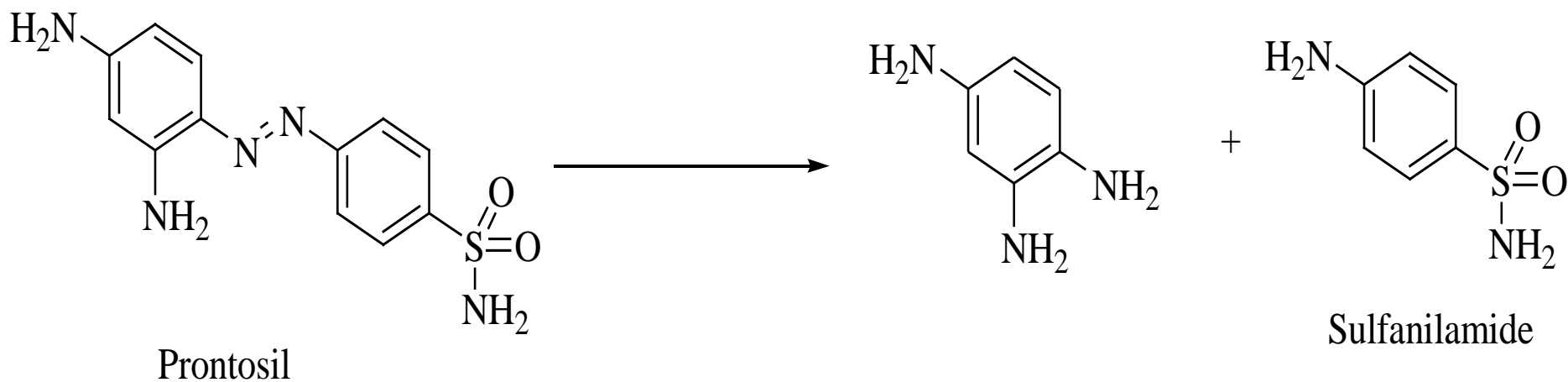


Sulfonamides antibacterial agents (The first synthetic antibacterial agents)

Dr. Rand Omar Shaheen
Hashemite University

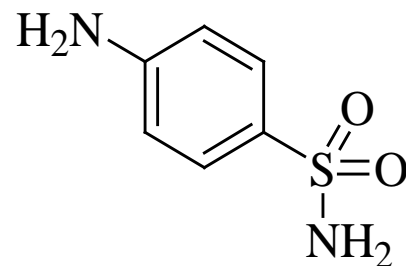
Sulfonamides antibacterial agents

- In 1932. Domagk began to study a brilliant red dye called prontosil. This dye showed *in-vivo* antibacterial activity while it was *in-vitro* inactive (Prontosil is inactive on bacterial culture).
- Later it was found that prontosil has to be activated by the in vivo metabolic pathways to give the active form.



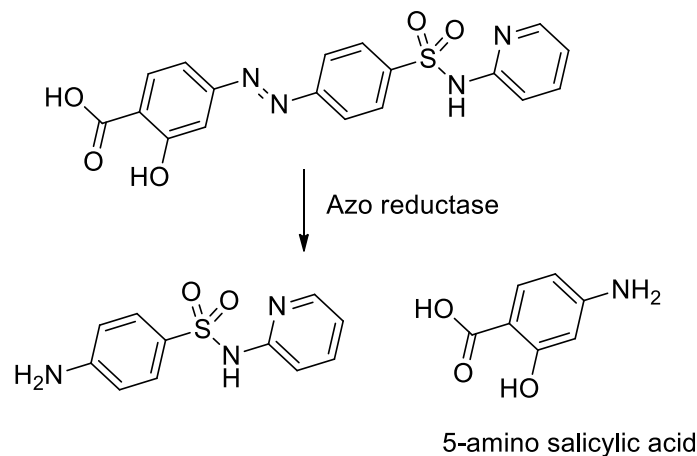
Nomenclature of Sulfonamides (Cont.)

- I. Antibacterials that are aniline-substituted . Sulfonamides (the Sulfanilamides)



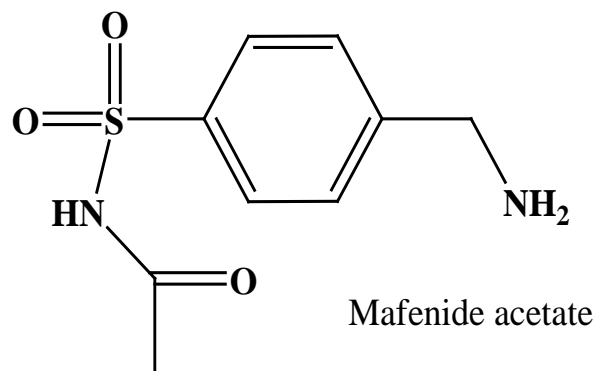
Sulfanilamide

- II. Prodrugs that react to generate active Sulfanilamides (i.e Sulfasalazine)



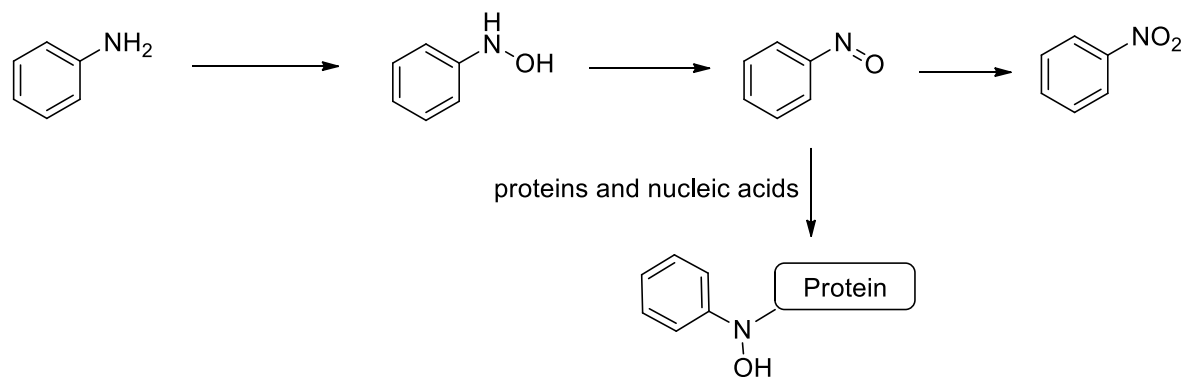
Nomenclature of Sulfonamides

- III. Nonaniline sulfonamides (i.e., mafenide acetate)

