سالت الدكتور عن جداول الـstructures وحكالي مش مهمين فحذفتهم، بس لو كان معكم وقت أكيد ادرسوهم شيامل الـnotes

B DRUGS

ADRENOCEPTOR ANTAGONISTS: β- Blockers

- \Box Classification of β -adrenoceptor receptors
- ✓ \(\beta \)1-receptors (heart)
- ✓ β2-receptors (blood vessels, bronchioles)
- \checkmark β3-receptors (adipose tissue).
- ☐ Mechanism of action

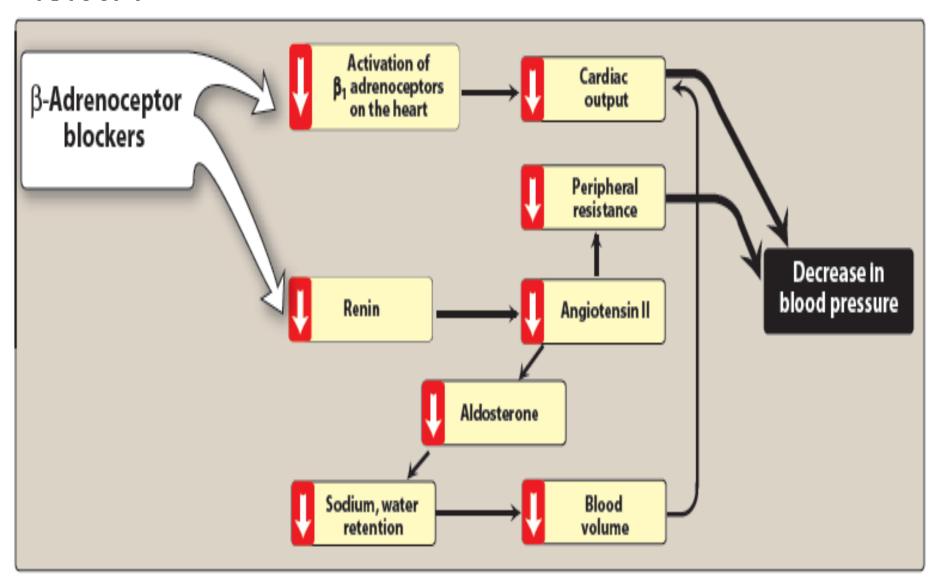
4 HR

& contract

- ✓ 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).

.

MOA



□Pharmacokinetics

• well absorbed and active for hypertension orally Oral β-blockers may take several weeks to

Oral β-blockers may take several weeks to develop their full effects.

Esmolol, metoprolol, and propranolol are available in intravenous formulations

- Given intravenously in emergencies (Esmolol)
- Lipophilic drugs (e.g.propranolol) are subject to extensive first pass metabolism
- 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
nodalol

Atenolol

Bisoprolol
Timolol
betaxol

Migh

Propranalol
Alprenol
Migh

Acebutol

Alprenol
metroprolol

بنعطيهم لما المريض يكون عنده HTN وbradycardia بنفس الوقت لأنهم برفعوا HR

- Some beta-blockers (e.g. oxprenolol) are partial agonists and possess intrinsic sympathomimetic activity. drug acceptable when they have failed to tolerate a pure THR 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. <u>labetolol</u>, carvedilol) have additional α-blocking activity.

• Nebivolol releases endothelium-derived nitric oxide

Vasodilator

Indications include:

- HTN
- HTN with angina
- MI
- Panic attacks!!! palpitation, tremor, elevated blood glucose بزيد الـsympathetic, بصير عندي
- Topically for glaucoma treatment (timolol)
- Essential tremor
- Phenocromocytoma (along with α -blockers)

في بعض الأشخاص بصير عندهم ورم بالـ adrenal medulla، بحتاج لأنه يعمل عملية، بس احنا مجرد ما نعمل جرح راح تطلع كل كمية الـepinephrine الزيادة من الورم للدم فجأة، وتأثيرها راح يكون عالي من ناحية ارتفاع في ضغط الدم وعدد ضربات القلب. ممكن نحل هالمشكلة من خلال إنه نعطي المريض a blocker قبل العملية بيوم

Contraindications:

- Asthma, COPD(caution)
- Diabetes(caution with insulin patients)
- Bradycardia, AV block Give them antagonist with partial agonist activity

Adverse effects and contraindications:

- Intolerance fatigue
- cold extrémités أطراف باردة
- erectile dysfunction;
- Airways obstruction nonselective drugs من الـbrochoconstriction

asthmatics sometimes tolerate a small dose of a selective drug when first prescribed, only to suffer an exceptionally severe attack subsequently, and β -adrenoceptor antagonists should ideally be avoided altogether in asthmatics and used only with caution in COPD patients, many of whom have a reversible component.

