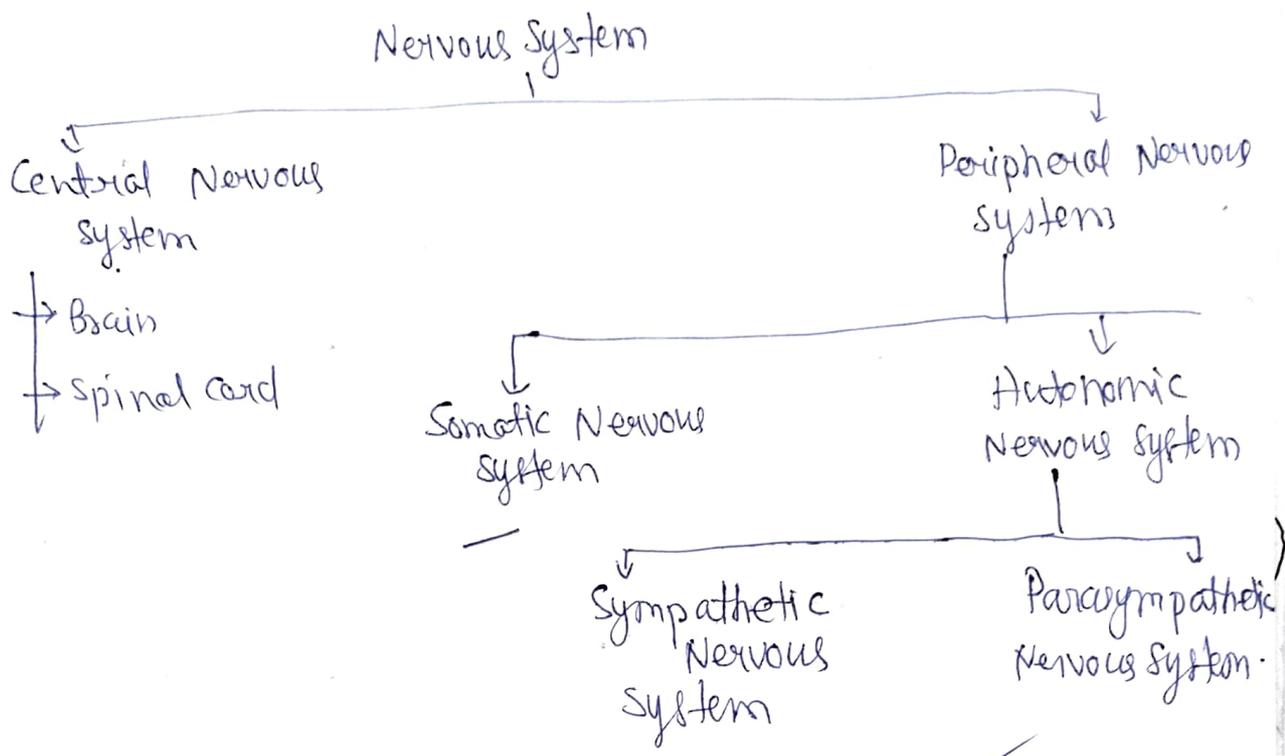


Unit - IV Pharmacology of drugs acting on P.N.S.



Organization and function of ANS

ANS - It involves involuntary responses (movement) of our body.

• It further divided into two parts -

- ① Sympathetic N.S.
- ② Parasympathetic N.S.

① Sympathetic Nervous System - (Adrenaline)  
 ↳ fight / flight situation (Abnormal)

• Activate in condition of 3F - Fear, fight, flight

⇒ Those system which active in abnormal situation of body and maintain the body.

eg. increase heart rate, decrease digestion rate etc.

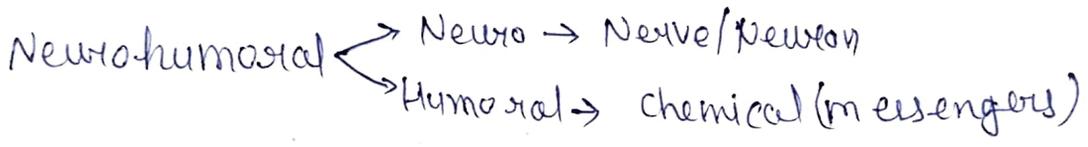
## ② Parasympathetic Nervous System - (Acetylcholine)

- Rest & Digest condition.

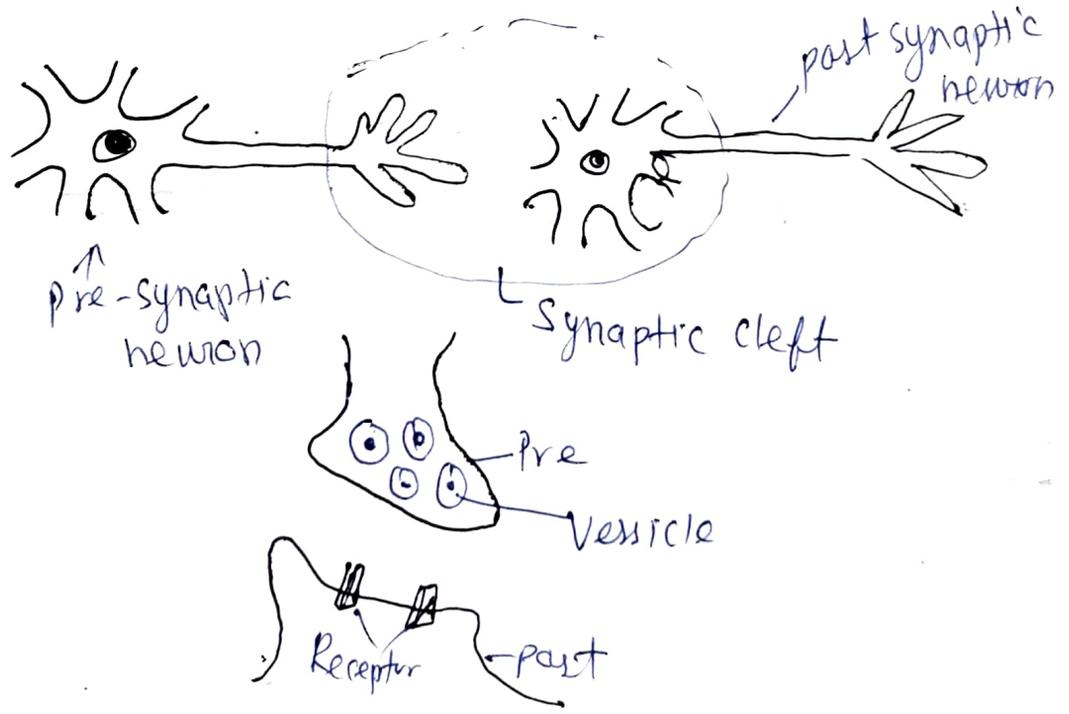
- In this our body come back to normal condition after any abnormal situation.
- Also help to maintain the homeostasis of body.

eg - increase digestion rate and normal heart rate etc.

## Neurohumoral Transmission



⇒ It is the process of transfer of any message or signal from one neuron to another neuron with the help of any chemical messengers (neurotransmitter, hormones).



⇒ For this purpose, firstly neurotransmitter is synthesized and stored in vesicles in nerve terminals.

• Now, Neurohumoral transmission involves following steps -

- (i) Impulse conduction
- (ii) Transmitter release
- (iii) Transmitter action on post-junctional membrane
- (iv) Post junctional activity
- (v) Termination of transmitter action.

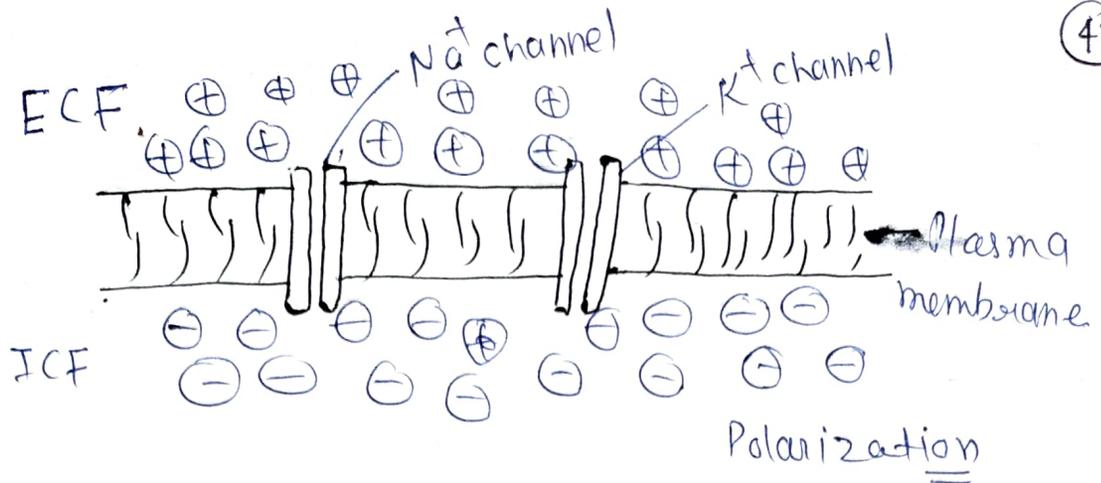
① Impulse conduction -

In this step, firstly impulse is generated by process of "Action potential."

