

THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING (TDM)

Pharmacists at BCCH are involved in the interpretation and monitoring of serum drug concentrations.

Aminoglycoside and vancomycin serum levels are routinely monitored by pharmacists in all areas of the hospitals.

Assistance with other drugs can be given by the pharmacist assigned to that specific area (see page 1) or by calling the Pharmacy dispensary at local 5186.

POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN USING THE TDM TABLE:

1. Therapeutic serum concentrations are guidelines only. The therapeutic range may vary according to the patient or the disease being treated.
2. Some patients may respond to levels below the usual therapeutic concentration whereas others may require higher than usual serum concentration.
3. Treat the patient, not the levels.
4. Therapeutic serum concentrations refer to levels taken at steady state; levels taken before steady state is reached can be misleading.
5. Timing of samples is important to get meaningful levels.