






INDIRECT CHOLINOMIMETICS

Lecture 4

OBJECTIVES:

- Classification of indirect acting cholinomimetics
- Mechanism of action, kinetics, dynamics and uses and of anticholinesterases
- Adverse effects & contraindications of anticholinesterases
- Symptoms and treatment of organophosphates toxicity.

-  **Important**
-  **In male and female slides**
-  **Only in male slides**
-  **Only in female slides**
-  **Extra information**



[Helpful video](#)

Indirect cholinomimetics (Anticholinesterases)

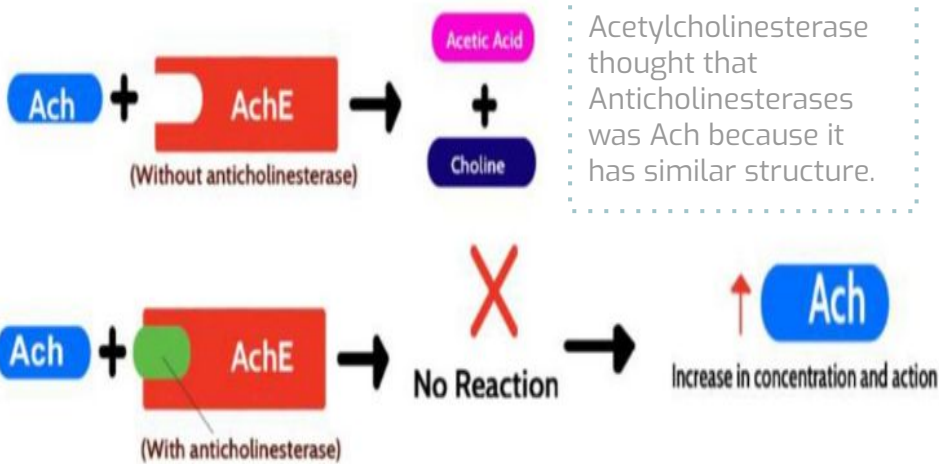
-Mechanism of action:

prevent the hydrolysis of acetylcholine by inhibiting Acetylcholinesterase; thus increasing acetylcholine concentration and action at the cholinergic receptors (**both nicotinic and muscarinic**) not like direct cholinomimetics

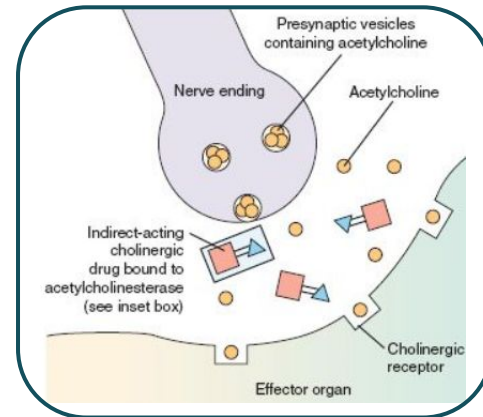
المحاضرة هذي باختصار اني ابغى ازود تأثير ach عن طريق اني اسوي تثبيط للإنزيم اللي يكسر ach وهو ach esterase باستعمال أدوية محددة وتعتبر الطريقة هذه indirect.

-Anticholinesterases are similar in structure to Ach to combine with cholinesterase enzyme (2 sites: **Anionic polar** and **esteratic** sites) instead of Ach."

Ach esterase has 2 binding sites one that bind to the polar part of Ach (Anionic) and the other one bind to the ester part of Ach (Esteratic).



Acetylcholinesterase thought that Anticholinesterases was Ach because it has similar structure.



Classification of Anticholinesterases (According to the duration of action)

Reversible
4-8 hours

Irreversible
Weeks to days

Reversible Anticholinesterases (4-8 hours)

	Alcohols	Carbamate esters
Duration	Short acting because when it binds with esterase it binds to polar site only, while the Esteratic site remain empty.	Intermediate Acting
Binding with Ach esterase	Forms weak hydrogen (electrostatic) bond with acetylcholinesterase Enzyme (One site)	binds to two sites of Cholinesterase Enzyme (covalent bond)
Examples	Edrophonium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physostigmine • Neostigmine • Pyridostigmine
Further features	-----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All polar and synthetic EXCEPT physostigmine (lipid soluble). • relatively stable in aqueous solution. but can be metabolized by esterases.