⇒ At resting state (when nerve impulse is not transmitted from neuron), Resting transmembrane potential is -70 mV.

• Na<sup>+</sup> ion have high concentration at outside the cell and move +ve charge at outside the plasma membrane.

• K<sup>+</sup> ion have high conc<sup>n</sup> at inside the cell and move -ve charge at inside the plasma membrane.



- Resting membrane potential  $\rightarrow$   $-70\text{ mV}$ .

• Depolarization - When any kind of stimulus detected then it changes the Resting membrane potential to less potential (increase)

• If stimulus changes resting potential ( $-70\text{ mV}$ ) to ( $-55\text{ mV}$ ) then it is called threshold potential

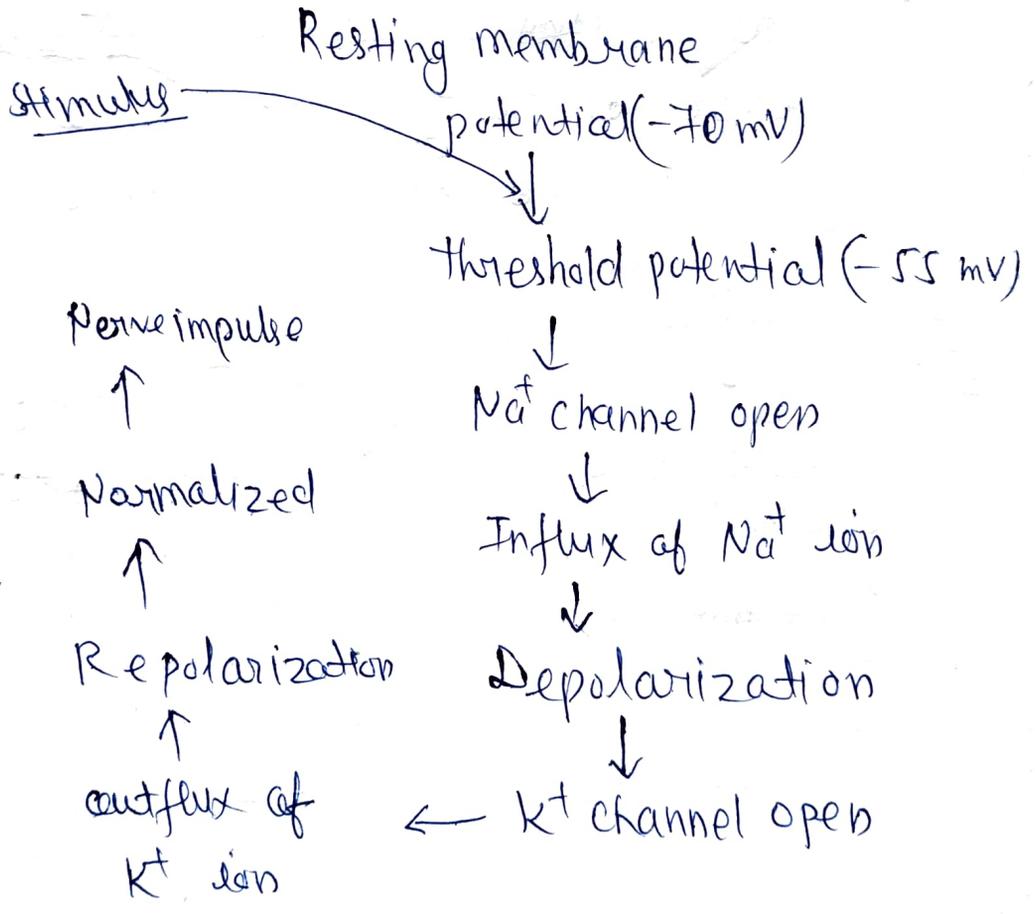
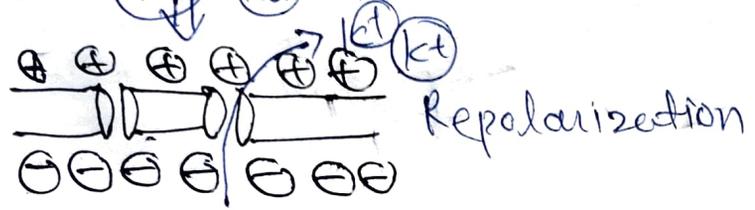
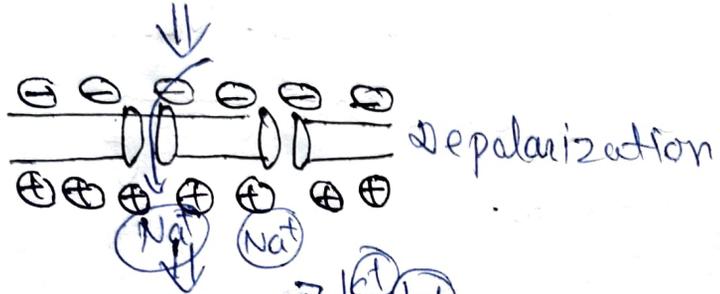
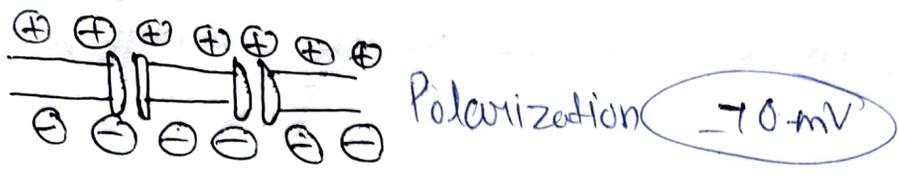
• Threshold potential open  $\text{Na}^+$  ion channel, so  $\text{Na}^+$  ion enters inside the cell and  $-ve$  at outside the cell and it is called as depolarization.

$\Rightarrow$  Repolarization - Stimulus continues increase the potential, now when potential reach at ( $+20\text{ mV}$  to  $+30\text{ mV}$ ) it open  $\text{K}^+$  ion channel and  $\text{K}^+$  move outside the cells.

$\Rightarrow$  The ionic distribution is normalized during the refractory period by the activation of  $\text{Na}^+ \cdot \text{K}^+$  pump.

★ The cycle of depolarization and repolarization is called Action potential.

• These action potential works 100 times in one second.



(ii) Transmitter release -

The transmitter (excitatory or inhibitory) is stored in prejunctional nerve ending within 'synaptic vesicles'.

Nerve impulse promotes fusion of vesicular and axonal membranes through  $Ca^{2+}$  entry which fluidizes membranes.

→ This promotes exocytosis (transmitter release from vesicle) in synaptic cleft.

(iii) Transmitter action on postjunctional membrane -

The transmitter release and attached with specific receptors on postjunctional membrane and depending on nature it induce two types

of Action

EPSP

(Excitatory post-synaptic potential)

increase in permeability to all cation  $\rightarrow Na^+$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  influx cause depolarization followed by  $K^+$  efflux

↓  
nerve impulse, contraction in muscle, secretion in glands.