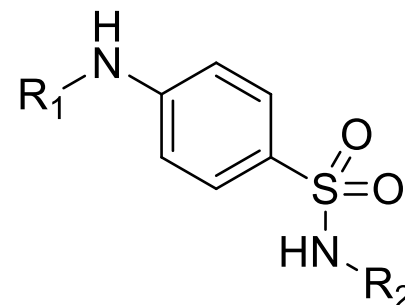


Sulfonamides antibacterial agents

- Their bacterial activity is mainly on gram +ve and -ve bacteria
- limitation of the sulfa drugs use:
 - Sulfa allergic reactions.
 - The formation of crystalluria.
 - They give toxic metabolites after the oxidation of the aromatic amine:



SAR of sulfonamides

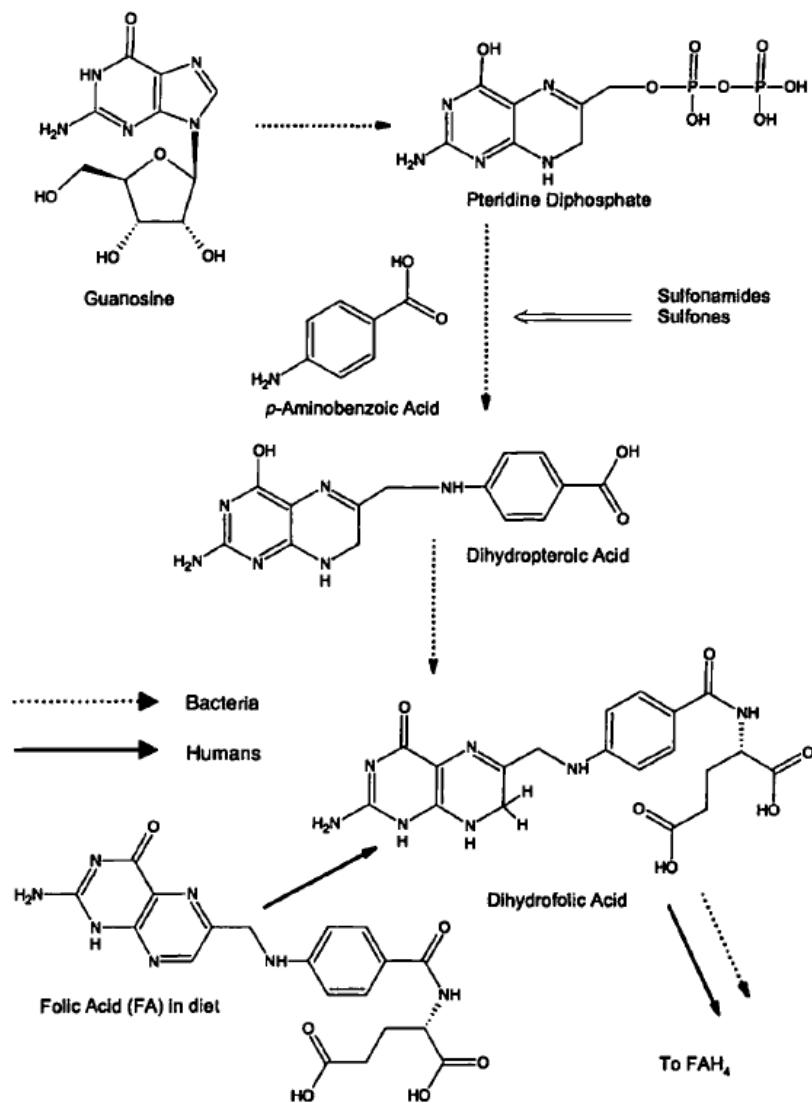


- *P*-amino group is essential for activity and should be free (unsubstituted)
 - The sulfonamide nitrogen must have an attached hydrogen with a pKa similar to that of PABA (~6.5).
- In the case of prodrugs the azo linkage that will be hydrolyzed to give the active free form.
- The aromatic ring and the sulfonamide group are important for activity.
- The sulfonamide and the amino group must be directly attached to the ring and in *P* position to each other.
- Any extra substitution will reduce activity.
- Sulfonamide nitrogen must be either primary or secondary.

Mechanism of action

- Sulfonamides are a competitive reversible inhibitors of **dihydropteroate synthetase** which is a vital enzyme for the synthesis of tetrahydrofolate (Coenzyme F).
Tetrahydrofolate is important for pyrimidine nucleic acid synthesis so the bacteria can no longer grow and divide which gives time for the host immune system to destroy the bacterial cells.
- Because of that sulfonamides have **bacteriostatic** effect not bactericidal so is not recommended in patients with weak or impaired immune system

