مثرح الدكتور عبدالرحبيم عامنرتين 19/ Nov /24 + Nov /19

### **B DRUGS**

### ADRENOCEPTOR ANTAGONISTS: β- Blockers

- $\square$  Classification of  $\beta$ -adrenoceptor receptors
- √ β1-receptors (heart)+Kidney
- ✓ β2-receptors (blood vessels, bronchioles)
- $\checkmark$   $\beta$ 3-receptors (adipose tissue).

non selective

B-Blocker

انقياها القلب لم

Cardio selective

#### **☐** Mechanism of action

✓ Reduce cardiac output (via negative chronotropic and negative inotropic) effects on the heart)

✓ Inhibit renin secretion

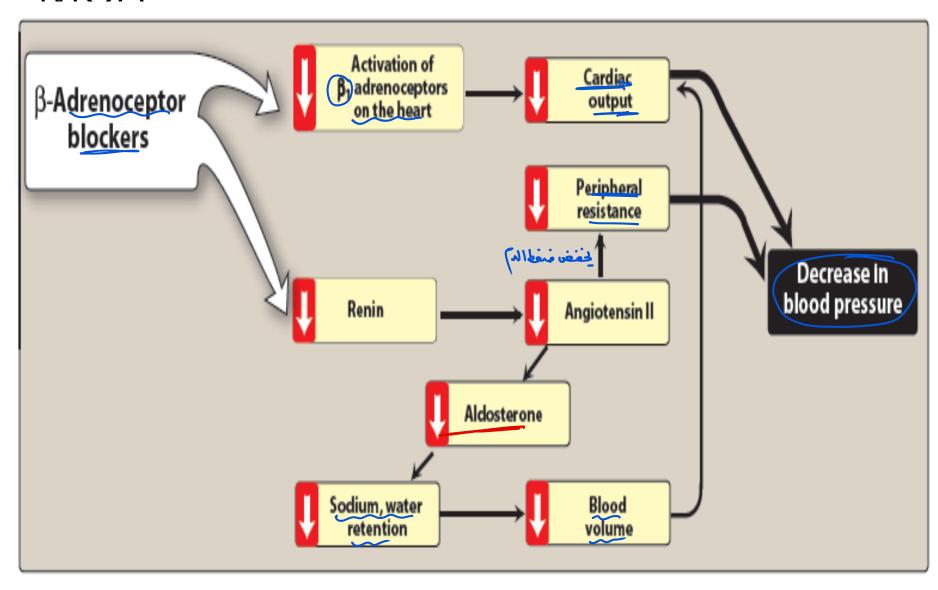
✓ Reduce sympathetic outflow from the central nervous system (CNS).

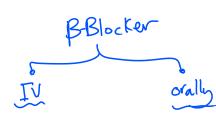
المالي مربع copp, asthma

Pal ( Triglyceride El) - B3-Blocker

Diabetas Cir

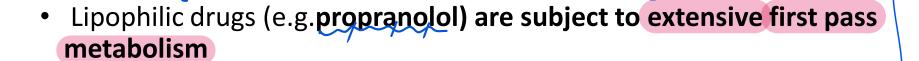
# MOA



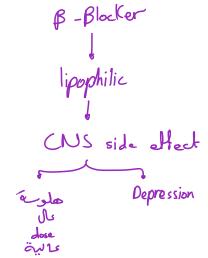


#### □Pharmacokinetics

- well absorbed and active for hypertension orally
- Given intravenously in emergencies (Esmolol)



• Lipophilic beta-blockers enter the brain more readily than do polar drugs and so central nervous system side effects (e.g. nightmares, sedation, tremor) occur more commonly.



Classification of β- Blockers according to Increasing Lipophilicity

More lipophilic means more side effects (CNS)

Atenolol

Acebutol
Bisoprolol
Timolol
betaxol

Propranalol
Alprenol
metroprolol

 Some beta-blockers (e.g. oxprenolol) are partial agonists and possess intrinsic sympathomimetic activity. drug acceptable when they have failed to tolerate a pure antagonist (e.g. patients with angina).

Beta-blockers with additional vasodilating properties are available. This is theoretically an advantage in treating patients with hypertension. Their mechanisms vary. Some

(e.g. labetolol, carvedilol) have additional α-blocking activity.

Nebivolol releases endothelium-derived nitric oxide

B-Blocker

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#### **Indications include:**

- HTN
- HTN with angina
- MI 3
- Panic attacks!!!(٩) ← اذا حدا جرب يعل proprawdolpropra

( الماري الماري .

- Topically for glaucoma treatment (timolol)
  - Essential tremor 6
  - Phenocromocytoma (along with  $\alpha$ -blockers)

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**Contraindications:** 

- Asthma, COPD( caution)
- Diabetes( caution with insulin patients)

Bradycardia, AV block
Partial agenist

### Adverse effects and contraindications:

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  - erectile dysfunction; male inc\* 3
  - Airways obstruction "

Decompensated heart failure – β-adrenoceptor antagonists are contraindicated بس في الحالات المتقدمة الجم ببطل قادر يعل آجرادات تقويضية

Hypoglycaemia

• Heart block –  $\theta$ -adrenoceptor antagonists can precipitate or worsen heart block.

