

## 2<sup>nd</sup> pharmacology lecture (Adrenergic Agonist)

### **Objectives:**

1. Be familiar to the sympathetic nervous system and its receptors (their locations and functions).
2. Memorize the drugs names, their uses, adverse effects and the receptors they work on.

**NOTE: It's better to take a look to the physiology introduction in order to get a better understanding for this lecture**

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**THIS WORK QUOTED FORM 431 TEAM WORKS.**

## Physiological Introduction to the Sympathetic Nervous System

### Adrenergic Receptors

Adrenergic responses are those activated by "adrenaline"-like compounds. Within the body, Epinephrine (the generic name for adrenaline), and Norepinephrine are the primary adrenergic transmitters. Isoproterenol is an example of an extrinsic drug, which stimulates some adrenergic responses. When the target responses of adrenergic stimulation are examined in various body systems, they fit into several categories of response, as summarized in the following table:

Example Tissue (response)	Effect of Epinephrine	Effect of Norepinephrine	Effect of Isoproterenol	Receptor Type
Skin Blood Vessel (constriction)	++	++	0	Alpha-1
Heart (tachycardia)	++++	++++	+++++	Beta-1
Lung Bronchiols (dilation)	++++	0	+++++	Beta-2

These diverse responses to adrenergic stimulation results from the activity of two different classes of adrenergic receptor, named **Alpha** and **Beta** by Ahlquist in 1948 on the basis of their pharmacology. Each of these classes is further subdivided into subclasses.

### *Alpha Receptors*

- Epinephrine (E) and norepinephrine stimulate about equally well, and both are much more effective than isoproterenol (I).  $E \geq NE \gg I$ .
- Selectively stimulated by Phenylephrine.
- Selectively blocked by Phentolamine and Phenoxybenzamine.
- Two subclasses of alpha receptor have since been identified:

## **Alpha1**

- Predominant form of alpha-receptor in the body.
- Found primarily in the smooth muscles of arterioles, eye, gut, skin, veins, etc., as well as in some other cell types (like salivary glands).
- Usually causes contraction of smooth muscle cells.

## **Alpha2**

- Found at pre-synaptic terminals of adrenergic nerves.
- Functions as an autoreceptor. If stimulated, it decreases the subsequent release of transmitter.

## **Beta Receptors**

- Isoproterenol stimulates best, epinephrine is also effective, and norepinephrine is often weaker.  $I > E \geq NE$ .
- Blocked by propranolol.
- Several subclasses of beta receptor have been identified on the basis of their detailed pharmacology:

### **Beta1**

- Found in heart muscle, and in the kidney.
- Causes increased heart rate and contractility.
- Promotes release of renin from the kidney.
- EPI and NE are about equally effective in their ability to stimulate beta1 receptors.

## Beta2

Found in smooth muscle that relaxes upon stimulation, and in metabolic tissues.

Causes:

- Decrease in gastrointestinal motility.
- Bronchodilation.
- Vasodilation in skeletal and cardiac muscle.
- Glycogenolysis in the liver.

EPI is much more effective than NE. EPI can also stimulate beta2 receptors at lower concentrations than required to stimulate alpha receptors.

## Beta-3

- Found in adipose tissue (fat cells).
- Stimulates lipolysis, increasing fatty acids in the blood.
- EPI and NE are about equally effective in their ability to stimulate beta3 receptors.<sup>1</sup>