بنستخدمهم في بعض حالات الـHF، وهو اله محاضرة كاملة لحاله

- <u>Decompensated heart failure</u> β-adrenoceptor antagonists are contraindicated
- Hypoglycaemia لأنها بتخفي أعراضه 6-adrenoceptor antagonists can mask
- Heart block β-adrenoceptor antagonists can precipitate or worsen heart block.

glycogenlysis&glucagon secretion بتقلل الـ

• Metabolic disturbance – β-adrenoreceptor antagonists worsen glycaemic control in type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Also increase in TG levels and reduction in HDL!!!

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.

الـHR بقللوا الـHR فأي دوا رح يعمل نفس الشغل لازم ما نعطيه معهم blocker الـhr بقلل الـinduction of signals to heart بقلل الـlidocaine وهو مسكن بقلل الـverampil وهو مسكن بقلل الـverampil لأنه ممكن القلب يتوقف وما نلحق المريض ويا بصير أعطيه مع الـCCB مثلًا verapamil and beta blockers intravenously can be fatal

Table 28.1: Examples of β -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	β_1 -selective	Polar; renal elimination; once daily dosing	Widely used; avoid in renal failure	
Metoprolol	β_1 -selective	Non-polar; cytochrome P450 (2D6 isoenzyme)	Widely used	
Esmolol	β_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 Polar; renal elimination (L-isomer)		A racemate: the p-isomer has class III anti-dysrhythmic actions (see Chapter 31)	
Labetolol	Non-selective Hepatic glucuronidation		Additional alpha-blocking and partial β_2 -agonist activity. Used in the latter part of pregnancy	
Oxprenolol	Non-selective	Hepatic hydroxylation/glucuronidation	Partial agonist	

C DRUGS

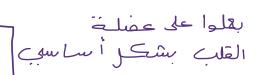
CALCIUM-CHANNEL BLOCKERS

- Drugs that block voltage-dependent Ca channels are used to hypertension and angina.



► Phenylalkylamines: (Verapamil) target mainly cardiacmyocytes

القلب بشكر أساسب



- ➤ Benzothiazepines: (Diltiazem) target mainly cardiacmyocytes
- Dihydropyridines: (Amlodipine, Nifedipine) relax smooth muscles blood vessels

وهذا بساعدني بتحديد الدواء المناسب للمريض حسب MOA حتى لو كلهم بقللوا الضغط

Notes



Verapamil is the least selective of any calcium channel blocker and has significant effects on both cardiac and vascular smooth muscle cells. It is also used to treat angina and supraventricular tachyarrhythmias and to prevent migraine and cluster headaches.

Diltiazim has less pronounced negative inotropic effect compared to verapamil.

Dihydropyridines have more affinity to calcium channels in blood vessels than in heart.

The dihydropyridines have the advantage in that they show little interaction with other cardiovascular drugs, such as digoxin or warfarin, which are often used concomitantly with calcium channel blockers.

CCBs dilate arterioles not veins

- Mechanism of action (vasodilators) Jeontractility cordine my orgtes
- 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
- >absorbed when given by mouth. orally
- مساه المناونة لـ vasodilation كنه بعمل هاي التأثيرات بالإضافة لـ vasodilation المعالمة على المناقد لـ vasodilation المعالم عمل هاي التأثيرات بالإضافة لـ vasodilation المعالم المعالم

Amlodipine is renally eliminated and

has a half-life of two to three days and produces a persistent antihypertensive effect with <u>once daily</u> administration

high potency -> 5 mg / Day

Dihydropyridine calcium-channel blockers :

✓ Amlodipine :

> most prescribed CCB -> Morvosc pan h pagina

- بقلل من حالات الوفاة بسبب HTN والمضاعفات المصاحبة اله
- \succ Stands on strong evidence , to improve mortality and morbidity +
- > Acheives slow rate to release, (less side effects)
- ➤ Once daily 5-10 mg per day