 Metabolic disturbance – β-adrenoreceptor antagonists worsen glycaemic control in type 2 diabetes mellitus. Also increase in TG levels and reduction in HDL!!! I HOL high density lipopratein A Triglyceride

# **Drug interactions**

• Pharmacokinetic interactions: 8-adrenoceptor antagonists inhibit drug metabolism indirectly by decreasing hepatic blood flow secondary to decreased cardiac output. This causes accumulation of drugs such as **lidocaine that have** such a high hepatic extraction ratio that their clearance reflects hepatic blood flow.

• Pharmacodynamic interactions: Increased negative inotropic and atrioventricular (AV) nodal effects occur with Verapamil, lidocaine and other negative inotropes.

B-Blocker

De Blocker

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Table 28.1: Examples of  $\beta$ -adrenoceptors in clinical use

Drug	Selectivity	Pharmacokinetic features	Comment	
Propranolol Non-selective		Non-polar; substantial presystematic metabolism; variable dose requirements; multiple daily dosing	First beta-blocker in clinical use	
Atenolol	$\beta_1$ -selective	Polar; renal elimination; once daily dosing	Widely used; avoid in renal failure	
Metoprolol	$\beta_1$ -selective	Non-polar; cytochrome P450 (2D6 isoenzyme)	Widely used	
Esmolol	$\beta_1$ -selective	Short acting given by i.v. infusion; renal elimination of acid metabolite	Used in intensive care unit/theatre (e.g. dissecting aneurysm)	
Sotalol	Non-selective (L-isomer)	Polar; renal elimination	A racemate: the p-isomer has class III anti-dysrhythmic actions (see Chapter 31)	
Labetolol	Non-selective	Hepatic glucuronidation	Additional alpha-blocking and partial $\beta_2$ -agonist activity. Used in the latter part of pregnancy	
Oxprenolol	(Non-selective	Hepatic hydroxylation/glucuronidation	Partial agonist	



#### C DRUGS

#### bei Block dei sieder seines e **CALCIUM-CHANNEL BLOCKERS**

- Blood vess 6 Smoth muscle & 1) Heart muscle 1 @
- Drugs that block voltage-dependent Ca channels are used to () hypertension and angina.
- There are three classes:

أيلاله على

القلب

ما بناش ابرًا عال

رس يعير ني سنة معنية س الم النية م تَعْبِر قَارة على الانقباعي Phenylalkylamines: (Verapamil) target mainly cardiacmyocytes

اذا که ما دفل الخلین الخلین

Red idjos (Si (do)

ما بتقدر تنقبض الكي

من حمد د خل الخلاياب

اولًا منفتح depolarization منفتح

منعات الكالهيوم وبصرتدفق

كما توصل المهورة المالية الصليت

کیات رح من فیے عالق relaxation علی Benzothiazepines : (Diltiazem) target mainly cardiacmyocytes

Smooth muscle of

Dihydropyridines: (Amlodipine, Nifedipine) relax smooth muscles blood vessels

vessels Vasodilation

- Mechanism of action (vasodilators)
- Calcium-channel blockers inhibit Ca2 influx through voltagedependent L-type calcium channels.
- Calcium-channel blockers therefore relax arteriolar smooth muscle, reduce peripheral vascular resistance and lower arterial blood pressure.
- Pharmacokinetics
- right absorbed when given by mouth.
- ➤ Nifedipine has a short half-life and many of its

adverse effects (e.g. flushing, headache) relate to the peak الركيز المراد في المراد القصير plasma concentration. Slow-release preparations improve its profile in this regard.

Postural reflex hoodache stushing tension

من أشهر ادوية الفغط

# > Amlodipine is renally eliminated and

has a half-life of two to three days and produces a persistent

antihypertensive effect with once daily administration

- Dihydropyridine calcium-channel blockers :
- ✓ Amlodipine: Norvasc
- فعلاجه احتى المعالى على معدلات الوفاة راكر من
- >Stands on strong evidence, to improve mortality and morbidity
- Acheives slow rate to release, (less side effects)
- ➤ Once daily 5-10 mg per day

Postural reflex reachy charill is consion the pass of the pass of

- Adverse effects of CCB s :
- -Blacker usually well tolerated,
  - Short-acting preparations (e.g. nifedipine capsules) cause
     flushing and headache (reflex tachycardia in some cases)

Ankle swelling (oedema) is common.

The negative inotropic effect of verapamil exacerbates

The negative inotropic effect of verapamil exacerbates cardiac failure. بالنابي ما بعطيه الاحتاصاني عذم فشل في الفلب

Constipation is common with verapamil.

## **Drug interactions**

Intravenous verapamil can cause circulatory collapse in patients treated concomitantly with  $\beta$ -adrenoceptor antagonists.