### • Definitions :

**inotropic** / is an agent that alters the force or energy of muscular contraction.

**Chronotropic** / is an agent that changes the heart rate

**Dromotropic** / is an agent of one which affects the conduction speed in the atrioventricular node

**Lusitropy** / is myocardial relaxation

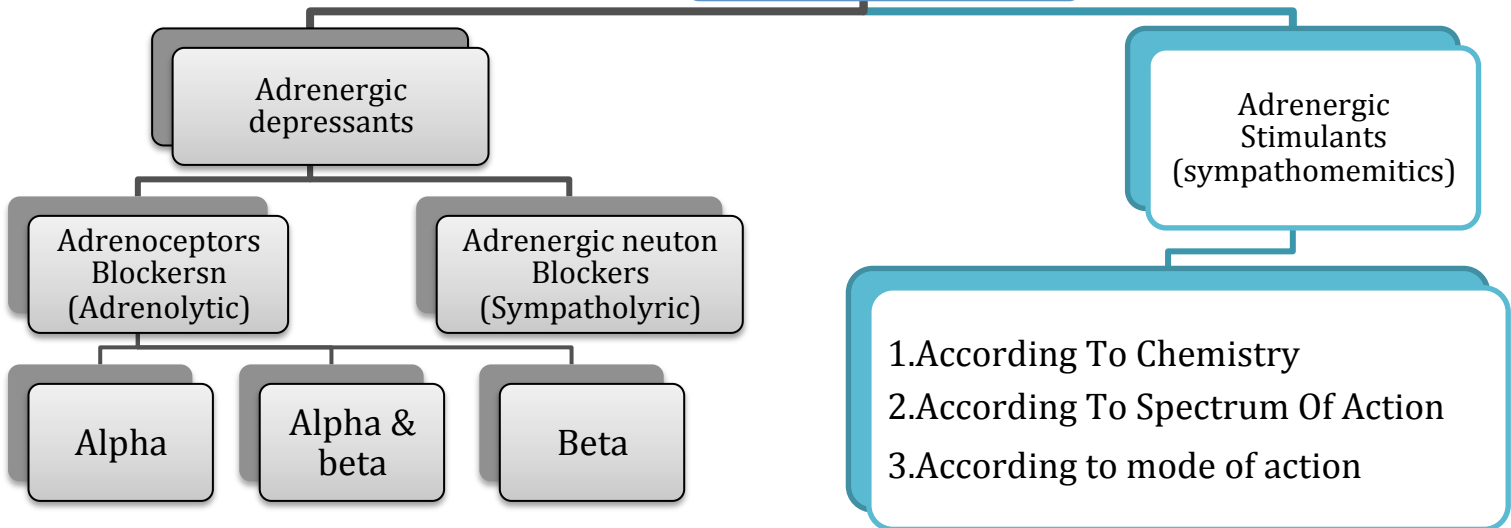
The cardiac cycle consists of a period of relaxation called **diastole** during which the heart fills with blood.

Followed by a period of contraction called **systole**.

**Tocolytic** / relaxation of uterus

Organ	Affect	Receptor
Heart	inotropic, chronotropic, dromotropic & lusiotropic (↑excitability) (( Tachycardia in general ))	B1
Blood pressure	Increase systolic	B1
	Decrease diastolic with low dose → Increase diastolic with high dose →	B2 α1
Vascular smooth muscle cell ( SMC ) : Skin and peripheral	Constrict	α1
Vascular smooth muscle cell ( SMC ) : coronary and skeletal	Dilate	B2
Lung	Bronchodilatation	B2
GIT	Decrease motility	B2
	contract sphincter	α1
Bladder	Decrease detrusor m	B2
	Contract trigone and sphincter	α1
Pregnant uterus	Tocolytic	B2
Eye	Mydriasis ((No effect on accommodation or intraoculat pressure ))	α1
Metabolism	Decrease the insulin	A2
	Increase the glucagon	B2
	Increase liver glycogenolysis + sk.m. glycolysis	B2
	Increase adipose lipolysis	B3 and B2
CNS	Little, headache, tremors and restlessness.	—

# Adrenergic Drugs



## ❖ According To Chemistry:

Catecholamines:

**Natural:** Norepinephrine, Epinephrine, and Dopamine.

**Synthetic:** Isoprenaline

**Rapidly acting, Degraded by MAO & COMT1, Sparse CNS effects, parenteral administration**

Noncatecholamines

Ephedrine, phenylephrine, amphetamine.