بشتغل کےSR فہذا بعطی SR فہذا بعطی SR

- Adverse effects of CCB s : مثلًا أسهل sesodilation الها SE أكثر، لهيك علاج الـhypotension مثلًا أسهل
- usually well tolerated,
- Short-acting preparations (e.g. nifedipine capsules) cause flushing and headache (reflex tachycardia in some cases)

- Ankle swelling (oedema) is common . تجمع الدم والسوائل في الكاحل
- The negative inotropic effect of verapamil exacerbates
 cardiac failure.
- Constipation is common with verapamil.

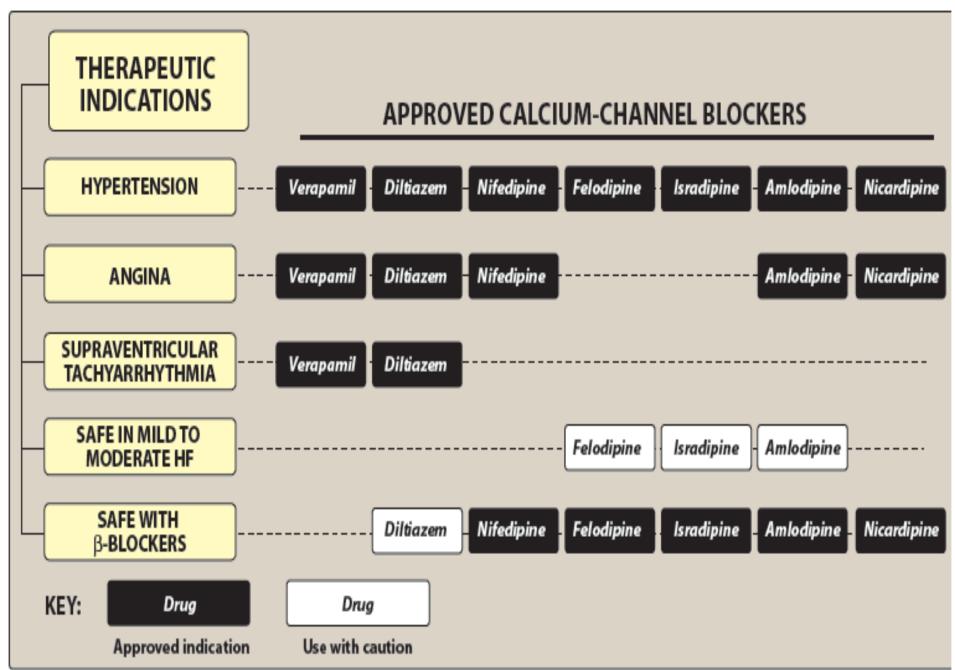
Drug interactions

Intravenous verapamil can cause circulatory collapse in patients treated concomitantly with β -adrenoceptor antagonists.

معلومة مهمة جدًا وكثير كررناها، ممكن يموت وقلبه يوقف من حبتين!

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

Class	Drug	Effect on heart rate	Adverse effects	Comment
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
Phenylalkylamine	Verapamil	ļ	Constipation; marked negative inotropic action	See Chapter 32 for use in dysrhythmias. Slow-release preparation for hypertension, angina