Mechanism of action

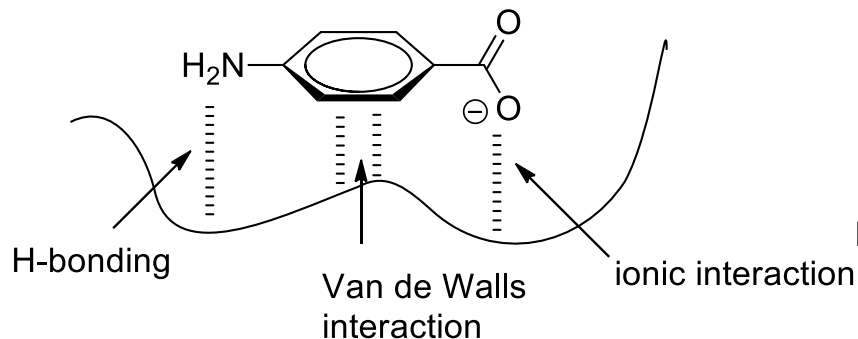


Reference: Wilson and
Gisvold's Textbook of Organic

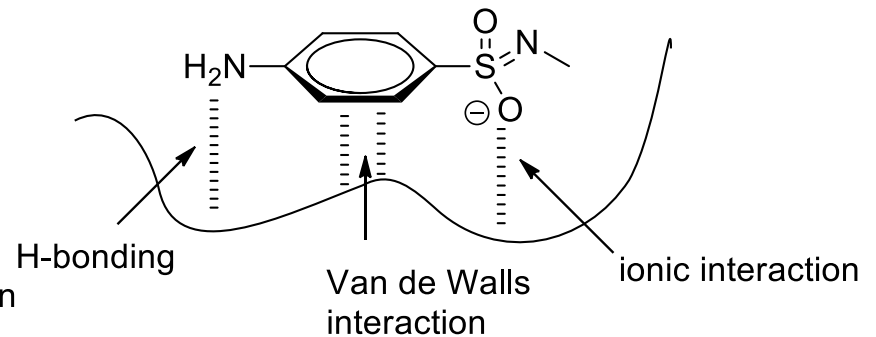
Figure 8-10 ■ Folate pathway in humans and bacteria and sites of inhibition by sulfonamides and trimethoprim.

Mechanism of action

- Sulfonamides mimic *P*-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) which is the normal substrate for dihydropteroate synthetase. This means that sulfonamide will bind in the same manner as PABA:



PABA in the active site



Sulfonamide in the active site

Mechanism of action

- Because sulfonamides are reversible competitive inhibitors for the enzyme, the bacteria can increase the production of PABA to compete with sulfonamide at the active site and become resistant to sulfa drugs.
- In such case, the dose of sulfonamide agents should be increased to overcome this resistant mechanism. But this high dose is accompanied with an increase in side effects especially the crystalluria.
- N4 acetylation reduces drug solubility, which may result in precipitation in the urine leading to crystalluria. Increasing the pH of urine with a systemic alkalizer along with increased water intake will decrease the risk of this potential adverse effect.

Mechanism of action

- In human, the cell synthesized tetrahydrofolate from folic acid that obtained from food sources. This folic acid is normally transported to inside the cell by special transport system.
- Bacterial cell does not have such transport system and they should synthesize tetrahydrofolate using PABA.
- For that reason, human cells do not need dihydropteroate synthetase enzyme which means sulfonamides have selective antibacterial activity.

Mammalian Folate biosynthesis

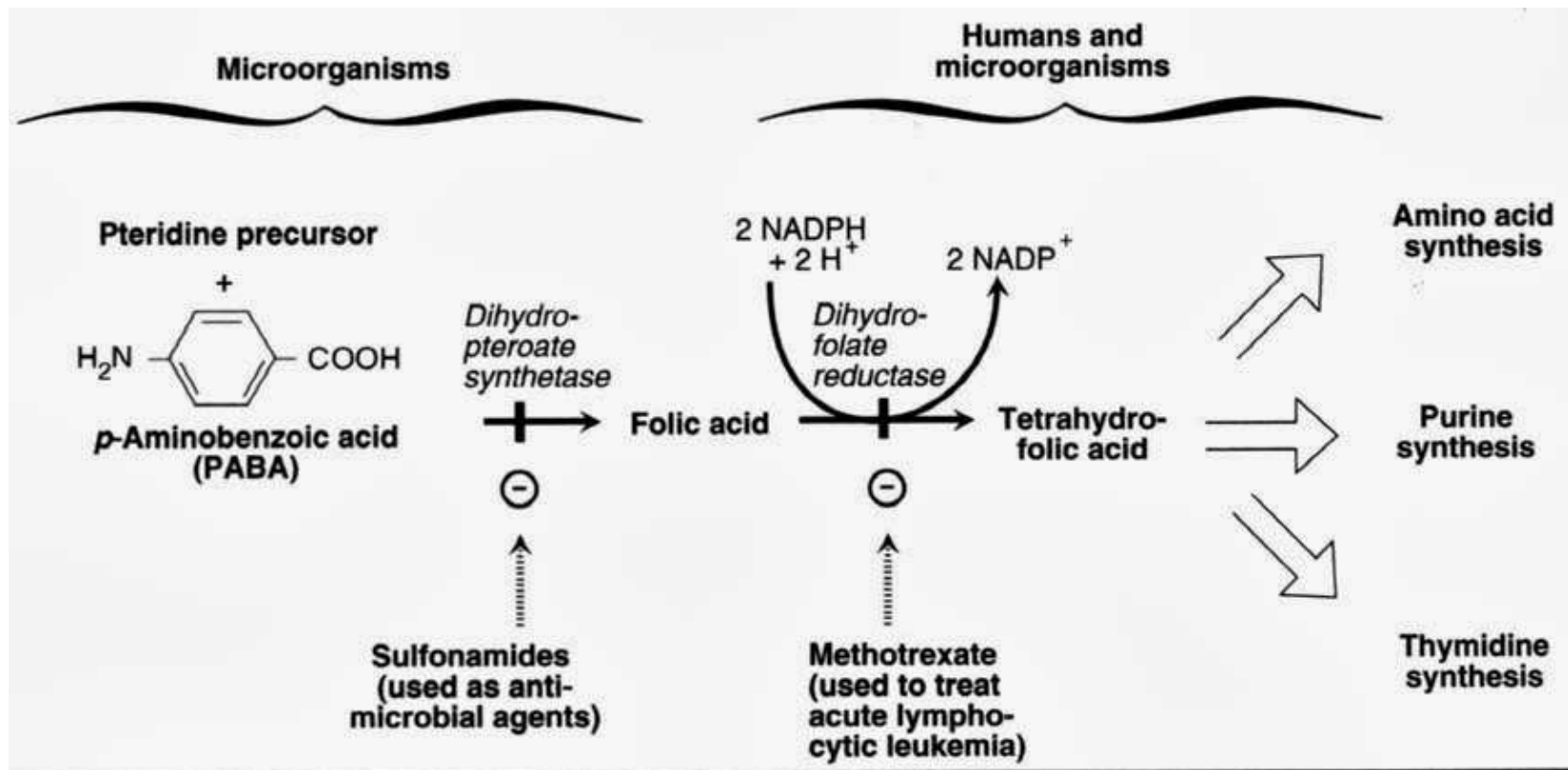
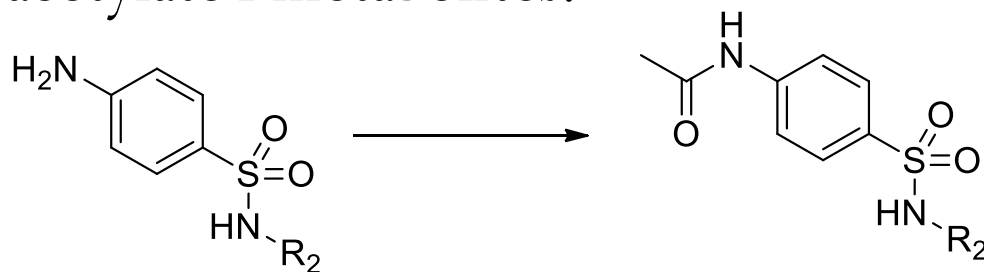