**Delayed action, Resist degradation by MAO1, Prominent CNS effects, orally administered**

## ❖ According To Spectrum Of Action:

### Non-Selective

Norepinephrine, epinephrine, dopamine, isoprenaline, ephedrine.

### Selective

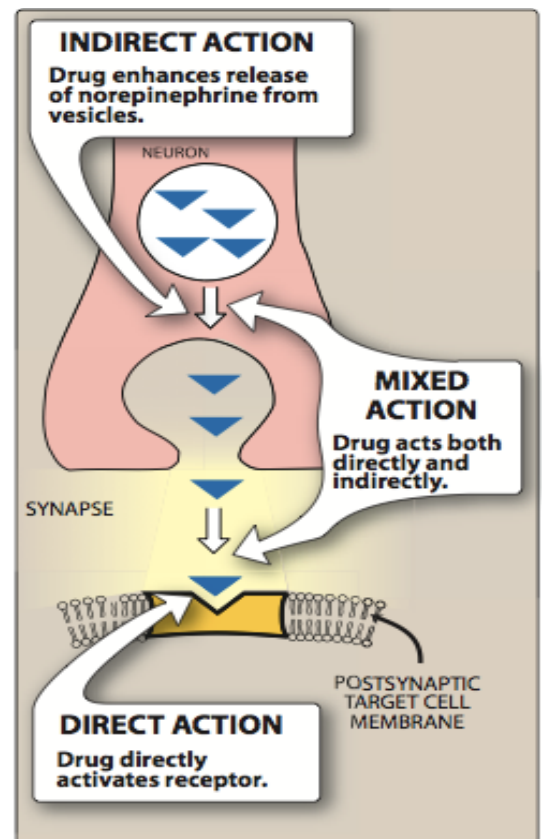
**a<sub>1</sub>** :Phenylephrine; **b<sub>1</sub>** :Dobutamine  
**a<sub>2</sub>** :Clonidine ; **b<sub>2</sub>** :Salbutamol

## ❖ According to mode of action

**Direct:** Stimulate adrenergic receptors directly.  
Such as: Adrenaline, noradrenaline, dopamine, isoprenaline,

**Indirect:** Release of NE from presynaptic stores at adrenergic nerve terminals.  
Such as: Amphetamine, Cocaine & antidepressants.

**Dual (Mix):** Direct and indirect stimulation of adrenergic receptors.  
Such as: Ephedrine, pseudoephedrine



### ➤ Direct Acting Sympathomimetics(non-Selective):

#### Adrenaline (Epinephrine)

Selectivity	Interacts with both $\alpha$ and $\beta$ receptors.
Action	<p>At <u>low</u> doses, <b><math>\beta</math> effects (vasodilation)</b> on the vascular system predominate, whereas at <u>high</u> doses, <b><math>\alpha</math> effects (vaso- constriction)</b> are strongest.</p> <p><b>A. Cardiac:</b> strengthens the contractility of the myocardium (<b>positive inotropic: <math>\beta_1</math> action</b>) and increases its rate of contraction (<b>positive chronotropic: <math>\beta_1</math> action</b>).</p> <p><b>B. BP:</b> increase in <b>*systolic</b> blood pressure, decrease in <b>*diastolic</b> pressure.</p> <p><b>C. Lung:</b> powerful <b>bronchodilation (<math>\beta_2</math> action)</b>.</p> <p><b>D. Hyperglycemia:</b> increased <b>glycogenolysis</b> in the liver (<b><math>\beta_2</math> effect</b>), increased release of <b>glucagon (<math>\beta_2</math> effect)</b>, and a decreased release of <b>insulin (<math>\alpha_2</math> effect)</b>.</p> <p><b>F. Pregnant uterus</b> ➔ <b>*tocolytic (<math>\beta_2</math>)</b></p>