B-Blocker+ Verenpamil

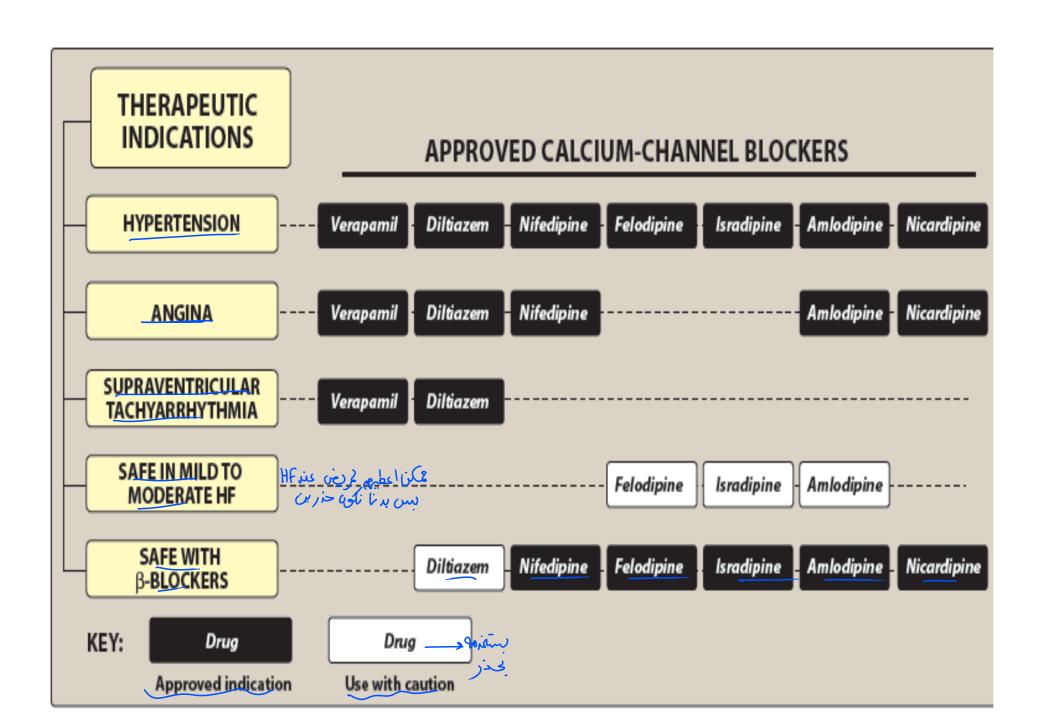
Circulatory collapse

in patient

Table 28.2: Examples of calcium-channel blocking drugs in clinical use

Class	Drug	Effect on	Adverse effects	Comment	
		heart rate			
Dihydropyridine	Nifedipine	1	Headache, flushing, ankle swelling	Slow-release preparations for once/twice daily use	
	Amlodipine	0	Ankle swelling	Once daily use in hypertension, angina	
	Nimodipine	1	Flushing, headache	Prevention of cerebral vasospasm after subarachnoid haemorrhage	
Benzothiazepine	Diltiazem	0	Generally mild	Prophylaxis of angina, hypertension	
P <u>henylalkylami</u> ne	Verapamil	ļ	Constipation; marked negative inotropic action	See Chapter 32 for use in dysrhythmias. Slow-release preparation for hypertension, angina	