Figure 28.9

Inhibition of tetrahydrofolate synthesis by sulfonamides and methotrexate.

The problem of crystalluria

- Sulfonamides are mostly excreted in urine as acetylated metabolite.
- They are relatively water insoluble mainly due to the formation of the acetylated metabolites.



Insoluble acetylated metabolite

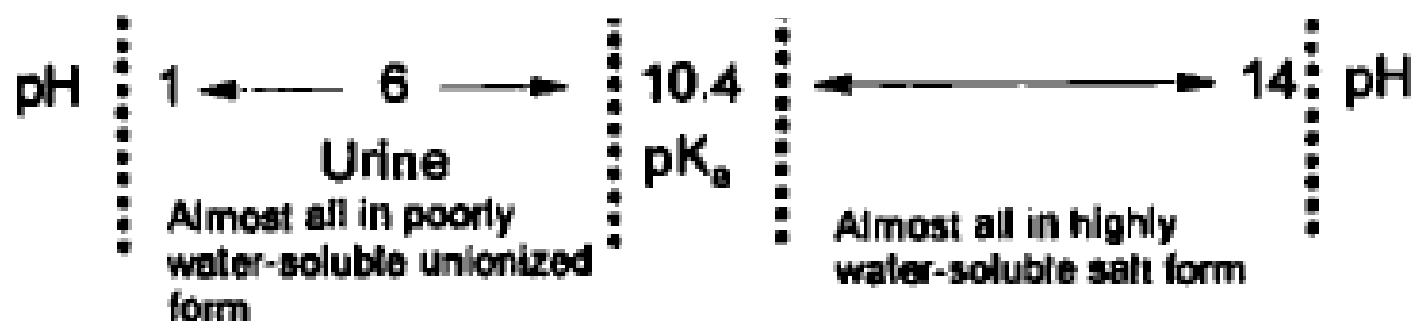
- The acetylated metabolite is non-ionizable under the pH conditions of the urine (≈ 7) that increase the possibility of precipitation and the formation of crystals in the urine (crystalluria)

The problem of crystalluria

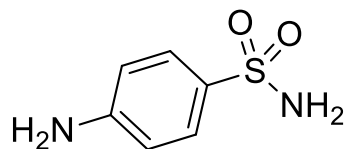
- How to minimize the possibility of crystalluria formation with sulfonamides:
 - Increase the urine flow.
 - Increase the pH of the urine to increase the ionization of sulfonamides and the formation of water soluble salts (this can be done by taking sodium bicarbonate or potassium citrate).
 - Lowering the pKa of the sulfonamide group which will help to increase the ionization under the acidic conditions. This can be done by adding electron withdrawing group on the sulfonamide side chain

TABLE 8-8 pK_a Values for Clinically Useful Sulfonamides

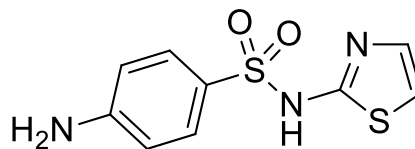
Sulfonamide	pK_a
Sulfadiazine	6.5
Sulfamerazine	7.1
Sulfamethazine	7.4
Sulfisoxazole	5.0
Sulfamethoxazole	6.1



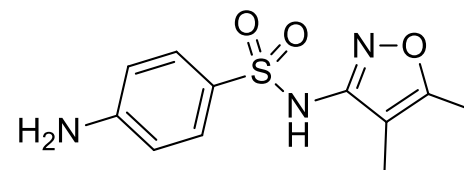
Sulfonamides with reduced crystalluria formation