IPSP

(Inhibitory post-synaptic potential)

if inhibitory neurotransmitter act increase in permeability to small ion or anion.  $K^+$  &  $Cl^-$  moves in, resulting hyperpolarization

↓  
Resist depolarization stimulus

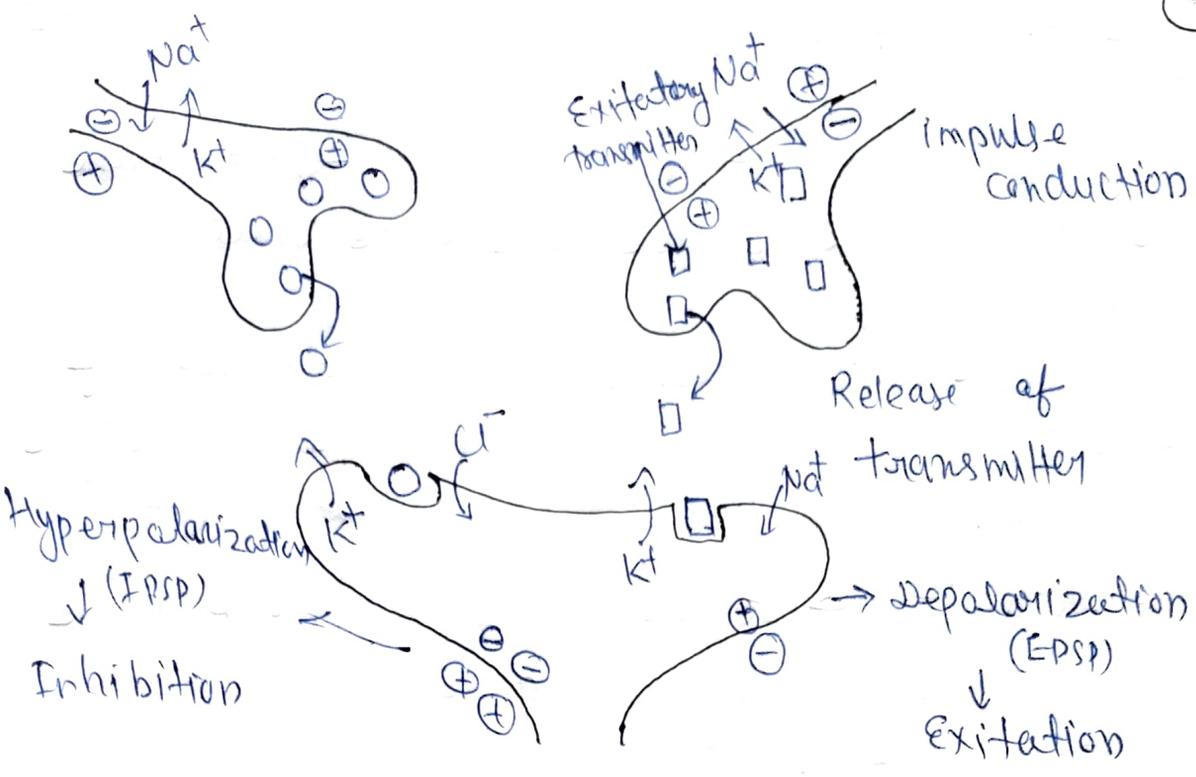


Fig. Diagrammatic representation of steps in excitatory and inhibitory neurohumoral transmission.

iv) Postjunctional activity -

A superthreshold EPSP generates a propagated postjunctional activity which result in nerve impulse conduction (in muscle) or secretion (in gland).

- An IPSP stabilizes the postjunctional membrane and resist depolarization stimuli.

v) Termination of transmitter action -

Neurotransmitter is degraded locally or any other mechanisms.

- It can also be degraded by enzymatic action.
- eg- Acetylcholine degraded by cholinesterase.

# Co-transmission

Peripheral and central nervous system release more than one active substance when stimulated.

→ Definition → Co-transmission is the release of several types of neurotransmitter from a single nerve terminal.

⇒ Co-transmitter → It is a chemical substance that is released along with primary neurotransmitter.

~~Eg~~ - In autonomic nervous system

⇒ Primary neurotransmitter → Ach, NA

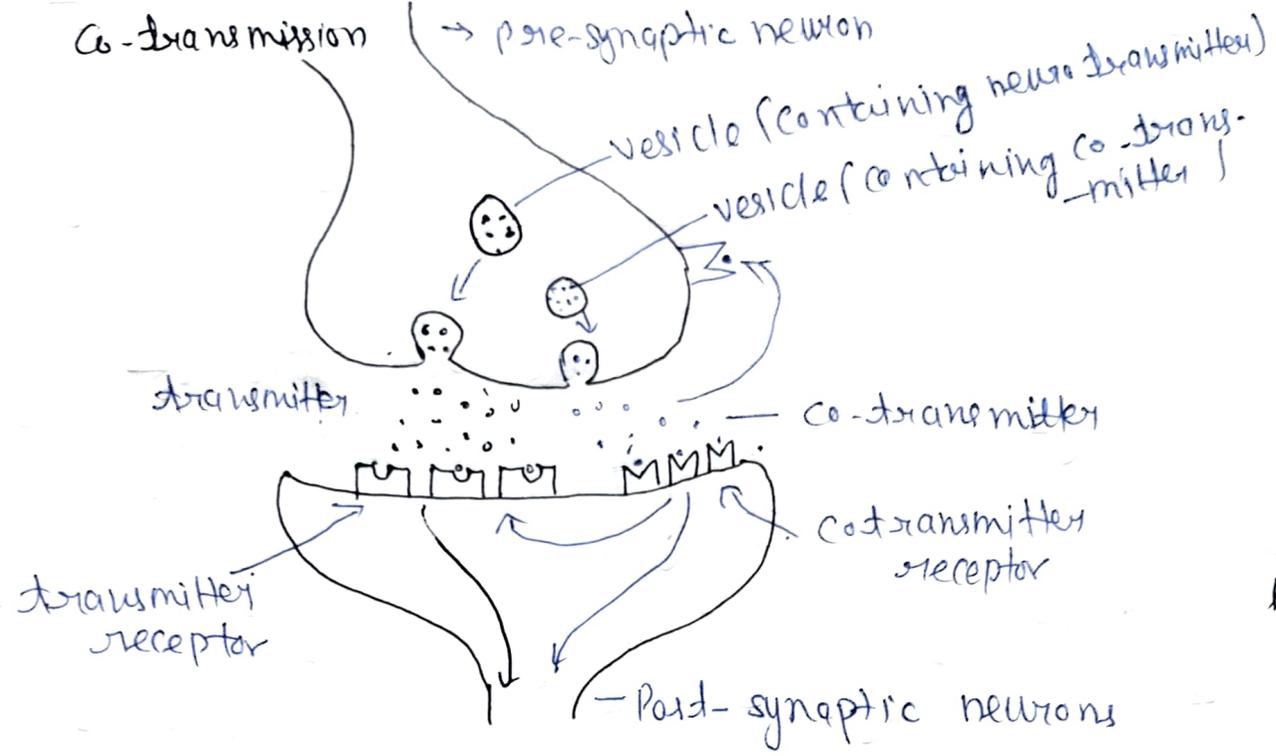
Co-transmitter are → Purines - ATP, Adenosine  
 Peptides → Vaso intestinal Peptide (VIP)  
 Nitric oxide  
 Prostaglandins (PG)

\* On release of Acetylcholine (Ach), Glutamate, Vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), Co-transmitter release.

⇒ Co-transmitter is stored with primary transmitter vesicle or in different (separate) vesicle.

Function - (i) enhance or regulate neurotransmitter  
 (ii) modulate post-synaptic sensitivity of primary neurotransmitter

(ii) serve as a alternate to primary neurotransmitter.



