

Except perhaps in rare instances, such a comparison appears to be impractical at this time. It would be time consuming and costly. It would be complicated not only by individual human differences but by differences in the symptoms or diseases under consideration.

Clinical equivalency studies could be conducted in experimental animals, but the nature of specific diseases and the nature of drug absorption and action in animals and human beings may not be directly comparable in all cases.

Instead, attention has been directed to the use of biological equivalency--or relative biological or physiological availability--measured in normal subjects as a proxy for the direct measurement and comparison of therapeutic effects.

This is based on the general agreement among pharmacologists that with most drugs--certainly those taken orally for their effect on internal tissues and organs--their therapeutic effectiveness will be closely related to the absorption of the active ingredient into the blood stream.