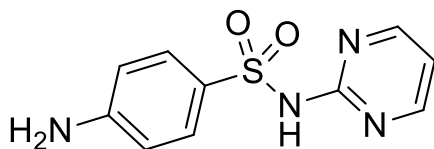
Sulfanilamide $\text{pK}_a = 10.4$



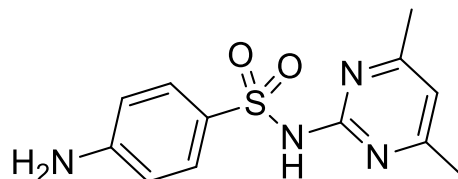
Sulfathiazole $\text{pK}_a = 8.5$



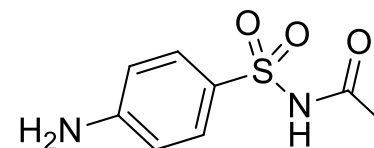
Sulfisoxazole $\text{pK}_a = 5.0$



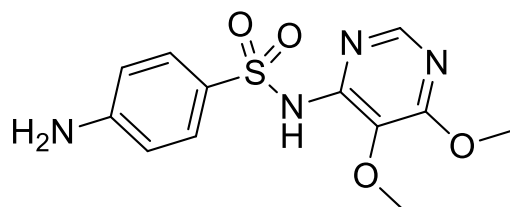
Sulfadiazine $\text{pK}_a = 6.5$



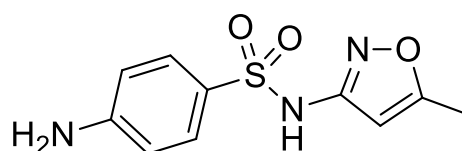
Sulfamethazine $\text{pK}_a = 7.4$



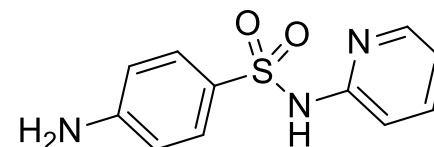
Sulfacetamide $\text{pK}_a = 5.4$



Sulfadoxine $\text{pK}_a = 8.1$



Sulfamethoxazole $\text{pK}_a = 6.1$



Sulfapyridine $\text{pK}_a = 8.4$

Clinical Application

The drugs are effective against both gram-positive and gram-negative organisms, but bacterial resistance and newer more effective drugs have replaced the majority of the previously available sulfonamides.

Today, many of the sulfonamides have been discontinued, but some are still available and are primarily limited to treatment of susceptible gram-negative organisms.

Products containing sulfonamides are shown in [Table 23.1](#).

Sulfisoxazole, in the form of the prodrug N1-acetylsulfisoxazole, is used in combination with erythromycin ethylsuccinate (EES) and indicated for the treatment of **otitis media**.

Sulfamethoxazole in combination with trimethoprim (see below) is used to treat **uncomplicated urinary tract infections**,

while sulfadiazine when combined with the antiprotozoal agent pyrimethamine is used to treat ***Toxoplasma gondii* infections**.

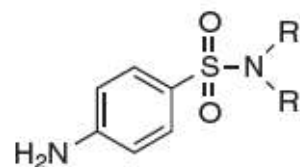
Silver sulfadiazine is used topically to treat burns, with both the sulfa drug and the silver ion having antibacterial activity.

Sodium sulfacetamide is a water-soluble preparation used to treat ophthalmic infections, while sulfasalazine is effective in the treatment of **ulcerative colitis**.

It is only poorly absorbed from the GI tract where it is hydrolyzed by intestinal

Clinically relevant sulfonamides

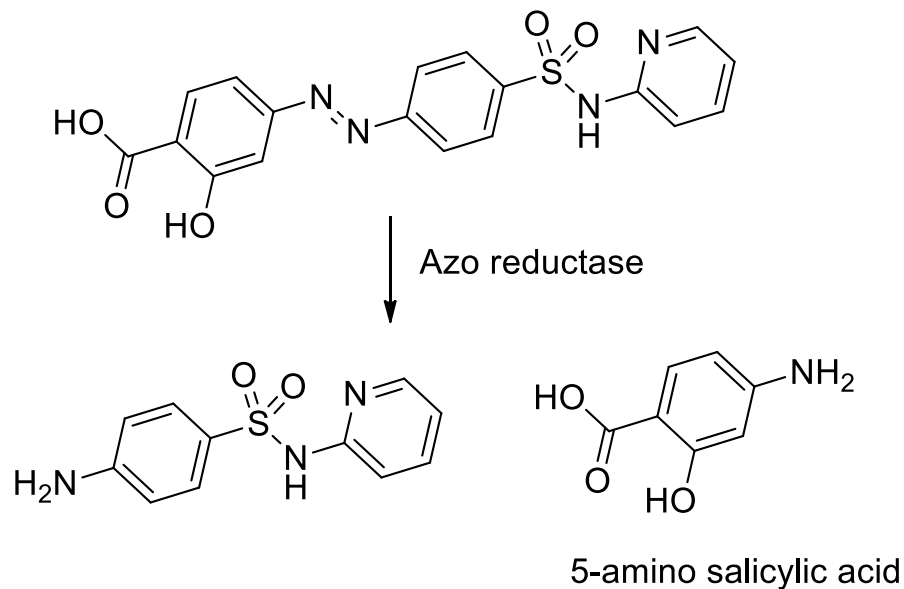
Clinically Relevant Sulfonamides



Drug: Generic Name	Product	R	R'	pKa
Sulfisoxazole acetyl (prodrug)	In combination with erythromycin ethylsuccinate			5.6 after hydrolysis
Sulfamethoxazole	In combination with trimethoprim		-H	5.0
Sulfadiazine	Oral dosage form		-H	6.52
Silver sulfadiazine	Topical dosage form			
Sulfacetamide sodium	Ophthalmic dosage form			5.4 free acid
Sulfasalazine	Gastrointestinal oral dosage form			

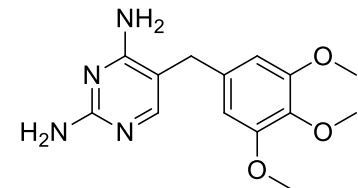
Sulfonamide prodrugs

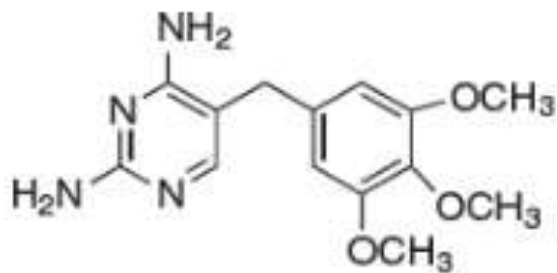
- Sulfasalazine:
 - Used in local intestinal infections.
 - Gives sulfapyridine and 5-aminosalicylic acid upon the breakdown of the azo bond.
 - Used mainly in ulcerative colitis.