Irreversible Anticholinesterases (weeks to days)

	Phosphate esters
Duration	Long acting
Binding with Ach esterase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form very stable covalent bond with cholinesterase, resistance to hydrolysis. • Phosphorylate the enzyme.
Examples	e.g. insecticides, gas war, Echothiophate & Isoflurophate. (Very toxic drugs but they are the only exception used medically (topical eye drops)).
Further features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All phosphates are lipid soluble EXCEPT Echothiophate which is polar. -well absorbed from the skin, lung, gut & conjunctiva except ecothiopate. -less stable in aqueous solution.

Pharmacological effects of Anticholinesterases

- -They act on both muscarinic and nicotinic receptors .
- -Some have CNS effects (only the lipid soluble drugs) e.g. physostigmine & phosphate ester(except ecothiophate that is polar).
- CNS actions:
 - In low concentration:- The high lipid-soluble inhibitors cause diffuse activation of EEG leading to alerting response(β wave).
 - In high Concentration:- generalized convulsions followed by coma & respiratory arrest.

	Site	Action
Nicotinic actions	Neuromuscular junction	- Therapeutic dose: muscle contraction. - Toxic dose: lead to fibrillation of muscle fibers, membrane depolarization becomes sustained.(depolarization block).
	Ganglia	stimulation of sympathetic and parasympathetic ganglia
	Adrenal medulla	release of catecholamines (adrenaline and noradrenaline)
Muscarinic actions	Eye	-Contraction of circular muscle of iris (also called constrictor pupillae or iris sphincter muscles) (miosis) M3 . -Contraction of ciliary muscles for near vision M3 . -Decrease in intraocular pressure.
	Heart endothelium	-bradycardia (decrease heart rate) M2 -Release of NO (EDRF) (Vasodilation). -decrease conduction velocity through AV node, -decrease atrial contractility and modest change in Bp
	Lung	- Constriction of bronchial smooth muscles. - Increase bronchial secretion M3 .
	GIT	-Increased motility (peristalsis). -Increased secretion. -Relaxation of sphincter M3 .
	Urinary bladder	-Contraction of muscles.. -Relaxation of sphincter M3
	Exocrine glands	-Increase in secretion of sweat, saliva, lacrimal, bronchial, intestinal secretions M3 .

Reversible indirect Cholinergic Drugs

drug	Edrophonium	Physostigmine	Pyridostigmine
action	muscarinic and nicotinic actions	muscarinic and nicotinic actions has CNS effect	muscarinic and nicotinic actions
P.K	<p>Polar (alcohol)</p> <p>NOT absorbed orally must be given by injection.</p> <p>Distribution in the CNS is negligible</p> <p>Bind reversibly by electrostatic forces to the active site, preventing access of Ach</p> <p>enzyme-inhibitor</p> <p>complex is short lived'2-10min'</p> <p><i>short duration of Action(5-15 mins)</i></p>	<p>non polar (lipid soluble).</p> <p>Good oral absorption</p> <p>Form covalent bond.</p> <p>, more resistant to hydrolysis</p> <p>short duration of action(0.5-2 hr)</p> <p>Cross BBB (has CNS effects)</p>	<p>Polar</p> <p>short duration of action (3-6 hr)</p> <p>Distribution in the CNS is negligible.</p>
Uses	<p>★ <u>Used to diagnose myasthenia gravis</u></p> <p>Very very Short duration of action so it is only use for diagnose</p> <p>المريض غالبا ما راح يكون يقدر يتحرك بعد ما نعطييه راح تتحسن الاعراض وتعرف ان التشخيص صحيح</p>	<p>-Acute angle closure Glaucoma (by eye drop).</p> <p>-Atropine toxicity (anticholinergic drug) (Atropine can cross BBB therefore we use Physostigmine which also can cross BBB to block the muscarinic receptor in the brain resulting in treating the toxicity)</p>	<p>Treatment of myasthenia gravis.</p>
Binding with Ach esterases	<p>Forms weak hydrogen (electrostatic) bond with acetylcholinesterase enzyme (binds to anionic site)</p>	<p>binds to two sites of cholinesterase enzyme(covalent bond)</p>	<p>binds to two sites of cholinesterase enzyme(covalent bond)</p>
Chemical structure	<p>Quaternary ammonium compound</p>	<p>Tertiary ammonium compound</p>	<p>Quaternary ammonium compound</p>