### Classification of Neurotransmitter -

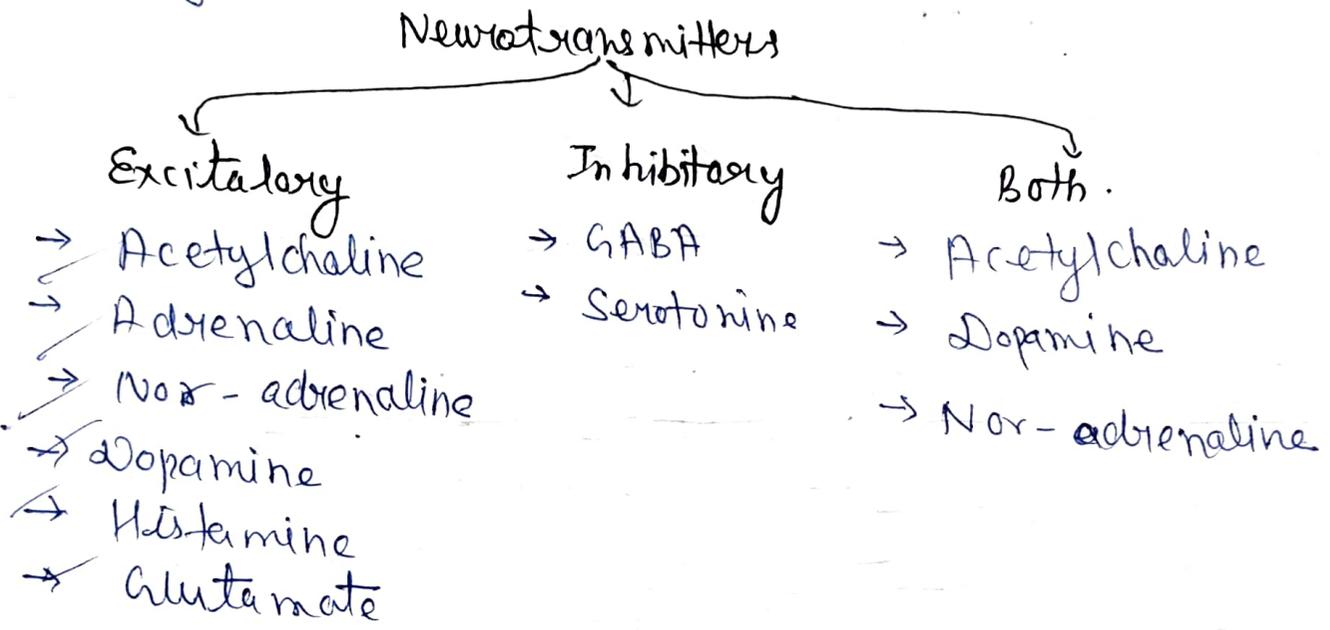
- Neurotransmitter - These are chemical messenger that transmit signal from a neuron to a target cell across a synapse.
- target cells may be a other neuron or some other kind of cell such as muscles or glands.
- These are stored into synaptic vesicle in pre-synaptic neurons.



→ They can be classified as either excitatory or inhibitory.

- **Excitatory** - Active receptor on post-synaptic membrane and enhance the effect of the action potential (Increase activity).
- **Inhibitory** - decrease the activity of transmitter or receptor (decrease the effect of the action potential).

→ some neurotransmitter show both type of activity -



Following major neurotransmitter with their functions -

- **Acetylcholine** - (Learning) → Involved in thought, learning and memory. It activate muscle contraction in the body and is also associated with attention and awakening.
- **Adrenaline** - (fight or flight) - It is primarily released by the adrenal gland, but some neurons may secrete it as a

- neurotransmitter.
- It is produced in stressful situation, increase heart rate and blood flow.
- leading to physical boost and heightened awareness.
- Nor-adrenaline (concentration) - It improve attention and responding action in the brain.
- contracts blood vessels ~~to~~ increasing and vessels.
- Dopamine (pleasure) - feeling of pleasure, also addition, movement and motivational.
- people's repeat behaviours lead to dopamine release.
- Serotonin (mood) - contributes to well beings and happiness.
- Helps sleep cycle and digestive system regulation.
- GABA (Calming) - Calm firing nerves in the CNS.
- High level, → improve focus.
- Low level → cause anxiety
- Also contributes to motor control and vision.
- Histamine - Released by mast cells.
- involves in local immune responses.
- contraction of smooth muscle tissue of the lungs, uterus and stomach.

• Glutamate (memory) - Involved in learning and memory. It regulates development and creation of nerve contacts.

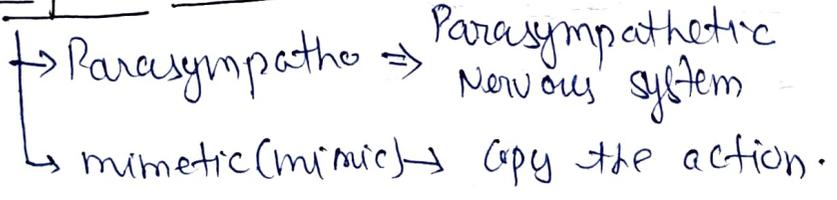
⇒ Drug acting on Autonomic Nervous System

These all are those drugs which act on Autonomic nervous system and produce effect on it.

- Adrenergic drugs [sympathomimetics]
  - Antiadrenergic drugs [sympatholytics]
  - Cholinergic drugs [Parasympathomimetics]
  - Anti-cholinergic drugs [Parasympatholytics]
- } Sympathetic Nervous system
- } Parasympathetic Nervous system

Cholinergic Drugs

Parasympathomimetics



These are drugs which produce similar action to that of Ach, either by directly interacting with cholinergic receptors (cholinergic agonists) or by increasing availability of Ach at these sites.



## Pharmacological Action

### A. Muscarinic Actions (M<sub>2</sub> receptor)

(i) Heart - Ach hyperpolarizes the SA ~~node~~ nodal cells and decreases their rate of diastolic depolarization.

As a result, rate of impulse generation is reduced - bradycardia occurs.

(ii) Eye - contraction of circular muscle of iris causes miosis.

• contraction of ciliary muscle causing spasm of accommodation, increased aqueous outflow facility.

(iii) Glands - Secretion of glands is increased e.g. Sweating, salivation, lacrimation, increased tracheo-bronchial and gastric secretion.

• no effect on ~~pancr~~ pancreatic & intestinal gland

• no effect on secretion of milk and bile juice.

(iv) Blood vessels - All blood vessels are dilated.

→ Fall in BP. M<sub>3</sub> receptor are present on vascular endothelial cells.

### B. Nicotinic Action -

(i) Skeletal muscles - Ach on the muscle endplate cause contraction of the fibre.

(ii) Autonomic ganglia - Both sympathetic & parasympathetic ganglia are stimulated. High doses of Ach given after atropine cause tachycardia and rise in

BP.

CNS Action:-

ACh injected i.v. does not penetrate blood-brain-barrier and no central effects are seen.

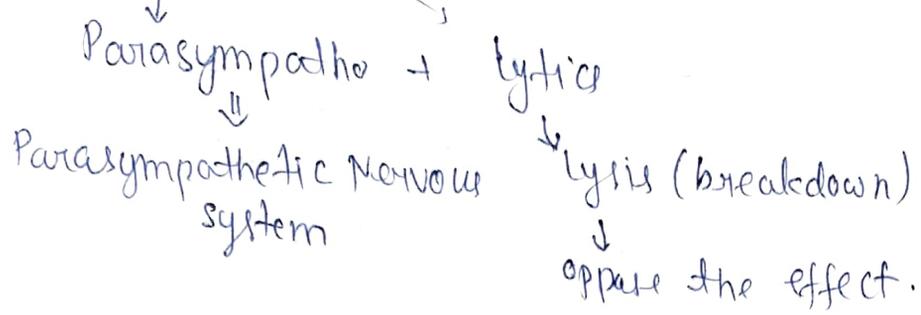
Therapeutic uses-

- Glucoma (physostigmine, pilocarpine)
- Myasthenia gravis (Neostigmine)
- Paralytic ileus and post operative urine retention (Bethanichol, carbachol)
- Atropin poisoning (Physostigmine)
- Curare poisoning - neuromuscular junction block (Neostigmine)
- Alzheimer's disease (Cholinesterase inhibitor)