D DRUGS **DIURETICS**

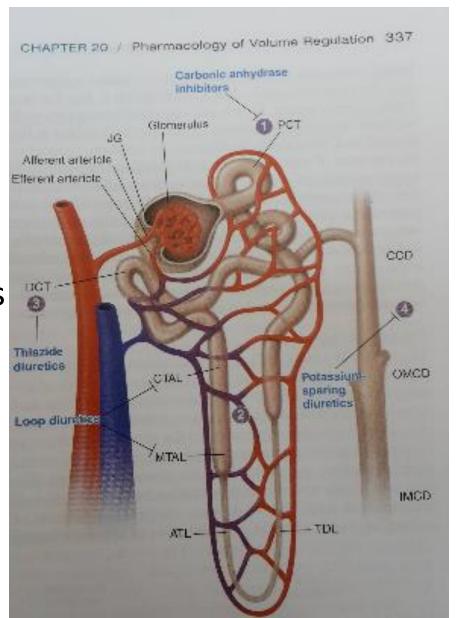
PRINCIPLES OF DIURETIC ACTION

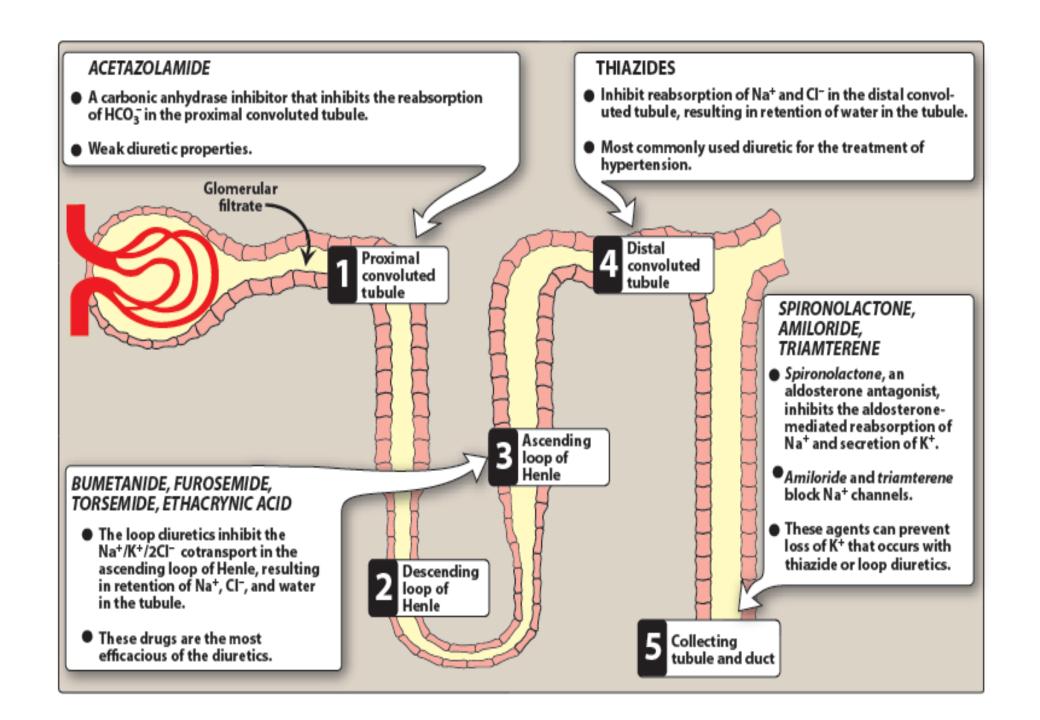
- Increase the rate of excretion of Na⁺ (natriuresis) and of an accompanying anion,
 usually Cl⁻.

 ↑ urine excretion
 ↓ BU
 ↓ BP
- Most clinical applications of diuretics are directed toward reducing extracellular fluid volume by decreasing total-body NaCl content.

Classes of Diuretics:

- Loop diuretics (high ceiling)
- Thiazides (moderate ceiling)
- Potassium Sparing
- Aldosterone antagonists
- Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors
- Osmotic diuretics





Solute transport and reabsorption sites

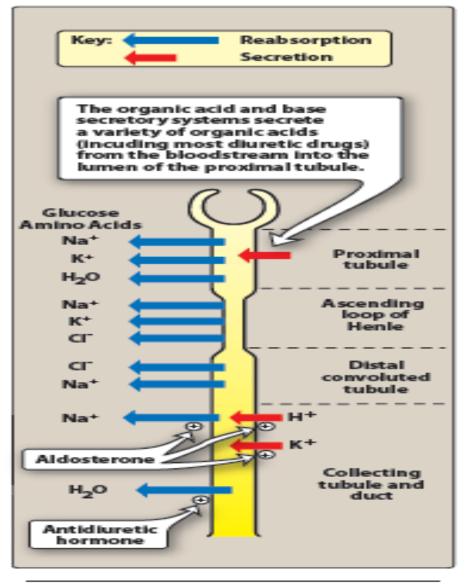


Figure 22.3
Sites of transport of solutes and water along the nephron.

Loop Diuretics (High Ceiling)

بشتغلوا على loop of henle بالذات على الـascending وهو أكثر مكان بصير فياته high ceiling وهو أكثر مكان بصير فياته high ceiling وتأثيرهم الأقوى وكمية السوائل اللي بتخرج كبيرة بحيث بنسميهم diuretic.

