



King Saud University  
College of Medicine  
Foundation Block

# Pharmacodynamics I ; Molecular Mechanism of Drug Action.

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# Objectives :

- 1 Identify different targets of drug action.
- 2 Differentiate between their patterns of action; Agonism versus Antagonism
- 3 Elaborate on drug binding to receptors

## NEW TERMS :

\*Pharmacodynamics

\*Antiporter      \*Agonist

\*Antagonist    \*Efficacy

\*Symporter

\*Affinity

## Remember That :

**Pharmacokinetics:** is what the body does to the drug ; (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and excretion.)

**Pharmacodynamics:** is what the drug does to the body.



# Pharmacodynamics

Interacts with biological molecules which are known as (targets)

**EXCEPTION**

Osmotic Diuretics : مضافات البول  
Purgatives : المسهلات  
Antacids : مضافات الحموضة

Altering their biochemical and /or biophysical activity

response

## Depress

Beta blockers  
(depress the myocardium)  
reduce the force  
contraction of the heart.

## Activate

Beta agonist  
(stimulate the myocardium)  
Increasing the force  
contraction of the heart.

## Replace

Insulin for  
diabetic patient.

## Irritate

Produce locally  
irritation and  
increase the  
blood flow,  
which will relief  
the pain.

## Destroy

In case of:  
Cancer we need  
to kill cells.

# Drug Targets : **PROTEINS**

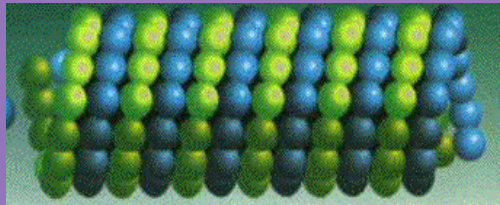
In order of the drug to produce response it has to bind to a certain biological molecule (target)

## STRUCTURAL

**Tubulin** “protein that forms the microtubules in prokaryotic cells”  
is target for drugs:

\* **Vincristine** “anticancer drug, inhibit cell division (Mitosis)”

\* **Colchicine** “anti inflammation drug that decrease the protein levels in the body, prevent WBCs to accumulate in the inflamed area. Used to treat Gout.”



## **REMEMBER:**

Uric acid accumulation causes GOUT  
3<sup>rd</sup> lecture of Pharmacokinetics

## REGULATORY

Enzyme

Ion  
Channel

Carrier  
Molecule

Receptor

**Regulatory Proteins :  
Enzymes**

**Drug competes with natural  
substrate for the enzyme.**  
“competitive inhibition”

	<b>Drug</b>	<b>Competes with:</b>	<b>Enzyme</b>
<b>Reversible</b> (Short duration of action)	Neostigmine	Acetylcholine (Ach) “Drug compete with Ach to prevent hydrolysis”	Cholinesterase at motor end-plates (MEP)
<b>Irreversible</b> (Long duration of action)	Organophosphates	Ach “Drug compete with Ach to prevent hydrolysis”	Cholinesterase

## Regulatory Proteins : Carrier Molecules

Responsible for transport of ions and small organic between intracellular compartments, through cell membranes or in extracellular fluids. The drug binds to such molecules altering their transport ability.

Antiporter



**ANTIPORTER** the transport of two different molecules or ions across a lipid bilayer membrane in opposite directions.

Symporter



**SYMPORTER** movement of two or more different molecules or ions across a lipid bilayer membrane in the same direction.

Drug	Transport	Regulation
Cocaine	Passive	<b>Blocks</b> transport of catecholamine (Epinephrine and Norepinephrine) at synaptic cleft.
<b>Digitalis</b> (treat heart failure)	<b>Active</b>	<b>Blocks</b> efflux “exit” of Na by Na pump. Na will accumulate in the cell and will exchange with Calcium and the level of calcium inside the cell will increase causing increased force of contraction.

## Regulatory Proteins : Ion Channels

Responsible for influx or out-flux of ions through cell membranes along their concentration gradients. They are activated by alteration in action potential and are controlled by gating machinery.