Adverse effects -

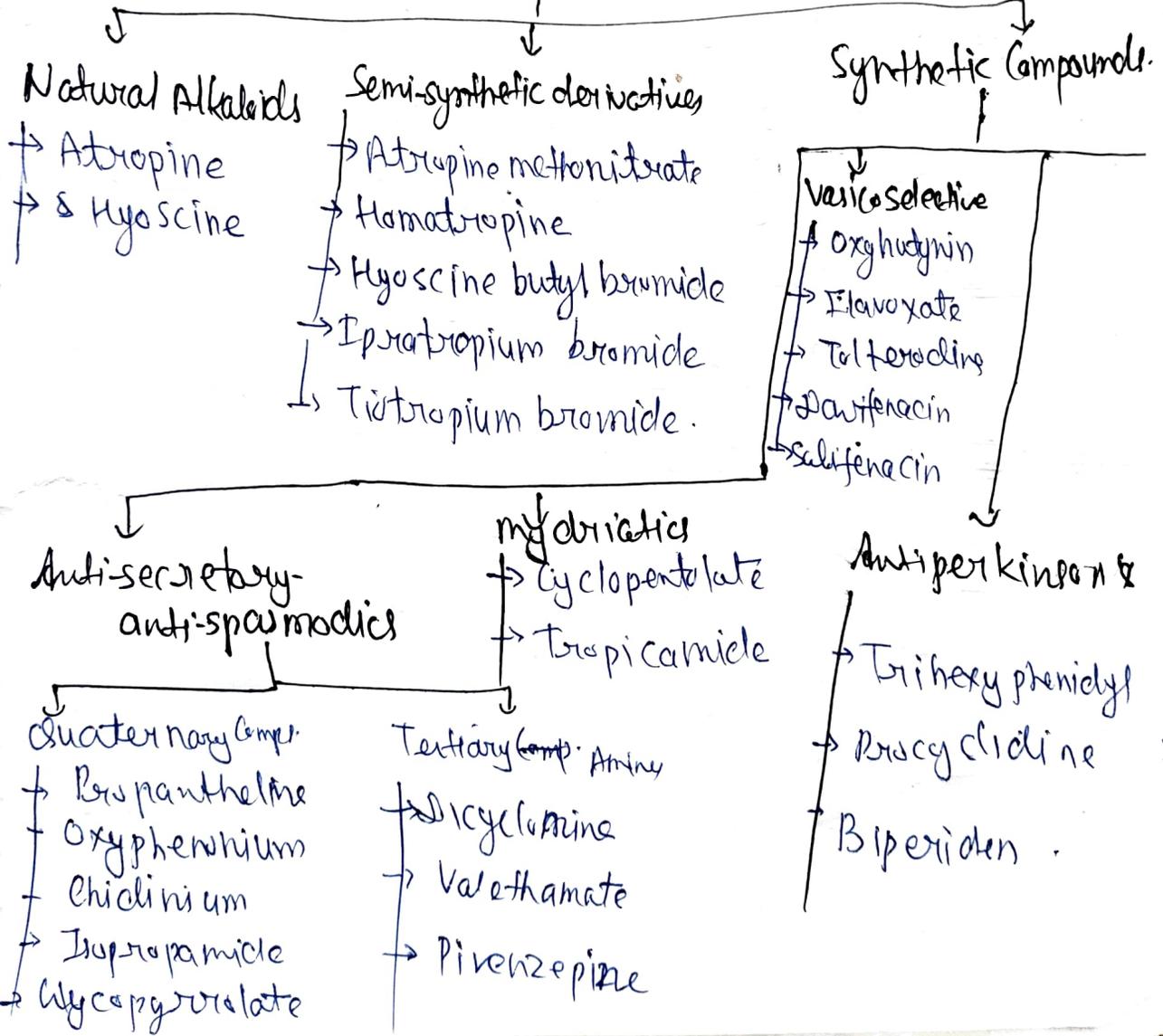
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Bradycardia (Hypotension)
- Cause Asthma.

# Parasympatholytics - (Anti-cholinergic drugs)



• These are those drugs which inhibit the effect of acetylcholine or parasympathomimetics by blocking the cholinergic receptors.

## Anticholinergic Drugs (muscarinic antagonists, Atropinic drugs, Parasympatholytics)



Pharmacological Action (Atropine)

- (i) CNS - Atropine stimulates many medullary centres - vagal, respiratory, vasomotor.
  - It depresses vestibular excitation and has anti-motion sickness property.
- (ii) Heart - Causes tachycardia on the heart, due to blockade of M<sub>2</sub> receptors on the SA node.
- (iii) Eye - the autonomic control of iris muscles and action of mydriatics as well as miotics.
- (iv) Smooth muscles - All visceral smooth muscles that receive parasympathetic motor innervation are relaxed by atropine (M<sub>3</sub> receptor).
- (v) Glands - Atropine markedly decreases sweat, salivary, tracheobronchial and lacrimal secretion.

- Use -
- 1. As antisecretory
    - a) Preanaesthetic medication
    - b) Peptic ulcer
    - 2. Pulmonary embolism

(II) As antispasmodic

(III) Bronchial asthma, asthmatic bronchitis,

~~Cost~~

(IV) As mydriatic and cycloplegic

For central action -

- ① Parkinsonism
- ② motion sickness.

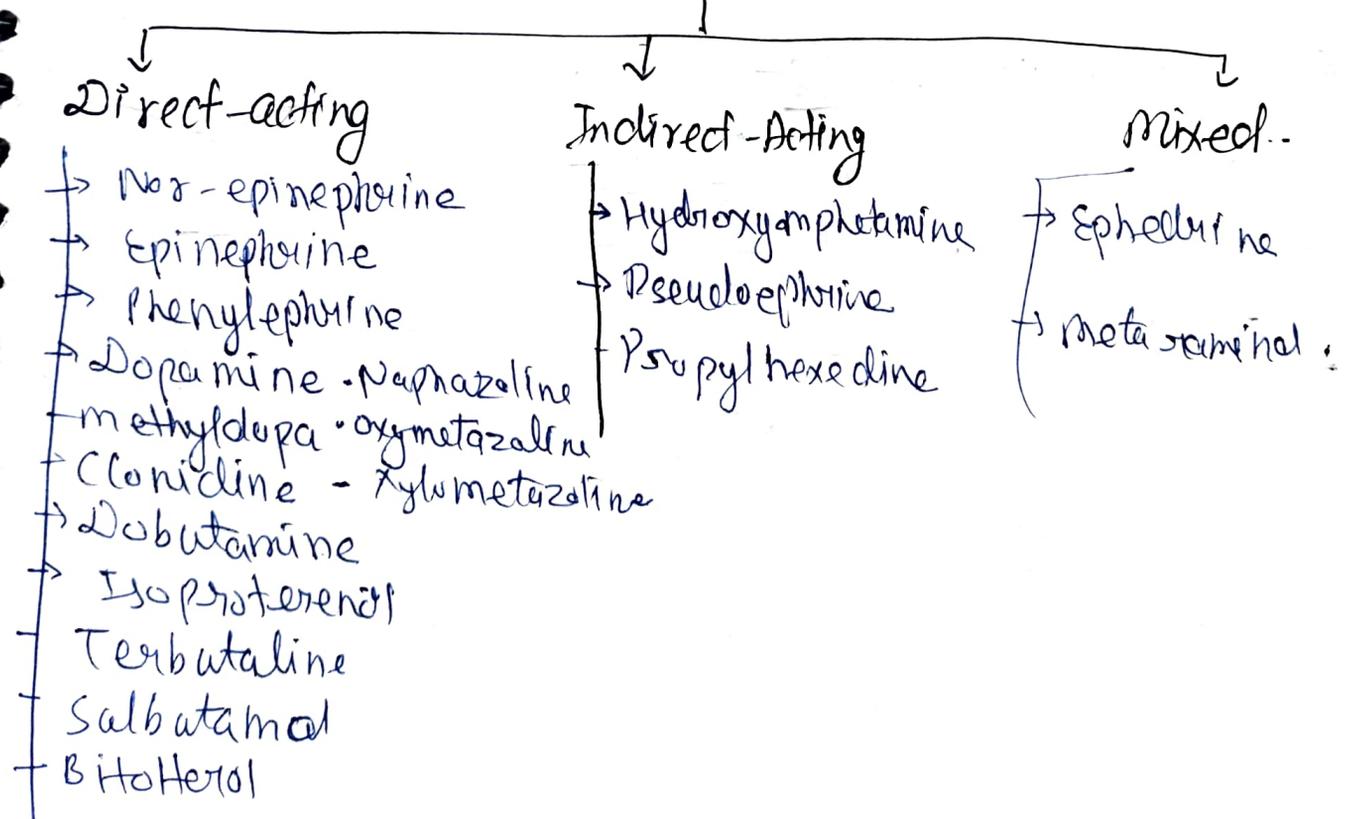
⇒ Adverse effects -

- Dry mouth, difficulty in swallowing and talking.
- dry, flushed and hot skin (face & neck), fever, difficulty in micturition, decreased bowel sounds.

## Adrenergic System (Sympathomimetic drugs)

- These are those chemical agents or drugs which copy the action of sympathetic nervous system.
- ⇒ These drugs bind with adrenergic receptors ( $\alpha$  &  $\beta$ ) and give their action.

### Adrenergic Agonists



# Pharmacological Action

- ① Heart - increase heart rate.
  - Its increasing the slope of diastolic depolarization of SA node.
- ② Blood vessel - Both vasoconstriction and vasodilation can occur depending on the drug, its dose and vascular bed.
- ③ Respiration - Adrenaline (Ad) and isoprenaline are potent bronchodilators.
- ④ Eye - Mydriasis occurs due to contraction of radial muscles of iris.
- ⑤ Urinary tract
  - relaxation of urinary bladder ( $\beta_2$ ) and closure of sphincter ( $\alpha$ ).

