

*J*

volume 30 | number 2 | pages 101–166 | April 2010

# Autonomic & Autacoid Pharmacology



 **WILEY-  
BLACKWELL**

ISSN 1474 8665 (Print)  
ISSN 1474 8673 (Online)

# **PLENARY LECTURES**

## Management of acute gastroenteritis in children

M. Tiholova

Department of Infectious diseases, parasitology and tropical medicine, Faculty of Medicine – MU, Sofia, Bulgaria

Diarrhoeal disease is a leading cause of illness and death in children worldwide. Many of the deaths are caused by dehydration resulting from loss of water and electrolytes due to intestinal malabsorption or increased secretion.

We discuss the recommendations given on the indications of drug therapy in infant and child acute diarrhoea, based upon the current knowledge on their effectiveness and tolerance.

Replacement of the water and electrolyte losses by oral re-hydration solutions is the mainstay of therapy for children with watery diarrhoea. Research during the last 10 years has identified novel accessory secretory and pro-absorptive pathways that may prove to be useful targets for the pharmacological control of secretory diarrhoea. It is hoped that novel antisecretory drugs will complement re-hydration interventions by decreasing the severity of the illness and at the same time reducing re-hydration fluid requirement. The rational use of probiotics derived from *Saccharomyces boulardii* and *Lactobacillus GG* in the treatment of acute diarrhoea is discussed.