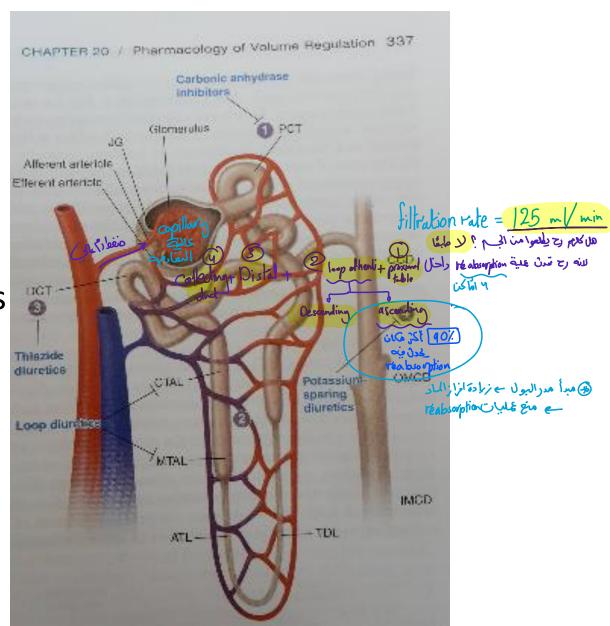
#### PRINCIPLES OF DIURETIC ACTION

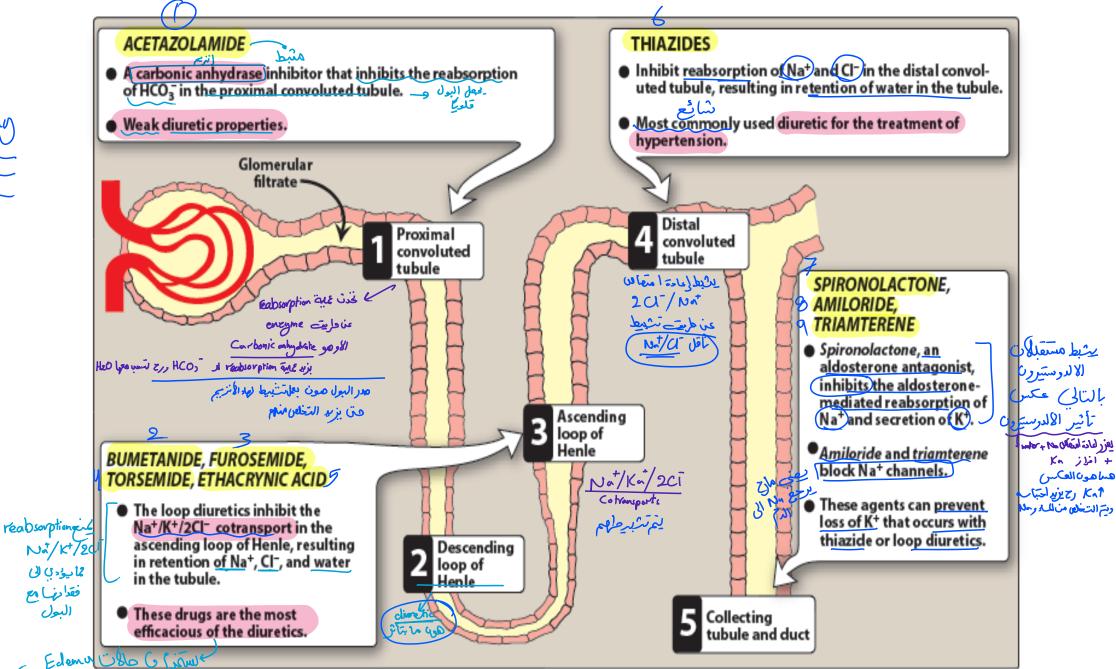
- Increase the rate of excretion of Na<sup>+</sup> (natriuresis) and of an accompanying anion, usually Cl<sup>-</sup>.
- Most clinical applications of diuretics are directed toward reducing extracellular fluid volume by decreasing total-body NaCl content.

ججمالوالل بعل.

# Classes of Diuretics:

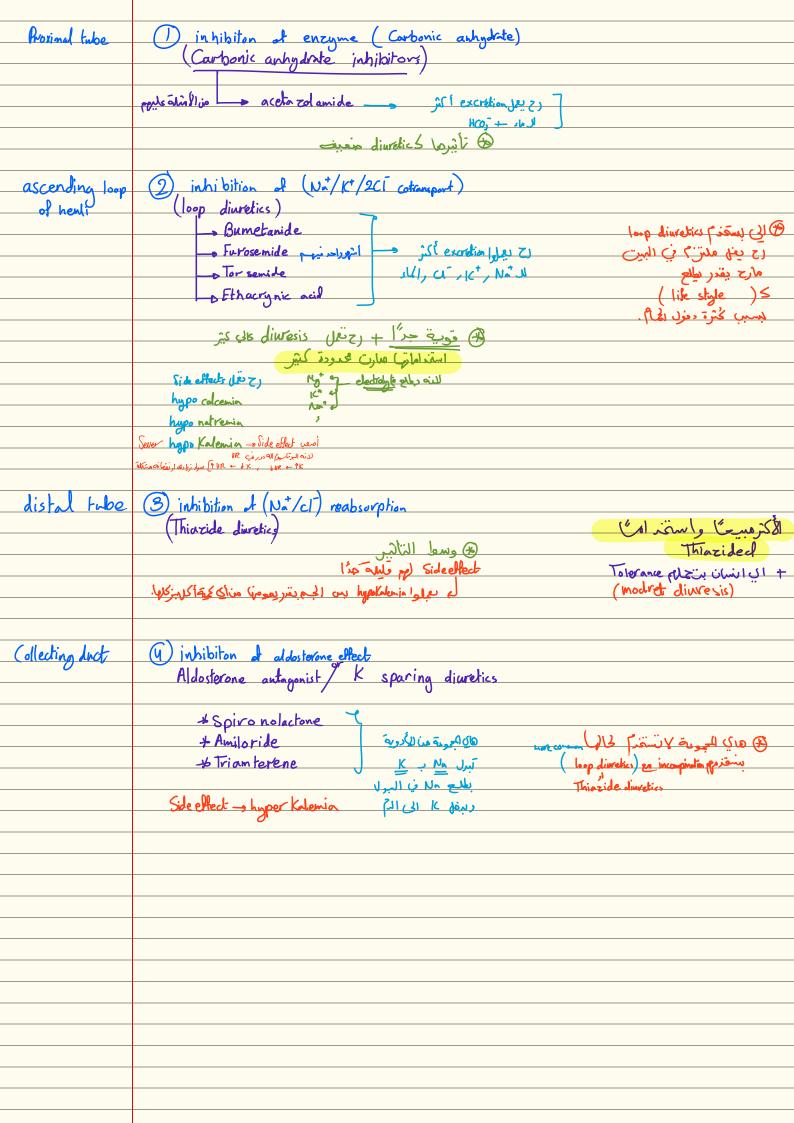
- Loop diuretics ( high ceiling)
- Thiazides (moderate ceiling)
- Potassium Sparing
- 4445678999<l
- Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors
- Osmotic diuretics