## Indication

### 1-locally:

- Haemostatic: (in epistaxis) & as decongestant  $\alpha_1$
- Local anesthetics: to ↓ its absorption & toxicity + ↓ bleeding from incision

**2-Systemically:** 1-Allergic reaction, 2-Status asthmatics, 3-Cardiac arrest

## Side effects

- Tachycardia, palpitation, arrhythmias, angina pains
- Headache, weakness, tremors anxiety and restlessness.
- Hypertension → cerebral hemorrhage and pulmonary edema.
- **Coldness of extremities** → tissue necrosis and gangrene if extravasation
- **Nasal stuffiness**; rebound congestion if used as decongestion

## Contraindication

- **\*CHD1**, hypertension, peripheral arterial disease.
- Hyperthyroidism.
- Closed - angle glaucoma → may ↑ **\*IOP1**

**\*CHD:** Congestive heart failure, **\*IOP:** Intraocular pressure

**\*systolic:** The phase of blood circulation in which heart's pumping chambers (ventricle) are actively pumping blood. The ventricles are squeezing (contracting) forcefully. And pressure against the walls of the arteries is at it's highest.

**\*diastolic:** The phase of blood circulation in which heart's pumping chambers (ventricles) are being Filled with blood. During this phase, the ventricle are at most relaxed, and the pressure against the walls of the arteries is at it's lowest.

**\*tocolytic:** Anti-contraction medication, which used to suppress premature labor(Childbirth).



## NOREPINEPHRINE = NORADRENALINE

Selectivity	Non-selective, Acts on $\alpha > \beta_1$ (given IV only)
Action	Reflex Bradycardia.
Indication	Systemically; hypotensive states Topically; as a local haemostatic

## ISOPRENALINE

Selectivity	Non-selective, Acts on $\beta > \alpha$
Action	Used by inhalation in acute asthma Cardiac arrest
Indication	Hyperthyroidism & Congestive heart failure

## DOPAMINE

Selectivity	Non-selective, Acts on $D_1 > \beta_1 > \alpha_1$ <b>Heart Inotropic</b> , no chronotropic effect
Action	<b>BP:</b> According to dose; First $\downarrow$ BP $D_1$ , then $\uparrow$ BP due to $\beta_1$ , followed by $\alpha_1$ effect
Indication	<b>Treatment of shock</b> (without causing renal impairment) & Acute heart Failure (Dobutamine is better)

## DOBUTAMINE

Selectivity	Non-selective, Acts on $\beta_1 > \beta_2 > \alpha_1$ (very selective to cardiac shock $\beta_1$ ) <b>Given IV</b>
Action	Heart: <b>Inotropic</b> & little chronotropic effect BP: No or little decrease in therapeutic dose ( $\beta_1$ & $\beta_2$ counterbalance + no $\alpha_1$ )
Indication	<b>Short term management of cardiac decompensating</b> it doesn't increase oxygen demand

➤ **Direct Acting Sympathomimetics (Selective):**

**PHENYLPHERINE**

Selectivity	Selective on <b><math>\alpha 1</math></b>
Action	<b>Heart:</b> reflex bradycardia BP: <b>increase</b> due to vasoconstriction <b><math>\alpha 1</math></b>
Indication	<b>Systemically:</b> Pressor agent to terminate atrial <b>tachycardia</b> (reflex bradycardia) Nasal decongestant. Oral  <b>Topically:</b> Local haemostatic, with <b>local anesthesia</b> , Decongestant, Mydriatic.