## ⇒ Therapeutic effects -

- ⇒ Bronchial asthma (salbutamol)
- Nasal decongestant
- as a cardiac stimulant in case of sudden cardiac arrest.

## Adverse effect -

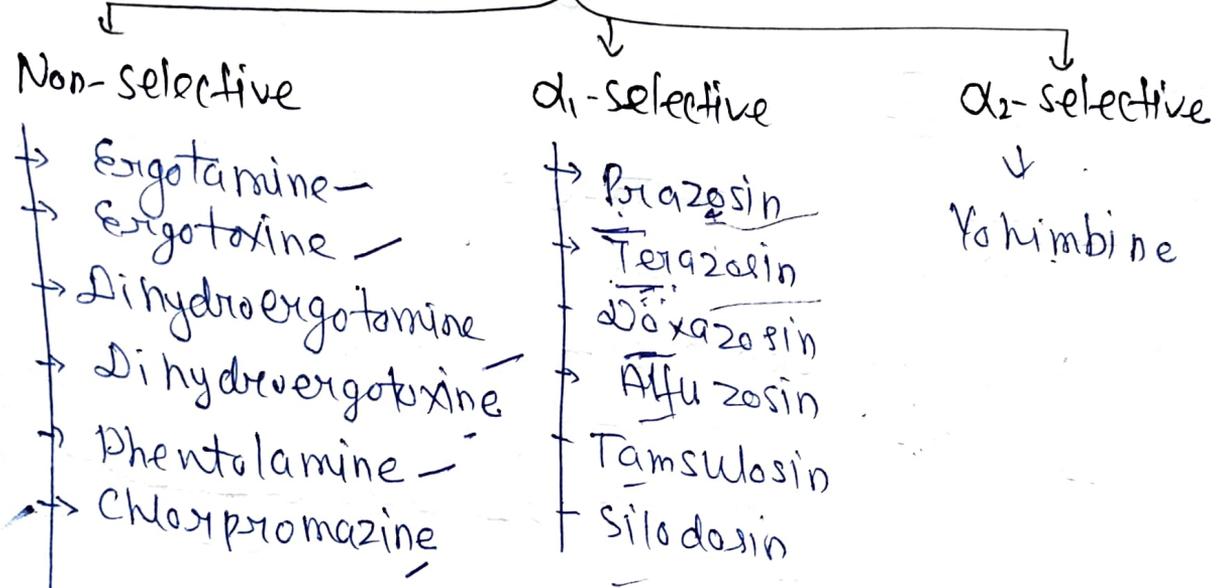
- Restlessness, headache, anxiety, tremor, palpitation, BP  $\uparrow$ ,

Those drugs which produce the opposite effect of sympathomimetic system.

- also known as -
- Anti-adrenergic drugs
  - Adrenergic Antagonists
  - Adrenergic blockers.

Pharmacological Action:

$\alpha$ -Receptor Antagonists



Pharmacological Action

$\alpha$ -Receptor Antagonists -

- 1) B.P. - cardiac output reduce  $\rightarrow$  fall in BP.
- 2) Nose - Nasal stuffiness occurs due to blockage of a receptors in nasal blood vessel.

# Sympatholytic Agents (Anti-Adrenergic drugs) (57)

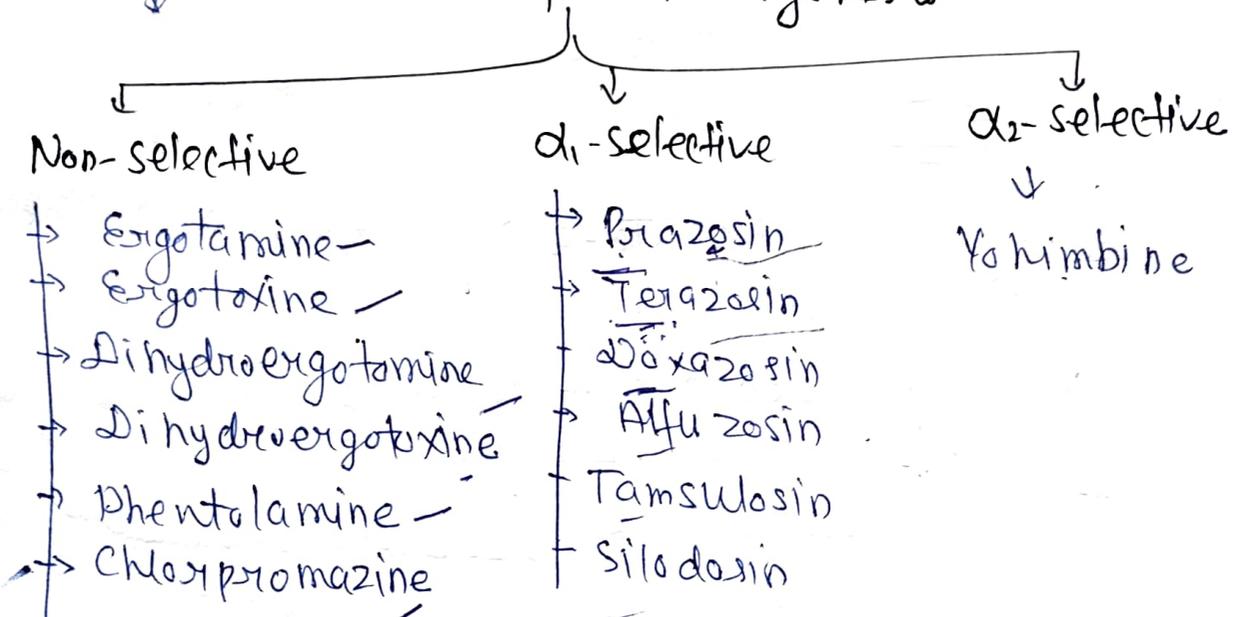
Those drugs which produce the opposite effect of sympathomimetic system.

- also known as -
- Anti-adrenergic drugs
  - Adrenergic Antagonist
  - Adrenergic blockers.

## Pharmacological Action:



### $\alpha$ -Receptor Antagonists



## Pharmacological Action

### $\alpha$ -Receptor Antagonists -

- ① B.P. - cardiac output reduce  $\rightarrow$  fall in BP.
- ② Nose - Nasal stuffiness occurs due to blockage of a receptors in nasal blood vessel.

③ GIT - loose motion may occur due to increased intestinal motility by partial inhibition of relaxant sympathetic influences.

④ Kidney - reduce renal blood flow.

Use

- Hypertension ( $\alpha_1$ )
- Congestive heart failure ( $\alpha$  &  $\beta$ )
- Pheochromocytoma  $\rightarrow$  catecholamine secreting  $\uparrow$  ( $\alpha_1$  &  $\alpha_2$ )

Adverse effects

- ① Cardiovascular side effects -  $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$  hypotension, orthostatic, heart palpitations.
- ② Genitourinary side effect  $\uparrow$  micturition - edema
- ③ weakness, fatigue, ~~the~~ psychiatric depression and dry mouth.

$\beta$  - Receptor Antagonist

$\beta_1$  - selective

- Non-selective - ( $\beta_1$  &  $\beta_2$ )
- Propranolol
  - ~~metoprolol~~
  - Atenolol
  - ~~Betaxolol~~
  - sotalolol
  - Timolol
  - Pindolol
  - Labetalol
- carvedilol

- metoprolol
- Atenolol
- Acebutolol
- Bisoprolol
- Esmolol
- ~~Betaxolol~~

## Pharmacological Action

(59)

- ① Heart - Propranolol decreases force of contraction, heart rate and cardiac output at higher doses.
- ② Blood vessels - Propranolol may increase B.P.
- ③ Skeletal muscle - It decrease exercise by  $\beta_2$  mediated increase in blood flow to the exercising muscles.

### Use - Hypertension

- thyrotoxicosis
- migraine
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Angina pectoris
- congestive heart failure.

## Neuromuscular blocking Agents

Those drugs which are used to block the neuromuscular junction (NMJ) and inhibit the contraction of muscle and cause relaxation of muscles.

- They are also known as skeletal muscle relaxants.