ملل فقل القلب / الفدل الكوي

البول



# Solute transport and reabsorption sites

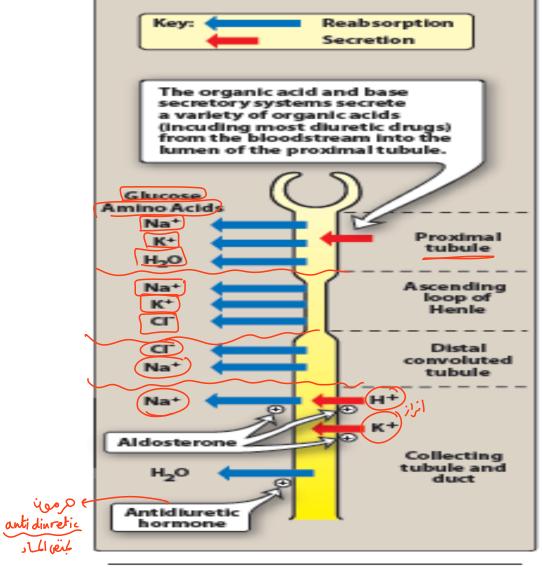


Figure 22.3
Sites of transport of solutes and water along the nephron.

Veabsorption

# Delivery Loop Diuretics (High Ceiling)

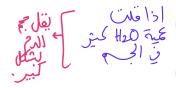
- works at the thick ascending limb of the loop of Henle
- are highly efficacious, and for this reason, they sometimes are called *high-ceiling* diuretics.
- Furosemide and bumetanide contain a sulfonamide moiety.
- Ethacrynic acid is a phenoxyacetic acid derivative and torsemide is a sulfonylurea
- loop diuretics increase in the urinary excretion of Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> profoundly, also K<sub>+</sub>
- also results in marked increases in the excretion of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup>.

Table 28-4. Inhibitors of Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-2Cl<sup>-</sup> Symport (Loop Diuretics, High-Ceiling Diuretics) DRUG STRUCTURE RELATIVE ORAL 7 1/2 ROUTE OF (HOURS) ELIMINATION POTENCY AVAILABILITY Furosemide کتري کا ~1.5 ~65% R, ~ 35% M<sup>‡</sup> ~60% ليس عه مش حفظ Sulfonanide (LASIX) NH-CH<sub>2</sub> المف الي منه ما مية مله ما بعظهم لمناسعة Salfonamide + اي دراد بتري المحاسطة المحا H2NO2S COOH لانه رح ييفاللوا مع بعض NH-CH2-CH2-CH2-CH3 40 ~80% ~0.8 ~62% R, ~38% M Bumetanide (BUMEX) H2NO2S COOH o CI ~67% R, ~33% M Ethacrynic 0.7 ~100% ~1 acid H<sub>3</sub>C-H<sub>2</sub>C-C-C (EDECRIN) CH<sub>2</sub> ~80% Torsemide ~3.5 ~20% R, ~80% M 3 (DEMADEX) Sulfonglurea O2S-NH-C-NH-CH CH<sub>3</sub> Axosemide\* ~12% ~2.5 1 ~27% R, 63% M H2NO2S

# Adverse Effects :

- oabnormalities of fluid and electrolyte balance
- O Hyponatremia (116 Nat
- OHypotension
- حدو عطات دمورية Othromboembolic episodes
- اذا قات کیر کافات Ocirculatory collapse
  - oincreased urinary excretion of K<sup>+</sup> and H<sup>+</sup>, causing a hypochloremic alkalosis acidical e CT, H<sup>+</sup> Ulus aziv
  - Hypokalemia
  - O Hypomagnesemia Myb

  - مشاكل في Ototoxicity الأذن الراخيمة الأذن الراخيمة عن علية السع السع عن منعف المع رالطنين.



- Contraindications to the use of loop diuretics :
- hypersensitivity to sulfonamides

```
diwretic & foi 15 acquabed Anuria

Mil wination sie wie yi Anuria

Kidney + de diwretic aleento
```

- Drug interactions :
  - Aminoglycosides مكينا منهانون كا
  - Anticoagulants + مرالبول +
  - digitalis glycosides (increased digitalis-induced arrhythmias), المساكل في النها المعلى المع
    - propranolol (increased plasma levels of propranolol) = 1 Sever hypo tension
    - ن مل التفريق مع هور بولور (دوا دمن ادوية ) Sulfonylureas في ما التقريق مع هور بولور التقريق ا
    - تقال تدفق الدم المكلى بالتائي مابصبر اعطم مدر دون

# Therapeutic Uses

- Acute pulmonary edema برانج الوائل واخوالدريكي .
- chronic congestive heart failure
   edema and ascites of liver cirrhosis
- HTN (not first choice) however in ER

