group. Typically, the glycosides are composed of three portions, a steroid nucleus, a lactone ring, and a sugar (hence "glycosides").

(This section should include a chemical and physical description of digoxin and the same quantitative ingredient information as that required on the label.)

ACTION

The digitalis glycosides have qualitatively the same therapeutic effect on the heart. They (1) increase the force of myocardial contraction, (2) increase the refractory period of the atrioventricular (A-V) node, and (3) to a lesser degree, affect the sinoatrial (S-A) node and conduction system via the parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems.

Gastrointestinal absorption of digoxin is a passive process. Absorption of digoxin from tablets is 50-75 percent. Digoxin is only 20-25 percent bound to plasma proteins and is predominantly excreted by the kidneys unmetabolized unless there is significant renal failure. Renal excretion of digoxin is proportional to glomerular filtration rate and is largely independent of urine flow. Digoxin is not effectively removed from the body by dialysis, exchange transfusions or during cardiopulmonary bypass presumably because of