Reversible indirect Cholinergic Drugs

drug	Neostigmine	Ambenonium	Donepezil (Cholinesterase reactivators (OXIMES))
action	muscarinic and nicotinic actions (similar uses to bethanechol,) ★ <u>(prominent on GIT & urinary tract)</u>	muscarinic and nicotinic actions	Is a centrally acting reversible acetylcholinesterase inhibitor M4, M5
P.K	polar compound more resistant to hydrolysis Can be used orally short duration of action (0.5-2 hr) NO CNS effect.	Polar. (4-8hr). Distribution in the CNS is negligible.	Lipid soluble Given orally .
Uses	Treatment of myasthenia gravis . -Paralytic ileus & Urinary retention. -Competitive neuromuscular blockers intoxication (curare toxicity). مثال: لو اعطينا دواء يقفل ال receptor مثل Ach و حصل تسمم كيف نعالجه؟ بزيادة Ach عند ال receptor عبر استخدام antiAcheesterase	Treatment of myasthenia gravis.	Treatment of dementia of Alzheimer's disease
Binding with Ach esterases	binds to two sites of cholinesterase enzyme (covalent bond)	----	---
Chemical structure	Quaternary ammonium compound	Quaternary ammonium compound	-----

Irreversible Indirect Drugs (Organophosphorous compounds)

Drug

Ecothiophate

Action

Irreversible anticholinestrases

P.K

Polar

very **long duration** of action (100 hours).

★ **Aging** makes the bond extremely **stable** and makes the treatment difficult from toxicity.

All the Organo -phosphorous compounds are **highly lipid** soluble **EXCEPT Ecothiophate (polar)**.

Binding with Ach esterases

Bind to cholinesterase by **strong** covalent bond.(both sites)