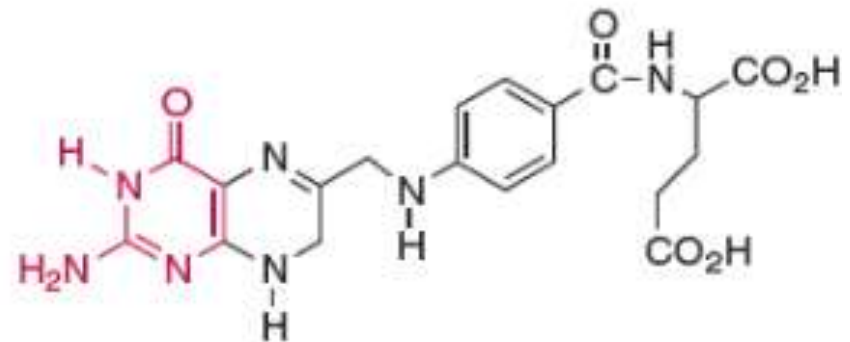
Other folate reductase inhibitors

- Trimethoprim:
 - Inhibits dihydrofolate reductase: this enzyme has human homologue but they do not have that much similarity in structure.... Therefore trimethoprim is 1000 more active on the bacterial copy of this enzyme..
 - Normally used in combination with sulfamethoxazole (cotrimoxazole):
 - Lower dose from both drugs means less side effects.
 - More effective than the monotherapy since they are targeting two different enzymes in the same metabolic pathway... this is what is called sequential blocking.



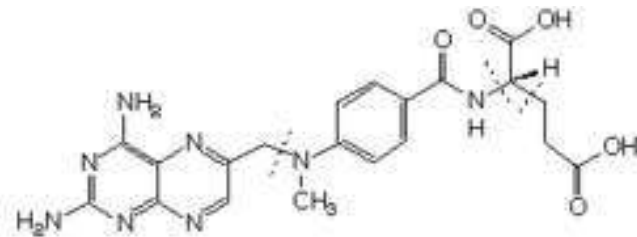


Trimethoprim (Proloprim, Trimpex)
Trimethoprim + sulfisoxazole (Co-Trimoxazole)
Trimethoprim + sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim, Septra)

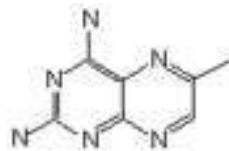


Dihydrofolic acid

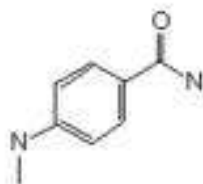
- There is another dihydrofolate reductase
- inhibitor –for Human enzymes (**Methotrexate**)
- which is used as anticancer drug .
- There is another one too, (**pyrimethamine**), as a malarial dihydrofolate reductase inhibitor



Methotrexate



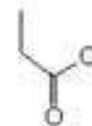
fragment1



fragment2



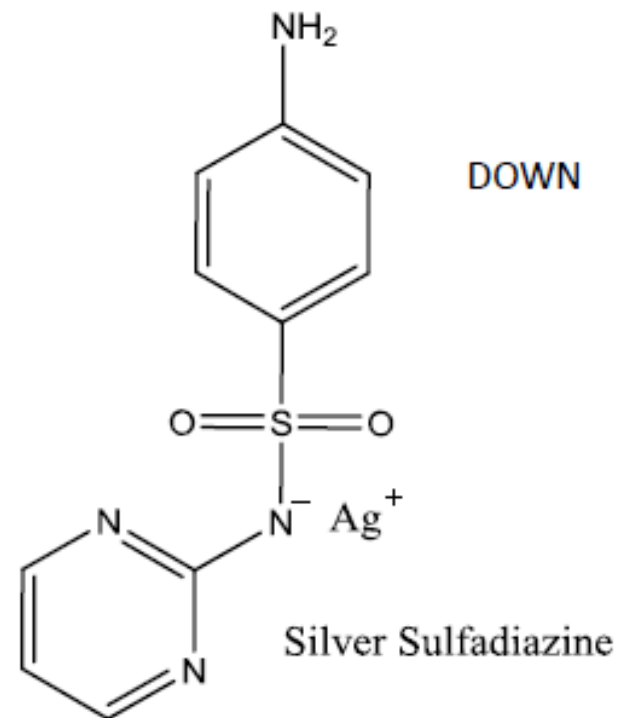
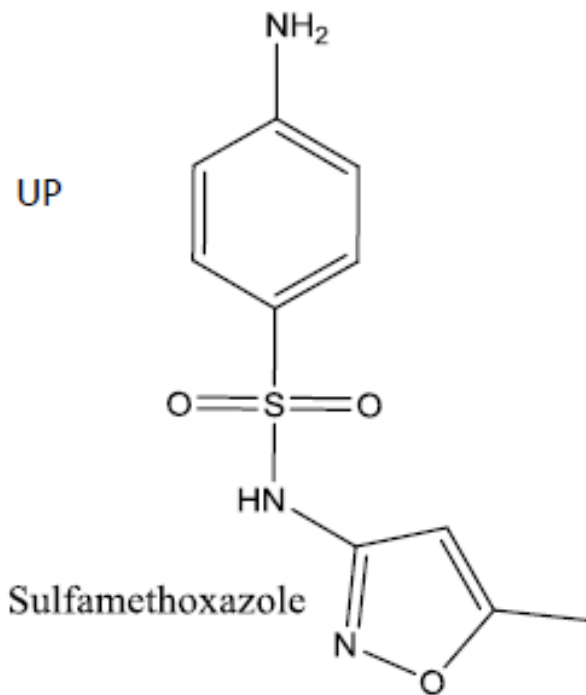
fragment3



fragment4

- Sulfonamide + Trimethoprim are :
- Septra®
- Balkatrin® .
- Another use of Sulfadrug is for Protozoa (eukaryotic cells) like Amoeba & Malaria, and the most important use is to treat **Pneumocystis carinii** (Pneumonia) in AIDS patients, (Sulfamethoxazole + Trimethoprim).

*Sulfadugs are divided to : Short(Sulfacetamide), Moderate, Long acting.



