

The processes of absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion—collectively termed *drug disposition*—determine the concentration of drug delivered to target effector molecules.

■ **ABSORPTION AND BIOAVAILABILITY**

When a drug is administered orally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, rectally, sublingually, or directly into desired sites of action, the amount of drug eventually entering the systemic circulation may be less than with the intravenous route (**Fig. 67-2A**). The fraction of drug available to the systemic circulation by other routes is termed *bioavailability*. Bioavailability may be <100% for two main reasons: (1) incomplete absorption, or (2) metabolism or elimination prior to entering the systemic circulation.