### Drugs can act as

#### 1.Channel blocker



#### 2.Channel modulator



#### Local Anesthetics

Block Na influx through Na channel in nerve fibers.

They are **Na** channel Blockers.

The patient will not sense the pain because we closed the channel so the conduction of the pain will decrease.

#### Sulfonylurea

Drugs block  $K^+$  out flux via the K channels in pancreatic cells.

They are **K** Channel Modulator.

Used for the treatment of diabetes  
It causes release of insulin by modulating the K channel in the pancreas.

## Regulatory Proteins : Receptors

Responsible for selectively sensing & binding of a stimulus (ligand) & its coupling to a response via a set of signal transduction machinery.  
Drugs bind and alter R signal transduction machinery.

ENDOGENOUS LIGAND + RECEPTOR = Physiological RESPONSE

DRUGS + RECEPTOR = Pharmacological RESPONSE (Agonist)  
or NO RESPONSE (Antagonist)

### Agonist

- A drug that possesses **BOTH affinity and efficacy**
- Pharmacological RESPONSE
- e.g. **ACh**

### Antagonist

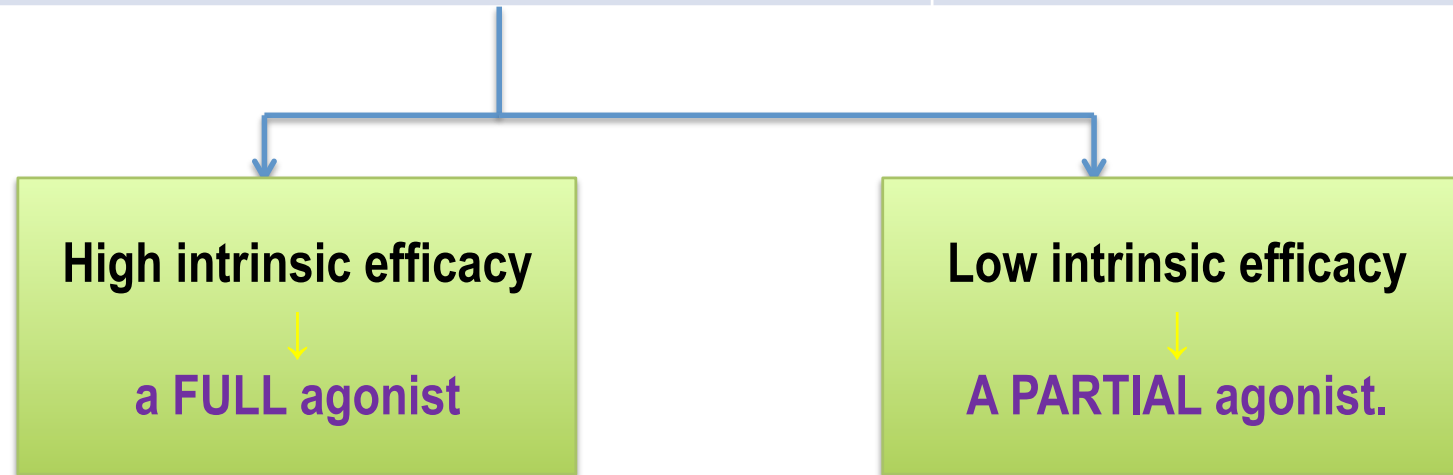
- A drug that possesses an **affinity but no efficacy**
- NO RESPONSE
- e.g. **Tubocurarine**



**Affinity:** is The tendency of a drug to bind to the receptors.

**Efficacy:** is The ability for it, once bound, to activate the receptor.

<b>Agonist</b>	<b>Antagonist</b>
<p>A drug that possesses <u>both affinity and efficacy.</u></p> <p>Efficacy Is that inherent property <i>intrinsic</i> to the agonist that determines how "good" an agonist is.</p>	<p>A drug that possesses an <u>affinity but no efficacy.</u></p>



# S U M M A R Y

✓ Identify different targets of drug action :