Protein binding of sulfonamides

- Vary in plasma protein binding: Sulfaisoxazole... 76%, Sulfamethoxazole... 60%, sulfadiazine.... 38%.
- The fraction that is protein bound is not available for enzyme inhibition, therefore this fraction is inactive.
- The protein binding is a reversible process, so there will be a gradual release of sulfonamide which will become available.
- Factors affecting protein binding of sulfonamides:
 - Lipophilicity of the structure.
 - Substitution on the free amine will increase protein binding (such as the acetylated metabolite is more protein bound than the parent sulfonamide).

Use :

- The original Sulfanilamide was used against most of the infections, Upper and Lower respiratory tract infections (Pneumonia mainly), it was the only treatment available.
- Their use was mainly for UTI (because it's eliminated quickly & their spectrum covers G-ve bacteria), it's still used until now
- **Spectrum**
- Broad spectrum (G+ve & G-ve) bacteria , with time, development of resistant happens

Protein binding of sulfonamides

- Since albumin is basic, acidic and neutral drugs will primarily bind to albumin.
- If albumin becomes saturated, then these drugs will bind to lipoprotein.
- Basic drugs will bind to the acidic alpha-1 acid glycoprotein.
- Protein binding can influence the drug's biological half-life in the body but this relationship still not clear since some drugs with low protein binding have long duration of action (sulfisoxazole: protein binding 37% and half life is 17 hours).

4-Quinolones

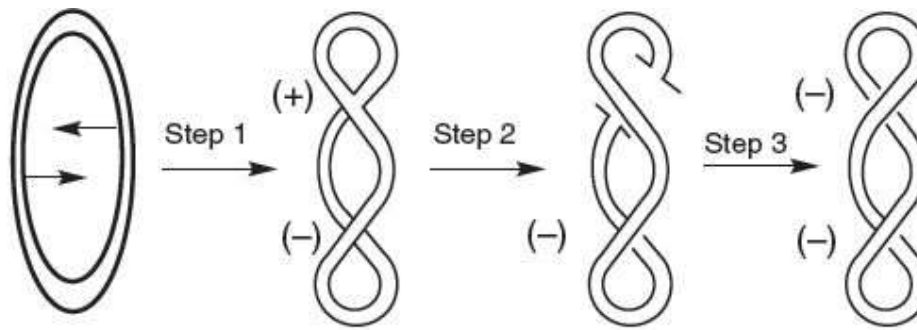


4-Quinolone
(pharmacophore shown in red)

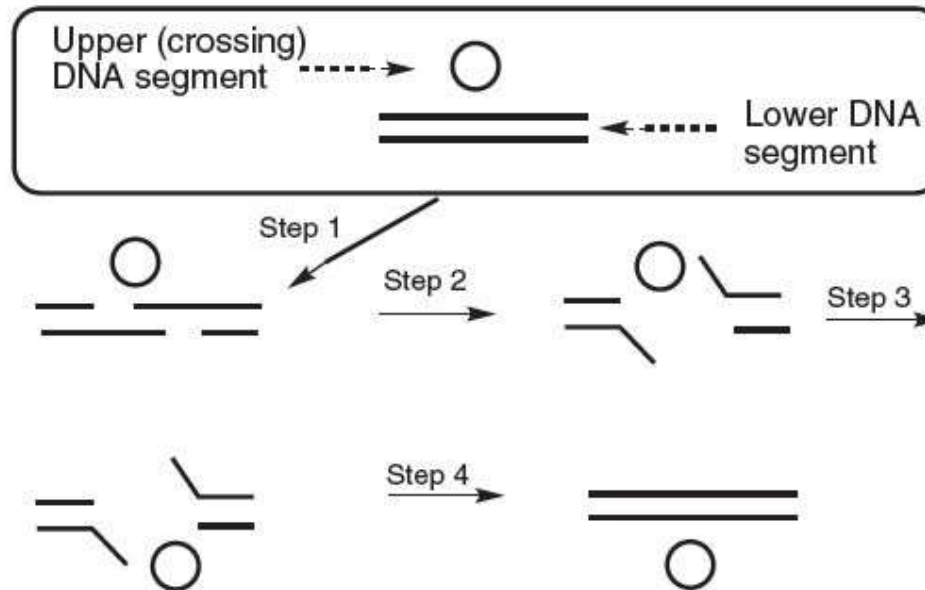
The fluoroquinolones have been found to be effective in treatment of various bacterial infections depending on the nature of the substitution on the 4-quinolone pharmacophore.

MOA

- Irreversible inhibitors of DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV, key enzymes involved in DNA-dependent RNA polymerase (DDRP).



- A. View from the top:** Step 1. Stabilize positive node. Step 2. Break both strands of the back segment. Step 3. Pass unbroken segment through the break and reseal on the front side.



- B. View from the side:** Step 1. Staggered cuts in each strand. Step 2. Gate opens. Step 3. Transverse segment passed through the break. Step 4. Reseal cut segment.



SAR

- The quinolone pharmacophore is essential for activity through binding to the DNA gyrase ([Table 23.2](#)).
- R₁ is important for potency and commonly consists of an ethyl or cyclopropyl.
- **Fluoro at C6** improves penetration of the bacterial cell wall through improved hydrophobicity.
- Heterocyclic substitution at C7 affects the spectrum of activity against gram-negative bacteria.
- R₈ affects spectrum of activity as does R₁/R₈ linked forming a third ring in the molecule (finafloxacin).

