pharmacology is a branch of medical and pharmaceutical sciences in which the pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and toxicology of drugs are mainly studied. Pharmacological knowledge is useful in various therapies, drug discoveries, biomedical sciences and clinical practice. A pharmacologist is a specialist having profound knowledge and experience in this entire field. Similarly, forensic science is a field where medical science is applied for various criminal and civil laws particularly during criminal investigations based on evidence involving criminal procedure. A forensic scientist collects, preserves, analyzes and studies various scientific evidence for the investigation of any criminal offense such as rape, murder or suicide. Some of these scientists plays a role at the crime location and some works in laboratories for helping to find out the cause of death. They have an important role in solving the complicated legal cases with the help of scientific evidence. The continuous research in pharmacology has tremendously increased its scope beyond its therapeutic aspect thus exploring it for other various fields. One such area is forensic pharmacology. Forensic pharmacology is a new evolving branch in which the skills and expertise of pharmacologists are useful in a large and diverse group of legal cases. Drug interactions, abuse of the drug, overdose of drug, toxic effects of the drug may be a cause of death, leading to medicolegal cases, and forensic pharmacologists play important role in solving these cases. The present review is therefore an attempt to discuss the role of forensic pharmacologist in medico-legal purposes.

Keywords: *Forensic, Medico-legal, scientific evidences, drug abuse.*

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