بتشغل عن طريق عمل inhibition للreabsorption of Na,K,Cl,water وبريد excretion وبقلل نسبهم بالجسم -رح نشوفهم بالـadverse وبصير عنا tachycardia بالعادة يستخدم في حالات الـER لما نكون بحاجة مدر قوي، مش للاستخدام المستمر

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. مربنعطيهم لليء عندعم حساسية من الـ عماله
- Ethacrynic acid is a phenoxyacetic acid derivative and torsemide is a sulfonylurea
- loop diuretics increase in the urinary excretion of Na⁺ and Cl⁻ profoundly, also K₊
- also results in marked increases in the excretion of Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺.

- Adverse Effects:
- oabnormalities of fluid and electrolyte balance
- **O**Hyponatremia
- Hypotension
- othromboembolic episodes
- ocirculatory collapse
- oincreased urinary excretion of K⁺ and H⁺, causing a hypochloremic alkalosis
- Hypokalemia
- Hypomagnesemia
- Hypocalcemia
- المرعلى السمح > Ototoxicity

- Contraindications to the use of loop diuretics :
- hypersensitivity to sulfonamides
- ❖ Anuria urine less than 100 ml

- Drug interactions :
- >Aminoglycosides antibiotic
- **≻**Anticoagulants

مثل الـdigoxin وهو دوا بنعطى في حالة الـHF وبتعمد في شغلة على وجود الصوديوم

- > digitalis glycosides (increased digitalis-induced arrhythmias),
- propranolol (increased plasma levels of propranolol)
- حواء للسكري Sulfonylureas
- **►**NSAIDs

Therapeutic Uses

- Acute pulmonary edema -> نيست مشاكل بالقلت أو infection أو المرئيس المستاكل بالقلت أو المرئيس المستاكل المستاكل بالقلت أو المرئيس المستاكل المست
- chronic congestive heart failure
 edema and ascites of liver cirrhosis
- HTN (not first choice) however in ER

THIAZIDE AND THIAZIDELIKE DIURETICS

اله moderate effect، وهو الأكثر استخدامًا للاستعمال اليومي وحكينا عنه من قبل كيف بنستخدمه بـcombination نفس الشبي بعملوا excretion of Na,Cl بس في الـDCT لهيك تأثيرهم متوسط

- 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
- the proximal tubule may represent a secondary site of action
- increase Na⁺ and Cl⁻ excretion

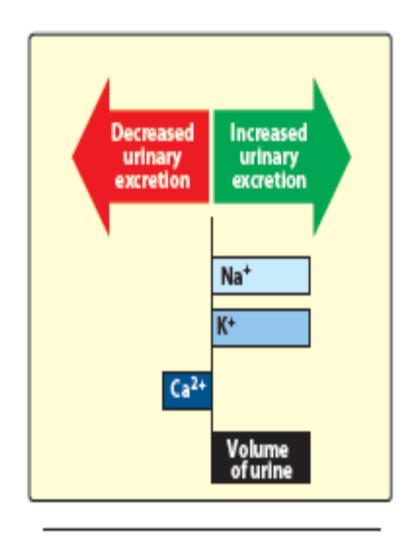


Figure 22.4
Relative changes in the composition of urine induced by thiazide diuretics.

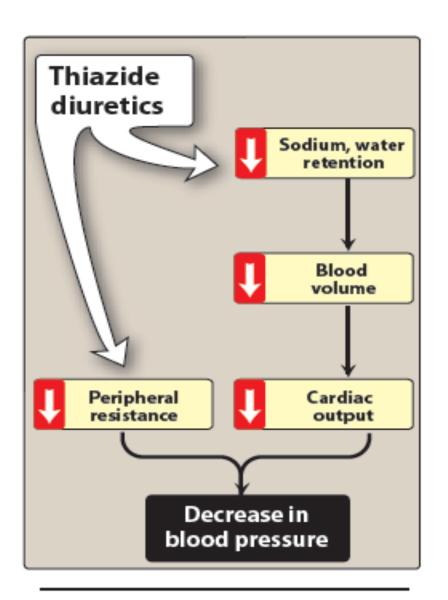


Figure 19.8
Actions of thiazide diuretics.