Physicochemical and Pharmacokinetic Properties

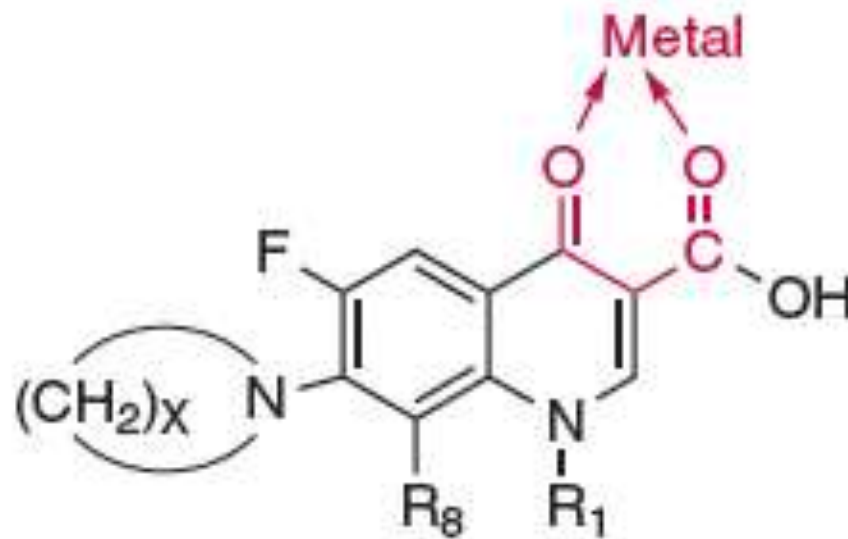
- 4-Quinolones are incompatible with heavy metals (e.g., Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Al^{3+}) due to an insoluble chelate resulting from bonding between the metal and the C3 carboxyl and C4 ketone.
- 4-Quinolones may cause skin phototoxicity upon exposure to the sun (UV A radiation)



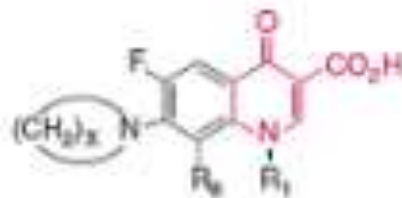
ADVERSE EFFECTS

4-Quinolones: GI disturbance: nausea, vomiting, and abdominal discomfort. CNS effects: headache and dizziness, but may also include hallucinations, insomnia, and visual disturbances due to binding of lipophilic drugs to GABA receptors. Several analogs caused QT prolongation leading to their removal from the market.

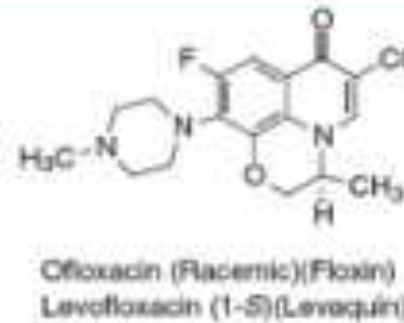
Binding of the drug to DNA gyrase involves the carboxyl and the ketone.



Metal chelation



Drug: Generic Name	Trade Name	R ₁	N (CH ₂) _x	R ₆
Norfloxacin	Noroxin	C ₂ H ₅		H
Ciprofloxacin	Cipro			H
Gatifloxacin	Tequin			CH ₃ -O
Moxifloxacin	Avelox			CH ₃ -O
Gemifloxacin	Factive			
Besifloxacin	Besivance			Cl
Enoxacin ^a	Xoro			N=C

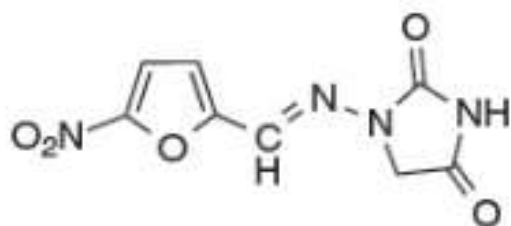


Clinical Application

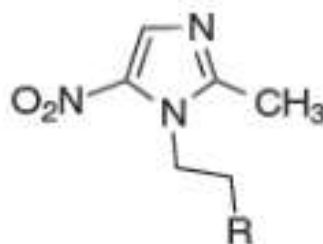
- The fluoroquinolones represent a potent class of **bactericidal** agents with utility in a variety of infectious conditions. **The most common** indications include **UTIs** caused by sensitive organisms; prostatitis; some sexually transmitted infections; respiratory infections; and bone, joint, and soft tissue infections.

Nitroheteroaromatic Compounds

Nitrofurantoin



Nitrofurantoin
(Furadantin, Macrochantin)



Metronidazole, R = OH (Flagyl)
Tinidazole R = SO₂C₂H₅ (Fasigyn)

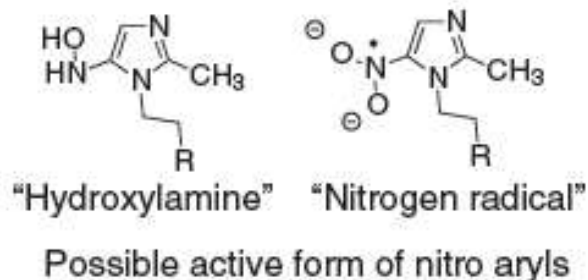
- Nitrofurantoin is the only nitrofuran which remains available and is used for treatment of uncomplicated UTIs.

Metronidazole

- Metronidazole and tinidazole are used to treat some bacterial infections (e.g., GI tract peptic ulcer, pseudomembranous colitis) and protozoal infections (e.g., giardiasis, trichomoniasis).



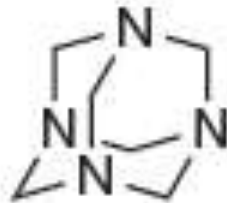
CHEMICAL NOTE



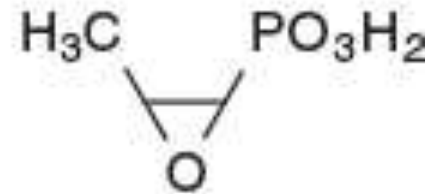
MOA

- Most likely, the nitroheteroaromatic compounds are prodrugs in which **the nitro group is reduced** to the active hydroxylamine or nitrogen radical which interferes with DNA and or RNA.

Methenamine and Phosphomycin



Methenamine
(Prosed, Urimax, Urised, Uroqid-Acid)



Phosphomycin
(Monurol)

limited values and are used in uncomplicated UTIs.

MOA

- Methenamine is a prodrug, which in acidic urine generates ammonia and formaldehyde. The latter forms a Schiff's base with bacterial protein resulting in antibacterial action.
- Phosphomycin, through alkylation of a key sulfhydryl group in a bacterial transferase essential in cell wall glycoprotein synthesis, inhibits bacterial growth.