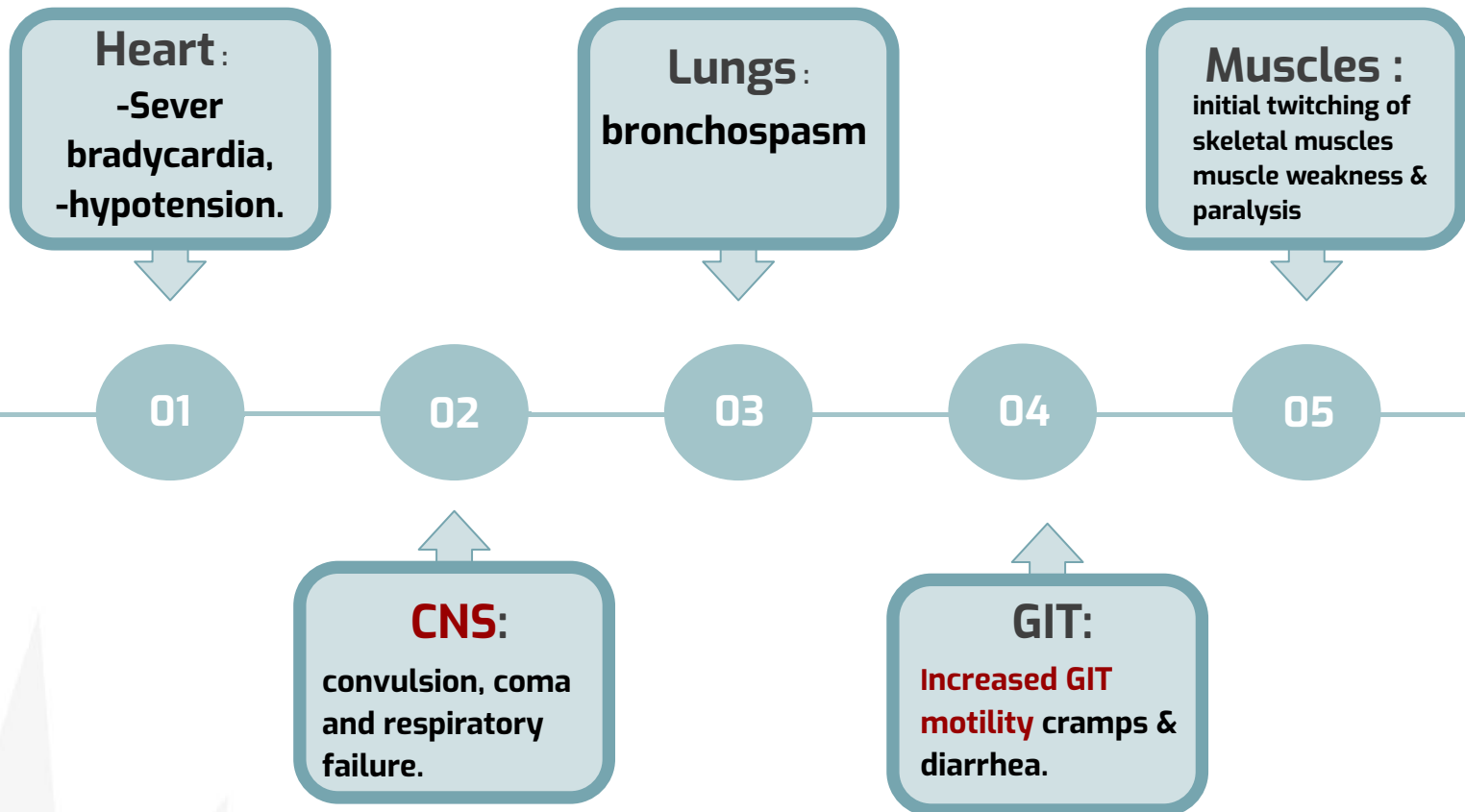
Uses

Used for **Acute angle closure glaucoma**.

Used as pesticides and veterinary vermifuge.

organo= lipid soluble

Symptoms of organophosphate toxicity



Treatment of organophosphate toxicity

Support respiration

Cholinesterase reactivators
(**Oximes**)

تكون أفضل إذا جينا المريض بدري

Atropine (to block muscarinic actions & CNS effects).

Pralidoxime is used as cholinesterase regenerator for organic phosphate poisoning

Cholinesterase reactivators

OXIMES

Pralidoxime (PAM)

Action

-Cholinesterase reactivator

-Acts by **regeneration** of cholinesterase enzyme.

-Reactivates recently **inhibited** enzymes before **aging**.

Uses

I.V. over 15-30 min for organophosphate intoxication.

Contraindications of cholinergic drugs

Bronchial asthma

Peptic ulcer

Angina pectoris

Incontinence lack of voluntary control over urination or defecation

Intestinal obstruction Leads to ruptured intesti

Clinical uses of indirect cholinomimetics

1-Acute angle closure glaucoma

indirect stimulants e.g:
physostigmine,
ecothiopate.

2-GIT & Urinary tract

- **Postoperative ileus** “atony” and **Postoperative urinary retention** → **Neostigmine**
- **Xerostomia** → **Pilocarpine** (direct)

3-Neuromuscular junction

E.g: **Myasthenia gravis**
(discussed in the next slide)

4-To reverse pharmacological paralysis produced in case of anaesthetic adjunct (مساعدات التخدير)

(e.g: **neostigmine** versus **d-tubocurarine**).

5-Heart

for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia,
edrophonium potentiates the effect of Ach at AV node causing slow AV conduction & ventricular rate.

6-Antimuscarinic drug intoxication

- Atropine overdose is toxic in children → severe muscarinic block
- Blockade is competitive, overdose can be overcome by increasing the amount of endogenous Ach
- **Physostigmine** is used because it can cross the BBB, Reverses central & peripheral signs

Myasthenia gravis

Definition:

Autoimmune disease include Production of antibodies leading to decrease number of functioning nicotinic receptors at endplate.

Symptoms

Difficulty of speaking & swallowing.

Diplopia

Ptosis

Weakness and fatigue affecting muscles of:

head

hand

neck

extremities

- Severe myasthenia called [**myasthenia crisis**], requires mechanical ventilation.
- Treatment with **cholinesterase inhibitors** and immunosuppressants.
- Excess drug therapy called [**cholinergic crisis**]
- **Edrophonium** is used as:
 - (1) **test** for diagnosis: An **improvement** in muscle strength last for 5min is noted.
 - (2) to assess the adequacy of treatment with the longer -acting cholinesterase inhibitors.
- If a patient **improves** with a dose of edrophonium, an increase in cholinesterase inhibitor is indicated.(patient have myasthenia gravis)
- In case of **excessive** amount of cholinesterase inhibitor, a patient becomes **weak** because of depolarization block + symptoms of muscarinic stimulation.