The first line in HTU: (X) ACEI + ARBS

polis po sancialo Diaretic &

emergency all is in & ald Diwetic Prancie

# 9

# THIAZIDE AND THIAZIDE, LIKE DIURETICS (moderate effect)

- Sulfonamides, derivatives of benzothiadiazine
- Drugs that are pharmacologically similar to thiazide diuretics but are not thiazides were developed and are called *thiazidelike diuretics*.
- inhibit NaCl transport in the DCT

- عاشرات ثانوج
- the proximal tubule may represent a secondary site of action
- increase Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> excretion

تؤشر بشكل درئيس في علما الماذال التخفيك النكؤش الموضو في المسالم

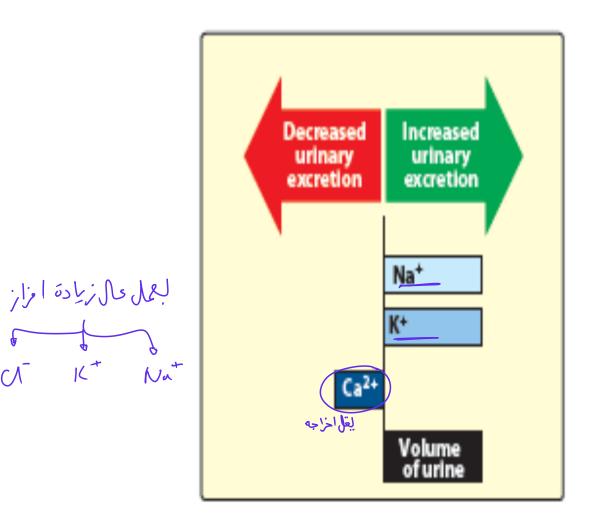


Figure 22.4
Relative changes in the composition of urine induced by thiazide diuretics.

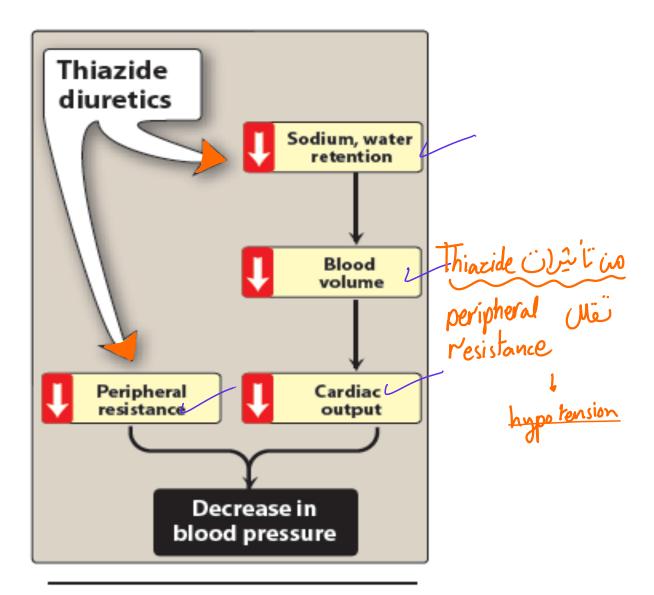


Figure 19.8 Actions of thiazide diuretics.

• thiazides are only moderately efficacious, because approximately 90% of the filtered Na<sup>+</sup> load is reabsorbed before reaching the DCT

increase the excretion of K<sup>+</sup>

۱/ 90 من ۱۰۰۰ رحیتم ایادت استمامه الی بومل ۲۵ (۱ هوالی بنتم انرازه

Thiazide core structure



# Loop diviretical agreement Adverse effects:

- extracellular volume depletion
- Hypotension
- hypokalemia **LKA**†
- hyponatremia b N→1
- hypochloremia ba
- metabolic alkalosis PHT
- Hypomagnesemia Lypt
- hypercalcemia Cath
- hyperuricemia

(me) diuretic

محتلف برز

Therapeutic Uses

Loop (via) • Edema : (CHF, RF, Liver cirrhosis) dinvetic

- Moderate HTN either alone or in combination with other antihypertensive drugs
- A common dose for hypertension is 25 mg/day of hydrochlorothiazide or the dose equivalent of another thiazide.
- The ALLHAT study (ALLHAT Officers and Coordinators for the ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group, 2002) provides strong evidence that thiazide diuretics are the best initial therapy for uncomplicated hypertension, a conclusion endorsed by the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (Chobanian et al. 2003)

افضل دواء المتدامه مع HTN و المتدامه مع المتدامه مع المتدامه مع المتدامة في المتدنوا التحديد التح



# K+-SPARING DIURETICS

- Inhibitors of renal epithelial Na<sup>+</sup> channels
- *Triamterene* and *Amiloride* are the only two drugs of this class in clinical use
- Both drugs cause small increases in NaCl excretion and usually are employed for their antikaliuretic actions to offset the effects of other diuretics that increase K+ excretion
- **Triamterene** and **Amiloride**, along with Spironolactone (*see* next section), often are classified as *potassium* (*K* +)-*sparing diuretics*.