# Peripherally Acting Muscle Relaxants

(skeletal muscle relaxants)

Neuromuscular blocking agents

Direct Acting agents

- Dantrolene sodium ~~Quinine~~
- Quinine

Nondepolarizing (Competitive) blocker

Depolarizing blockers

- Succinyl choline (suxamethonium)
- Decamethonium

Long acting

Intermediate acting

Short acting

- d-Tubocurarine
- Pancuronium
- Doxacurium
- Pipecuronium

- Vecuronium
- Atracurium
- Cisatracurium
- Rocuronium
- Rapacuronium

- Mivacurium

# 1. Non-Depolarizing Blockers -

## Mechanism of Action -

The site of action of both non depolarizing and depolarizing blockers is the end plate of skeletal muscle fibres

↓  
The competitive blockers bind to the nicotinic (Nm) cholinergic receptors at the muscle end plate

↓  
but have no intrinsic activity.

↓  
The Nm receptor have 5 subunits ( $\alpha$  2,  $\beta$ ,  $\epsilon$  or  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ ) which are arranged like a rosette surrounding the  $Na^+$  channel

↓  
The two  $\alpha$  subunits carry two ACh-binding sites; combine with the ACh → opening of  $Na^+$  channel

↓  
Antagonist molecule does not allow conformational changes in the subunits needed for opening the channel

↓  
ACh released from motor nerve ending is not able to combine with its receptors to generate end plate potential (EPP).

↓  
thus reduces the frequency of channel opening

↓  
magnitude of EPP falls below a critical level, it is unable to trigger propagated muscle action potential (MAP)



muscle fails to contract in response to nerve impulse.

② Depolarizing Blockers -

ScH and other depolarizing drugs have affinity to bind the Nm cholinergic receptors.



They depolarize muscle end plates by opening Na<sup>+</sup> channel by entry of Na<sup>+</sup>



Initially produce twitching and few contractions



These drugs do not dissociate rapidly from the receptor and are not hydrolysed by AChE.



They induce prolonged partial depolarization of the region around muscle ~~an~~ end plate



Na<sup>+</sup> channels get inactivated and potential is drops to about -50 mV.



ACh released from motor nerve ending is unable to generate propagated muscle action potential



Flaccid paralysis is the end muscle plate.

# Pharmacological Action :-

- ① Skeletal muscle
  - induced flaccid paralysis.
  - paralyse acc. to this order -  
muscle of face → eye → finger → limb → neck.
  - recovery occur in reverse order.
  
- ② Histamine release-
  - d-TC stimulate release of histamine from mast cells.
  - ⇒ increased respiratory secretion.
  - ⇒ Heparin may also be simultaneously released from mast cells.
  
- ③ Autonomic ganglia - Competitive neuromuscular blockers produce some degree of ganglionic blockade due to Nn receptor present there. d-TC produces maximum effect.

## ⇒ Side effect -

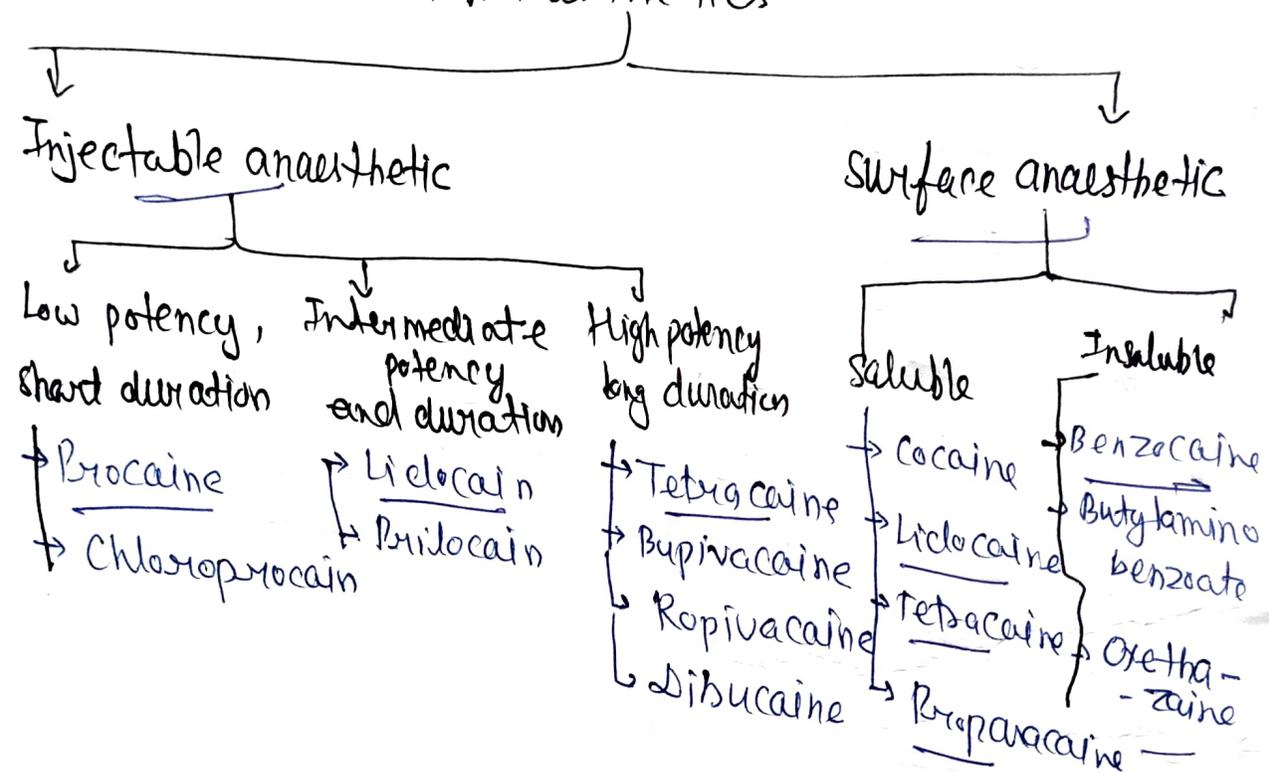
- Hypoxia
- Respiratory paralysis
- Hypotension
- Constipation
- ~~ca~~ Tachycardia etc.

# Local Anaesthetics

These are those drugs which blocks the neuronal conduction at any particular area in body.

- They produce reversible loss of sensation.
- also cause muscular paralysis.

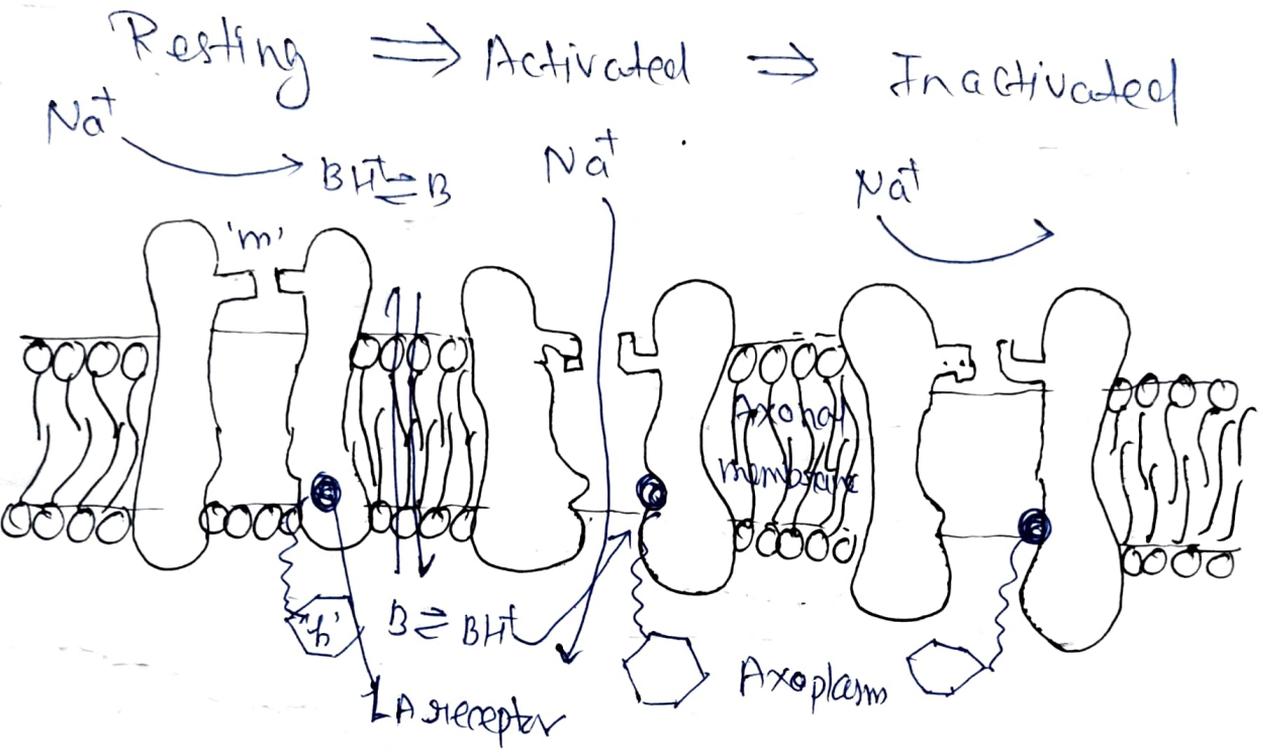
## Local Anaesthetics



## Mechanism of Action :-

Local anaesthetics act at the cell membrane to prevent the generation and the conduction of nerve impulse. This action of local anaesthetics is due to their direct interaction with voltage-gated  $\text{Na}^+$  channels.

