

Metabolism of Xenobiotics

General Aspects of Metabolism

Phase I Metabolism

Exposure route affects metabolism

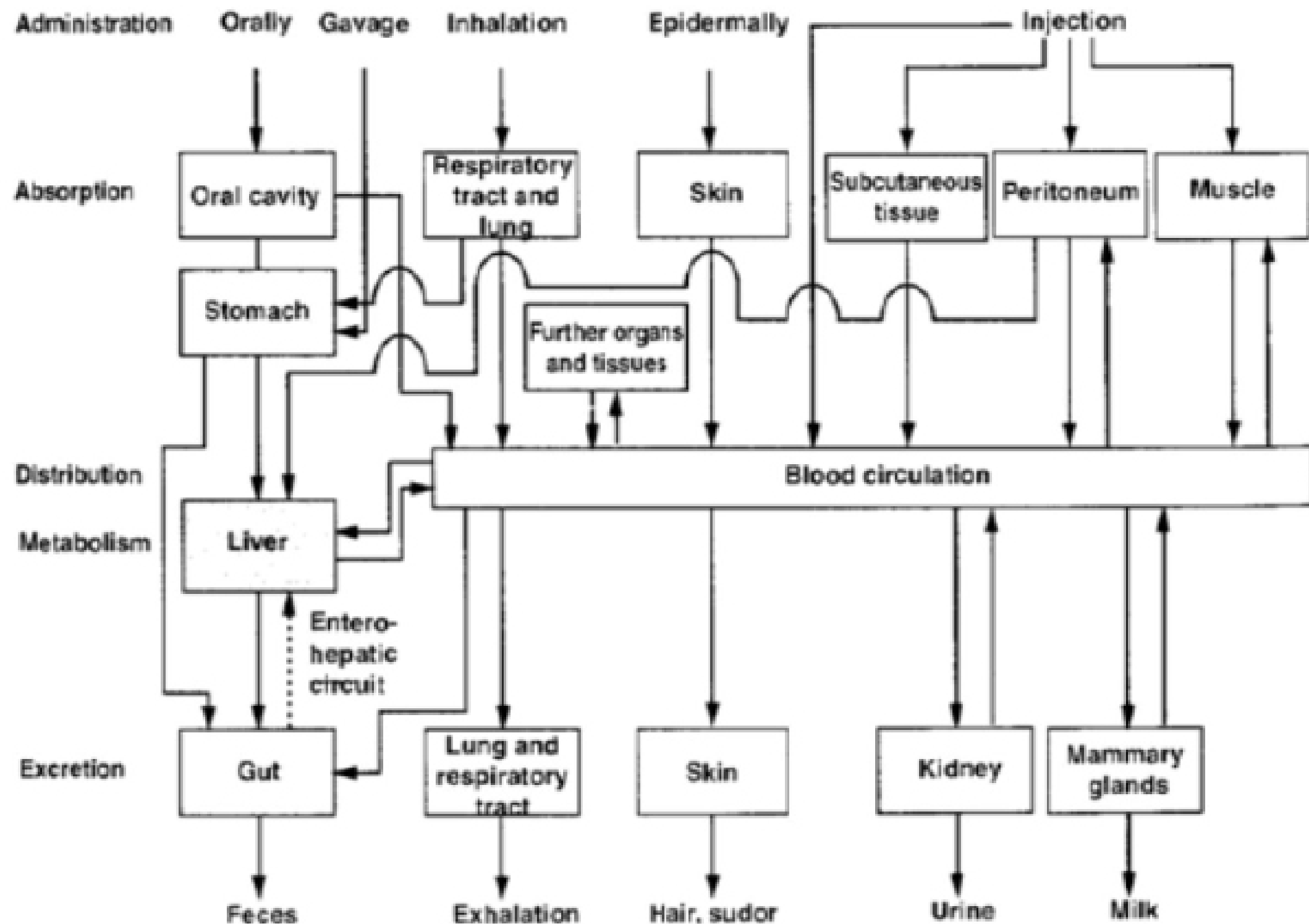


Figure 2.1 Routes taken by substances in the organism: absorption, distribution, and elimination (metabolism and excretion).

Metabolism

- is carried out by ENZYMES. Enzymes are biological catalysts. Enzymes are usually proteins (there are some RNA enzymes).
- is responsible for energy production from foods, production and elimination of biomolecules (normal metabolism)
- is responsible for altering xenobiotics (foreign compounds like drugs, pollutants, pesticides, etc.) and enhancing their elimination. Metabolism may produce a new PRODUCT that is toxic.