Table 28-6. Inhibitors of Renal Epithelial Na<sup>+</sup> Channels (K<sup>+</sup>-Sparing Diuretics)

DRUG	STRUCTURE	RELATIVE POTENCY 1	ORAL AVAILABILITY	t 1/2 (HOURS) ~21	ROUTE OF ELIMINATION
Amiloride (DYRENIUM)	O NH II		15-25%		
Triamterene (MIDAMOR)	H <sub>2</sub> N N NH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	0.1	~50%	~4.2	M

Abbreviations: R, renal excretion of intact drug; M, metabolism; however, triamterene is transformed into an active metabolite that is excreted in the urine

# **Adverse Effects**

- The most dangerous adverse effect of Nat-channel inhibitors is <a href="https://hyperkalemia">hyperkalemia</a>, therefore contraindicated:
- \* with NSAIDs
- With K supplement, or ACEIs,
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and headache
- CNS, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, dermatological

(2MZ)

# Therapeutic Uses

- seldom are used as sole agents
- major utility is in combination with other diuretics
- augments the diuretic and antihypertensive response to thiazide and loop diuretics (also decreases incidence of hypokalemia associated with loop andthiazide)





#### ALDOSTERONE ANTAGONISTS, K+-SPARING DIURETICS

- antagonists of mineralocorticoid receptors
- Mineralocorticoids cause retention of salt and water and increase the excretion of K<sup>+</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> by binding to specific mineralocorticoid receptors MR
- spirolactones block the effects of mineralocorticoids; this finding led to the synthesis of specific antagonists for the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR).
  - two MR antagonists are available :
  - spironolactone (a 17-spirolactone) and eplerenone

 Spironalactone acts on the distal convuluted tubules and the collecting duct

- Drugs such as spironolactone and eplerenone

   Competitively inhibit the binding of aldosterone to the MR
  - They increase excretion of Na and water, also enhance K and H retention.

Since spironolactone and eplerenone block the biological effects of aldosterone, these agents also are referred to as aldosterone antagonists

DRUG	STRUCTURE	ORAL AVAILABILITY	† 1/2 (HOURS)	ROUTE OF ELIMINATION
Spironolactone (ALDACTONE)	البرد جيستررن CH3 CH3 H H S O CH3	~65%	~1.6	М
Eplerenone (INSPRA)	CH <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	ID	~5	M

Spironolactone has some affinity toward progesterone and androgen receptors and thereby induces side effects: as gynecomastia, impotence, and menstrual irregularities.

An active metabolite of spironolactone, canrenone, has a halflife of approximately 16.5 hours, which prolongs the biological effects of spironolactone

\*Owing to the 9,11-epoxide group, eplerenone has very low affinity for progesterone and androgen receptors (<1% and <0.1%, respectively) compared with spironolactone.

( epletenone ) - حتاج نصابه الأسف بحتاج المحافة المحا

### Adverse Effects

- may cause life-threatening hyperkalemia
- Salicylates may reduce the tubular secretion of canrenone and decrease the diuretic efficacy of spironolactone
- spironolactone may alter the clearance of digitalis glycosides pointible of e pris with it is ed

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# Therapeutic Uses

- spironolactone often is coadministered with thiazide or loop diuretics in the treatment of edema and hypertension
- treatment of primary hyperaldosteronism
- hepatic cirrhosis يَا الْحِسَا و heart failure

لتقليل الاحتباس برمنو النائج عن HF



#### INHIBITORS OF CARBONIC ANHYDRASE

- Acetazolamide is the prototype of a class of agents
- Proximal tubular epithelial cells are richly endowed with carbonic anhydrase
- Carbonic anhydrase plays a key role in NaHCO<sub>3</sub> reabsorption and acid secretion.
- In the lumen, H<sup>+</sup> reacts with filtered  $HCO_3$ <sup>-</sup> to form  $H_2CO_3$ , which decomposes rapidly to  $CO_2$  and water in the presence of carbonic anhydrase (thousands of times)

• Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors potently inhibit both the membrane-bound and cytoplasmic forms of carbonic anhydrase, resulting in nearly complete abolition of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> reabsorption in the proximal tubule.

• Inhibition of carbonic anhydrase results in more alkaline urine (more HCO3 in urine)

H2CO, vehen istel auzolo more Basic Jell CHILL

#### **Adverse Effects**

- Mainly well tolerated
- may cause bone marrow depression, skin toxicity,
- metabolic or respiratory acidosis

# Therapeutic Uses

- Seldom used in clinical practice for HTN
- open-angle glaucoma (major indication) topically as eye drops



KEY	
	Thiazide diuretics
	Loop diuretics
	K+-sparing diuretics
	Acetazolamide

Na+ excr	etion
***	
K+ exc	retion
Ca <sup>2+</sup> e	excretion
Volume	of urine

# 

## خامل/لس عوى

- relatively inert pharmacologically
- administered in large enough doses to increase significantly the osmolality of plasma and tubular fluid
- four currently available osmotic diuretics :

زيادة كليق البول التب يفرزها الجب كيف ؟؟
كيف ؟؟
زيادة نزكيز علماه في الداع الوائل في الكلى عماية دي لسعبه ٥ علا من الاستهت وزيادة الحراج مهم البول .