- thiazides are only moderately efficacious, because approximately 90% of the filtered Na⁺ load is reabsorbed before reaching the DCT
- increase the excretion of K⁺

Thiazide core structure



Adverse effects:

- extracellular volume depletion
- Hypotension
- hypokalemia
- hyponatremia
- hypochloremia
- metabolic alkalosis Thiazides cause alkalosis due to increase excretion of chloride in proportion to bicarbonate.
- Hypomagnesemia
- hypercalcemia
- hyperuricemia

Therapeutic Uses

- Edema : (CHF, RF, Liver cirrhosis)
- 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 (<u>ALLHAT Officers and Coordinators for the ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group, 2002</u>) 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)

بشتغل على عملية تبادل بحيث بطلع الصوديوم NA من الجسم وبدخل البوتاسيوم، فالبتالي أكيد رح يرفع نسبة البوتاسيوم بالجسم فلازم نكون حذرين باستخدامهم لأنه ممكن توقف عضلة القلب, وهو low ceiling diuretic

K+-SPARING DIURETICS

- 15 প্র প্রভাগ Inhibitors of renal epithelial Na+ channels > DCT, collecting duct
 - <u>Triamterene</u> and <u>Amiloride</u> 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*.

Adverse Effects

 The most dangerous adverse effect of Na⁺-channel inhibitors is hyperkalemia, therefore contraindicated:

* with NSAIDs life threatening is so was

- With K supplement, or ACEIs,
 - nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and headache
 - CNS, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, dermatological

tiredness or weakness. a feeling of numbness or tingling. trouble breathing. chest pain. palpitations or irregular heartbeats.

Therapeutic Uses

- seldom are used as sole agents المتيرها صنعيف ونادرًا ما تستخدم كالها
- 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

بمنع ارتباط الألدوستيرون بالـreceptor فبقلل الضغط عن طريق تقليل الصوديوم ولكنه برفع البوتاسيوم

- Mineralocorticoids cause retention of salt and water and increase the excretion of K⁺ and H⁺ by binding to specific mineralocorticoid receptors
- 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 <u>distal convuluted tubules</u> and the <u>collecting duct</u>
- 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.

increased sodium absorption from urine and increased potassium وظيفته يعمل aldosterone وهيك بزيد الـBV &BP

هم بشتغلوا على الـcollecting duct، فلما أعطي دوا زي spirolactone اللي هو collecting duct الو المحافظة المحتجدة المحافظة المحتجدة المحتجدة

- 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 half-life of approximately 16.5 hours, which prolongs the biological effects of spironolactone

 SE الجسم وبزيد تأثيره بس كمان بزيد الـSE الجسم وبزيد تأثيره بس كمان بزيد الـSE الجسم وبزيد تأثيره بس
- ❖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.

تركيبته مشابهة لتركيبة الهرمون الأنثوي progesterone وهذا بأدي لـSE غريبة بحسب الـsender عند الـsynecomastia بعمل jmpotence (تثدي) عند الـeep of voice بعمل males التحصير menstrual irregularities وكمان خشونة في الصوت deep of voice و hirstuism

طوروه عن طريق تقليل هاي الأعراض الجانبية بتغيير الـepoxide group in eplerenone، بس سعره note that the eplerenone is 10 folds more expensive

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

 ↑ S
 - *gynecomastia, impotence, decreased libido, hirsutism, deepening of the voice

Therapeutic Uses

- spironolactone often is coadministered with thiazide or loop diuretics in the treatment of edema and hypertension
- treatment of primary hyperaldosteronism بس بهاي الحالة بستخدمه لحاله
- hepatic cirrhosis
- heart failure

Hepatic cirrhosis causes ascites which is abdominal swelling. Controlled studies found that Spironolactone is stronger than loop diuretics in this case.



INHIBITORS OF CARBONIC ANHYDRASE

- Acetazolamide is the prototype of a class of agents
- <u>Proximal tubular epithelial cells</u> are richly endowed with carbonic anhydrase
- Carbonic anhydrase plays a key role in NaHCO₃
 reabsorption and acid secretion.
- In the lumen, H⁺ reacts with filtered HCO_3^{-} to form H_2CO_3 , which decomposes rapidly to CO_2 and water in the presence of carbonic anhydrase (thousands of times)

بشتغلوا على الـproximal convluted tubules، وهاي المنطقة أصلاً الـexcretion فيها قليل مما يعني الأدوية اللي بتشتغل عليها تأثيرها قليل بثبط انزيم اسمه carbonic anhydrase وهو بعمل inhibition للـreabsorption of Na and urine excretion of Na and urine

 Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors potently inhibit both the membrane-bound and cytoplasmic forms of carbonic anhydrase, resulting in nearly complete abolition of NaHCO₃ reabsorption in the proximal tubule.

