



A. Rupture of cell membrane.

B. Injury of bile canaliculus (disruption of transport pumps).

C. P-450-drug covalent binding (drug adducts).

D. Drug adducts targeted by CTLs/cytokines.

E. Activation of apoptotic pathway by TNF α /Fas.

F. Inhibition of mitochondrial function.

FIGURE 361-1 Potential mechanisms of drug-induced liver injury. The normal hepatocyte may be affected adversely by drugs through **(A)** disruption of intracellular calcium homeostasis that leads to the disassembly of actin fibrils at the surface of the hepatocyte, resulting in blebbing of the cell membrane, rupture, and cell lysis; **(B)** disruption of actin filaments next to the canaliculus (the specialized portion of the cell responsible for bile excretion), leading to loss of villous processes and interruption of transport pumps such as multidrug resistance-associated protein 3 (MRP3), which, in turn, prevents the excretion of bilirubin and other organic compounds; **(C)** covalent binding of the heme-containing cytochrome P450 enzyme to the drug, thus creating nonfunctioning adducts; **(D)** migration of these enzyme-drug adducts to the cell surface in vesicles to serve as target immunogens for cytolytic attack by T cells, stimulating an immune response involving cytolytic T cells and cytokines; **(E)** activation of apoptotic pathways by tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) receptor or Fas (DD denotes death domain), triggering the cascade of intercellular caspases, resulting in programmed cell death; or **(F)** inhibition of mitochondrial function by a dual effect on both β -oxidation and the respiratory-chain enzymes, leading to failure of free fatty acid metabolism, a lack of aerobic respiration, and accumulation of lactate and reactive oxygen species (which may disrupt mitochondrial DNA). Toxic metabolites excreted in bile may damage bile-duct epithelium (not shown). CTLs, cytolytic T lymphocytes. (Reproduced from WM Lee: *Drug-induced hepatotoxicity*. *N Engl J Med* 349:474, 2003, with permission.)