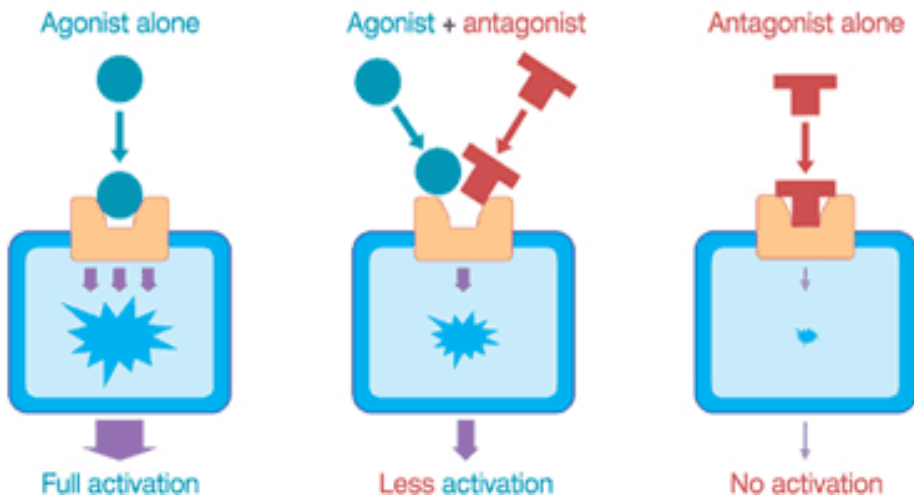


✓ Differentiate between targets' patterns of action; Agonism versus Antagonism :

## Agonists and Antagonists

**Agonists** Drugs that occupy receptors and activate them.

**Antagonists** Drugs that occupy receptors but do not activate them. Antagonists block receptor activation by agonists.



✓ Elaborate on drug binding to receptors:

\* **Affinity of a drug for a receptor is:**  
a measure of how strongly that drug binds to the receptor.

\* **Efficacy is:**  
a measure of the biological effect (activation) that a drug can produce as a result of receptor binding.

# M C Q S

**1 Cocaine acts on:**

- a) An ion channel
- b) An enzyme
- c) A passive transporter
- d) An active transporter

**2 One of the drugs that target microtubules is:**

- a) Digitalis
- b) Neostigmine
- c) Tubocurarine
- d) Colchicine

**3 Organophosphates compete with ACh:**

- a) Reversibly
- b) Irreversibly
- c) Sometimes both
- d) None of the above

**4 Intrinsic activity is a drug's ability to elicit :**

- a) Strong receptor binding
- b) Weak receptor binding
- c) Response
- d) Excretion

**5 A drug that has an efficacy more than 0% and less than 100% is considered as:**

- a) Full agonist
- b) Partial agonist
- c) Competitive antagonist
- d) Functional antagonist

**6 An example of an antagonist is:**

- a) Vincristine
- b) Colchicine
- c) Acetylcholine
- d) Tubocurarine

**7 The function of local anesthetics is that they:**

- a) Block transport of catecholamines
- b) Block efflux of Na
- c) Block influx of Na
- d) Block efflux of K

**8 A drug that binds to a cell receptor and affects a response is called :**

- a) An agonist
- b) An antagonist
- c) A receptor blocker
- d) A channel blocker

**9 The ability of a drug to bind to the receptors is:**

- a) Affinity
- b) Efficacy
- c) Agonism
- d) Antagonism

**10 Pharmacodynamics refers to the relationship of drug:**

- a) dose to drug concentration in plasma.
- b) dose to drug concentration at the receptor site.
- c) concentrations to drug effect.
- d) dose to drug effect.

10-C  
3-B 6-D 9-A  
2-D 5-B 8-A  
1-C 4-C 7-C

We hope we made this lecture easier for you!  
Contact us for any questions or comments  
Good Luck !

Nada Dammas

Hanan Al-Dossari

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Layan Al Taweel

Norah Alnaeim

Maha Alrajhi

Yara Alenezi

Ahmed Aldakhil

Faris Almoammari

Mohammed Alnafisah

Abdulmalek Alnujidi

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**Ion Channel Regulatory proteins –  
Sulfonylurea Medication**

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3GpNRIYNek>)



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