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

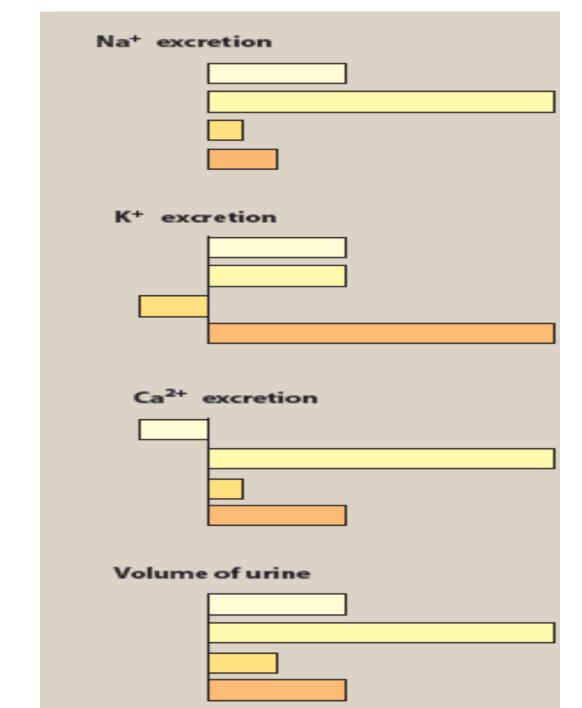
Adverse Effects

- Mainly well tolerated (RBC, WBC, Platelets) -1, == inpl
- may cause bone marrow depression, skin toxicity,
- metabolic or respiratory acidosis

Acidosis leads to increase respiratory rate. COPD patients cannot cope with this acidosis so acetazolamide is contraindicated with COPD

Therapeutic Uses

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



KEY

Thiazide diuretics

K+-sparing diuretics

Loop diuretics

Acetazolamide

OSMOTIC DIURETICS

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

هي نفسها الـosmosis, انتقال المي من التركيز الأعلى للأقل والعكس بالنسبة لتركيز الأملاح، كثير قوية لهيك استخدامها جدًا محدود، بشكل أساسي في حالات الـedema حتى أتخلص منها بسرعة

اللي بميزها إنها بتتركز في loop of henle فما بطلع من الـtissue للدم بل بروح للـkidney وبصيرله excretion

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 الأنه بزيد كسية العامالة



- √ inhibit renin release
- √ These effects increase RBF
- ✓ increase in renal medullary blood flow
- ✓ removes NaCl and urea from the renal medulla

هذا بساعدها تستهدف أماكن صعب تطلع منها سوائل الedema اللي ما بتقدر الـloop Such as: brain, CSF, Eye in glaucoma-mannitol eye drop توصللها, diuretics

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

- elevation of blood ammonia levels المفترة لحوالية elevation of blood ammonia levels

Therapeutic Uses

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

OTHER VASODILATORS في كثير أنواع من الـVD وبطبيعة الحال كلهم بقللوا الضغط

α-ADRENOCEPTOR ANTAGONISTS

There are two main types of α -adrenoceptor, $\alpha 1$ - and $\alpha 2$. $\alpha 1$ -

Adrenoceptor antagonists lower blood pressure ~1 -> Vaso cons K, blocker -> Vasochilation

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 $\alpha 1$ -blocker, but its use is limited by severe postural hypotension, especially following the first dose. It has a short elimination half-life.

بهاي الحالة بتكون severe postural hypotension لذلك قل استخدامه هو والـdoxazosin

صارت تستخدم في حالات ما قبل العملية في لے phaeochromocytoma أكثر من علاج HTN

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,
Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment
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.

X

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 α -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 ⁺ -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- <mark>Methyld</mark> opa	Taken up by noradrenergic nerve terminals and converted to α -methylnoradrenaline, which is released as a false transmitter. This acts centrally as an α_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