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II. ROUTES OF DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration is determined by the properties of the drug (for example, water or lipid solubility, ionization) and by the therapeutic objectives (for example, the desirability of a rapid onset, the need for long-term treatment, or restriction of delivery to a local site). Major routes of drug administration include enteral, parenteral, and topical, among others (Figs 1.2).

Figure 1.1
Schematic representation of drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination.