#### Mechanism and Site of Action

- Major site of action of osmotic diuretics is the loop of Henle.
- extracting water from intracellular compartments
- expand the extracellular fluid volume
- decrease blood viscosity
- ▼ These effects increase RBF
- √ increase in renal medullary blood flow
- ✓ removes NaCl and urea from the renal medulla

- يعزز فقران الماء مع البول،

نريادة تدفق الدم الكلوب wea + Va >b e us

inhibit renin release کنرز منے حالت سنامن تدفقه الدم الى الكلى لس هون رح یکون ۱ ترنفالم

slbl Com Com Os Os Obectrolytes • Osmotic diuretics increase the urinary excretion of nearly all electrolytes, including Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>, and phosphate.

Table 28-3. Osmotic Diuretics

DRUG	STRUCTURE	ORAL AVAILABILITY	7 <sub>1/2</sub> (HOURS)	ROUTE OF ELIMINATION
Glycerin (OSMOGLYN)	НООН	Orally active	0.5-0.75	~80% M
				~20% U
Isosorbide (ISMOTIC)	но н	Orally active	5-9.5	R
Mannitol (OSMITROL)	OH OHOHOH Negligible OHOHOH	Negligible	0.25-1.7*	~80% R
				~20% M + B
Urea (UREAPHIL)	O H <sub>2</sub> N NH <sub>2</sub>	Negligible	ID	R

WF 164 2 A2

#### **Adverse Effects**

In patients with heart failure or pulmonary
 congestion, they may cause frank pulmonary edema (
 since there is expantion in extracellular fluid volume)

- Hyponatremia
- Dehydration
- elevation of blood ammonia levels

هدرات البول نظري الخلايا تزيد مجم العائل خارج الخلايا الم الم الم الم المرة الموبة عاقد يظامم في عال وجود امرافنا

Pulmonary HF

# Therapeutic Uses

- osmotic diuretics extract water from the eye and brain
- reduce cerebral edema
- In glucoma

## OTHER VASODILATORS

#### α-ADRENOCEPTOR ANTAGONISTS

There are two main types of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptor,  $\alpha 1$ - and  $\alpha 2$ .  $\alpha 1$ -Adrenoceptor antagonists lower blood pressure

Phenoxybenzamine irreversibly alkylates α-receptors. It is uniquely valuable in preparing patients with phaeochromocytoma for surgery, but has no place in the management of essential hypertension. **Prazosin is a selective α1-blocker, but** its use is limited by severe postural hypotension, especially following the first dose. It has a short elimination half-life.

Doxazosin is closely related to prazosin, but is longer lasting, permitting once daily use and causing fewer problems with first-dose hypotension. It did not compare well with diuretic, Ca2 antagonist or ACEI as first-line agent in ALLHAT, but is useful as add-on treatment in patients with resistant hypertension. It is given last thing at night.

Doxazosin improves symptoms of bladder outflow tract obstruction, and is useful in men with mild symptoms from benign prostatic hypertrophy

Mechanism of action

Noradrenaline activates  $\alpha 1$ -receptors on vascular smooth muscle, causing tonic vasoconstriction.  $\alpha 1$ -Antagonists cause vasodilatation by blocking this tonic action of **noradrenaline** 

#### **Adverse effects**

- First-dose hypotension and postural hypotension are adverse effects.
- Nasal stuffiness, headache, dry mouth and pruritus have been reported, but are relatively infrequent.
- $\bullet$   $\alpha$ -Blockers can cause urinary incontinence, especially in women with pre-existing pelvic pathology.

**Doxazosin has an elimination half-life of approximately 10–12** hours and provides acceptably smooth 24-hour control if used once daily

Table 28.3: Additional antihypertensive drugs used in special situations

Drug	Mechanism of action	Uses	Side-effects/limitations
Minoxidil	Minoxidil sulphate (active metabolite) is a K <sup>+</sup> -channel activator	Very severe hypertension that is resistant to other drugs	Fluid retention; reflex tachycardia; hirsutism; coarsening of facial appearance. Must be used in combination with other drugs (usually a loop diuretic and β-antagonist)
Nitroprusside	Breaks down chemically to NO, which activates guanylyl cyclase in vascular smooth muscle	Given by intravenous infusion in intensive care unit for control of malignant hypertension	Short term IV use only: prolonged use causes cyanide toxicity (monitor plasma thiocyanate); sensitive to light; close monitoring to avoid hypotension is essential
Hydralazine	Direct action on vascular smooth muscle; biochemical mechanism not understood	Previously used in  'stepped-care' approach to severe hypertension: β-antagonist in combination with diuretic. Retains a place in severe hypertension during pregnancy	Headache; flushing; tachycardia; fluid retention. Long-term high-dose use causes systemic lupus-like syndrome in susceptible individuals
α-Methyldopa	Taken up by noradrenergic nerve terminals and converted to $\alpha$ -methylnoradrenaline, which is released as a false transmitter. This acts centrally as an $\alpha_2$ -agonist and reduces sympathetic outflow	Hypertension during pregnancy. Occasionally useful in patients who cannot tolerate other drugs	Drowsiness (common); depression; hepatitis; immune haemolytic anaemia; drug fever