⇒ As the anaesthetic action progressively develops in the nerve, the threshold for electrical excitability gradually increases, the rate of rise of the action potential declines, impulse local anaesthetics block conduction by decreasing or preventing the large transient increase in the permeability of excitable membrane to  $Na^+$  that normally is produced by a slight depolarization of membrane.



Local Action

LAs produce minimal local irritant action and block sensory nerve endings, nerve trunks, & neuromuscular junction, ganglionic synaps and receptors. LAs reduce release of acetylcholine from motor nerve endings.

## Systemic Action

(66)

① Central Nervous System - Local anaesthetics may cause CNS stimulation, producing restlessness and tremor that may progress to clonic convulsion.

⇒ Cocaine is a powerful CNS stimulant causing in sequence euphoria → excitement → mental confusion → restlessness → tremor and twitching of muscle → convulsion → unconsciousness → respiratory depression → death in a dose-dependent manner.

② Heart - decrease → electrical excitability  
→ conduction rate  
→ force of conduction or contraction

## Adverse effect

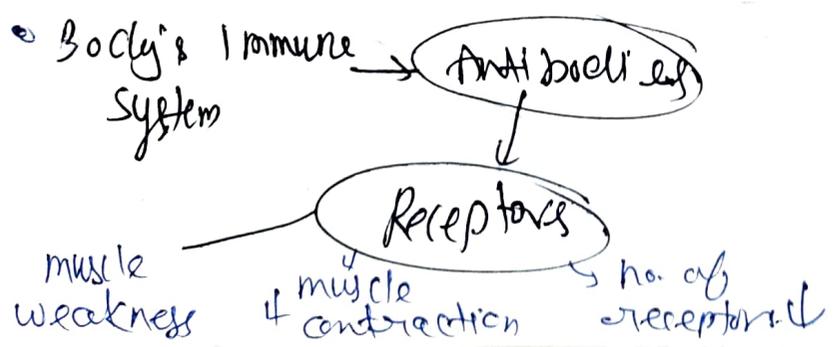
- Hypersensitivity reaction.
- Cardiovascular ~~asthma~~ toxicity.
- bradycardia, hypotension, cardiac arrhythmias
- light-headedness, mental confusion, and respiratory arrest.

# Drugs used in myasthenia gravis & glaucoma

## Myasthenia gravis-

It is an auto-immune disorder.

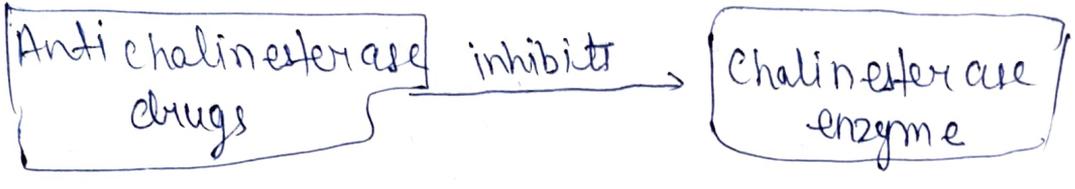
- In this disorder, our immune system produce antibodies to block/destroy the Nicotinic receptor.
- Because, According to immune system these receptors are harmful for body.
- So, these antibodies bind with these receptors and block them.
- now due to blockage of receptor, acetylcholine does not bind on receptor.
- due to this, there are less of communication b/w nerve and muscle.
- Also further decrease the contraction of muscle.
- ~~these antibodies~~
- Also muscle become weak & fatigue.
- these antibodies also destroy or kill the receptor, Due to this there are also decrease in the no. of receptor.



# Treatment → Drugs used

## ① Anticholinesterase -

use these drug to treat myasthenia gravis.



→ Cholinesterase inhibit the acetylcholine by hydrolysis.

- So, when these drugs inhibit this enzyme concentration of Ach-increases.

• By ↑ ach release → can replace antibodies.

eg - Pyridostigmine, Neostigmine etc.

## ② Immunosuppressant -

use these drug to suppress the immune system to decrease the formation of antibodies.

eg Cyclosporin A, methotrexate, Azathioprine, cyclophosphamide etc.

## ③ corticosteroids -

→ Decrease Antibodies

- increase synthesis of nicotinic receptors

### ④ Plasmapheresis - (plasma exchange) -

- It is a technique used to treat myasthenia gravis.

⇒ the plasma of the blood is exchange with substitute plasma, so Antibodies remove from body and immune system does not attack the body's own tissue.

### Drug used in Glaucoma

Glaucoma - A group of eye condition that can cause blindness (loss of vision).

⇒ In this, the nerve connecting the eye to the brain (optic nerves) is damaged due to high eye pressure (intra ocular pressure).

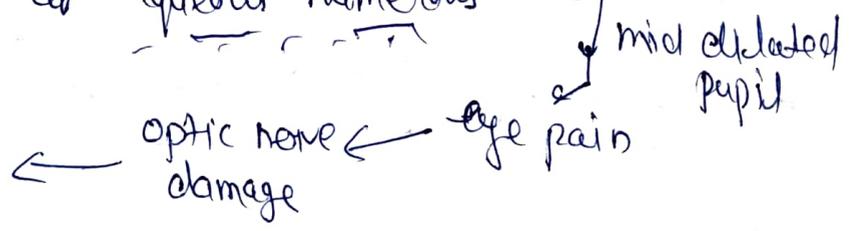
⇒ Intra-ocular pressure is more than 21 mmHg

two main reason -

① ↑ production of aqueous humor

② ↓ drainage of aqueous humor.

Loss of vision (blindness)



Symptoms -

- Eye pain

→ redness of the eye

- mid dilated pupil

⇒ vision loss, blurred vision.

⇒ Risk factor-

- increased pressure in the eye.
- due to genetic factor (family history)
- High blood pressure
- excessive use of liquid diets (eg alcohol)
- excessive use of steroids.

⇒ Diagnosis

- Dilated eye examination.

Type-

- ① Open angle glaucoma
- ② Closed angle glaucoma

① Open angle glaucoma-

- Also known as chronic wide angle glaucoma

Symptoms-

- gradual vision loss
- optic nerve damage
- most common type of glaucoma

② Closed angle glaucoma-

- Also known as acute and narrow angle glaucoma

- flow of Aqueous humour blocked
- It is an emergency condition.

Symptoms - severe pain, Nausea, blurred vision.

Treatment -

By  $\downarrow$  I.O.P (Intraocular pressure)

$\downarrow$  production of aq. humor  $\uparrow$  drainage of aq. humor.

①  $\alpha$ -Adrenergic agonists -  $\downarrow$  I.O.P by increasing the uveoscleral outflow

$\downarrow$  drainage of aq. humor.  
eg. Brimonidine, Apraclonidine, Dipivefrin etc

②  $\beta$ -blocker -  $\downarrow$  I.O.P. by decreasing the formation of aq. humor.

eg. Timolol, Betaxolol, Levobunolol etc

③ Prostaglandin analogues - Same as  $\alpha$ -agonist  
 $\downarrow$  I.O.P. by  $\uparrow$  uveoscleral outflow.

eg- Latanoprost, Travoprost, Bimatoprost etc.

④ Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.  
used orally.  $\downarrow$  aqueous formation by  $\downarrow$  bicarbonate ion in ciliary epithelium.

eg- Acetazolamide, Dorzolamide etc.

⑤. Miotics Agent - ↓ I.o.p. by increasing ciliary 72  
muscle tone (used rarely for glaucoma).

eg - Pilocarpine etc.