**MIDODRINE**

Selectivity	Selective on <b><math>\alpha 1</math></b>
Indication	<b>Hypotension</b> , peaks in 20 min t <sub>1/2</sub> 30 min

**Nasal & Ocular Decongestants**

<b>Pseudoephedrine:</b> used in flu remedies.	<b>Phenylethylamines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phenylephrine</li> <li>• Methoxamine</li> </ul>	<b>Imidazoline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naphazoline</li> <li>• Oxymetazoline HCl (Afrin)</li> </ul> <b>Xylometazoline HCl (Otrivine)</b> <b>Otrivine can cause Rebound nasal stuffiness</b>
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**Clonidine**

Selectivity	<b>Acts selectively on presynaptic <math>\alpha 2</math></b> , Imidazoline Receptors
Action	Decrease BP by acting on <b><math>\alpha 2</math></b> which inhibit nor-epinephrine release
Indication	<b>Antihypertensive agent</b>

**Brimonidine**

Selectivity	Acts selectively on presynaptic <b><math>\alpha 2</math></b>
Indication	Glucoma

**Salbutamol**

Selectivity	<b>Acts selectively on <math>\beta 2</math></b>
Action	<b>Bronchodilator</b> → <b>asthma</b> & chronic obstructive airway disease (COPD)
Indication	Salmeterol & Formoterol

**Other selective  $\beta$  agonist**

<b>Ritodrine: Tocolytic</b>	<b>Terbutaline: Bronchodilator &amp; Tocolytic</b>
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## Indirect Acting Sympathomimetics:

### Amphetamine

Selectivity	Acts on $\alpha$ & $\beta$
Action	<b>Tachyphylaxis</b> Absorbed orally, not destroyed by MAO, excreted mostly unchanged ( <b>↑ by acidification of urine</b> )
Effect	Similar to epinephrine but has <b>CNS stimulant effects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase mental alertness</li><li>• Increase <b>euphoria</b> causes its <b>abuse</b></li><li>• Decrease weight by <b>reducing appetite</b></li></ul>
Indication	No more used therapeutically induces <b>→ psychic &amp; physical dependence</b> and psychosis + the CVS side effects

## Dual Acting Sympathomimetics:

### Ephedrine

Selectivity	Acts on $\alpha$ & $\beta$
Action	<b>Tachyphylaxis</b> due to <b>receptor down regulation</b> and <b>depletes stores</b> Absorbed orally, not destroyed by MAO or COMT <b>→ prolonged action.</b>
Effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Facilitation of neuromuscular transmission.</li><li>▪ Retention of urine.</li><li>▪ <b>CNS stimulant effects (less than amphetamine).</b></li></ul>
Indication	No more therapeutically used <b>→ but is abused by athletes and prohibited during games.</b>

### Pseudo Ephedrine

Indication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Nasal &amp; ocular decongestant</li><li>▪ In flue remedies <b>Used Orally</b></li></ul>
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## Important notes:

### Direct:

**Epinephrine:** Act in all Receptors, it's the drug of choice for anaphylactic shock. The unique characteristic is releasing **ALLERGY**.

**NOREPINEPHRINE:** Act in all Receptors EXCEPT  $\beta_2$ , Not good for anaphylactic shock neither Asthma.

**ISOPRENALINE:** Act on  $\beta$  ONLY, it's the drug of choice for cardiac arrest.

**DOPAMINE:** Act on all receptors + D receptor EXCEPT  $\beta_2$ .  
It increase contractility of heart, it protect the kidney.

**DOBUTAMINE:** act on  $\beta_1$  ONLY

Dose not cause tachycardia because of increased inotropic lead to  $\uparrow$  systolic, so it will reduces adrenaline secretion = **JUST  $\uparrow$  contractility without TECHYCARDIA**

### Indirect:

**Amphetamine:** it increase the release of Dopamine + Norepinephrine and inhibit the re uptake.

Dopamine used for loosing weight + hyperactive in children, but it has CNS effect.

It cause psychiatric & physical dependent.

### Dual:

**Ephedrine:** like the epinephrine acting but in addition it release norepinephrine.

Abuse in athletes.

**Pseudo Ephedrine:** same Ephedrine but low CNS effects.

It causes insomnia.