- Chronic long term Therapy is done by neostigmine, pyridostigmine, ambenonium.
- Muscarinic side effects can be controlled by antimuscarinics.

Alzheimer's Disease

Characterized by:

loss of cholinergic neurons in the basal forebrain nuclei. Thus cholinesterase inhibitors are used to treat Alzheimer's Disease.

Treated by:

Donepezil (is not hepatotoxic), Used for treatment of dementia of AD, Taken orally.

cholinesterase toxicity

CNS involvement follows accompanied by peripheral nicotinic effects.

initial signs of muscarinic excess

Therapy of cholinesterase toxicity:

1- Maintenance of vital signs , respiration may be impaired.

2-Decontamination to prevent further absorption, removal of cloth, washing of skin.

3-Parenteral atropine in large doses. Pralidoxime(PAM)[oxime] often.

vasodilation

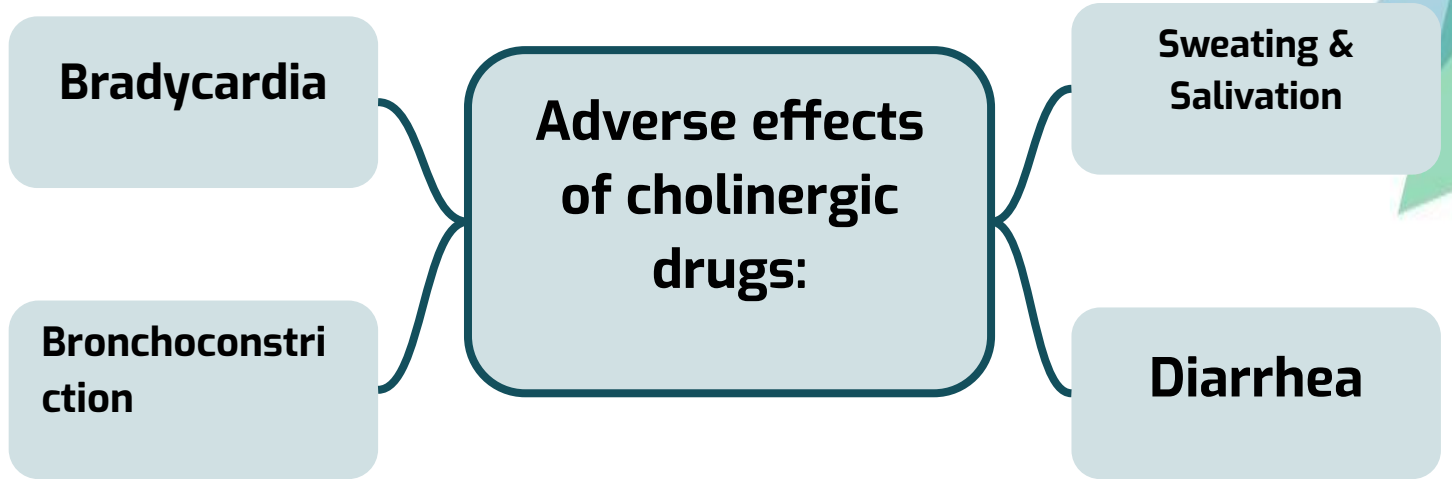
bronchial constriction

salivation

diarrhea

sweating

miosis



Summary of cholinomimetics and their uses

Eye : treatment of glaucoma

-pilocarpine,carbachol (direct muscarinic agonist) **-physostigmine - ecothiophate** (indirect cholinomimetics)

Urinary retention and paralytic lieus

-bethanechol (direct) **-neostigmine** (indirect)

Myasthenia gravis (only indirect cholinomimetics)

-neostigmine , Pyridostigmine, Ambenonium

Xerostomia (Dry mouth)

-pilocarpine -cevimeline (sjogren's syndrome)

Alzheimer disease

-donepezil

A quick quiz is waiting for you! Just click here

Q1: Anticholinesterases have similar structure to:

A-Ach esterases	B-Ach	C-Both A & B	D-Non of them
-----------------	-------	--------------	---------------

Q2: Physostigmine is:

A-Non polar	B-Polar	C-Lipid soluble	D-Both A & C
-------------	---------	-----------------	--------------

Q3: Ach acts on which receptor:

A-B1	B-Muscarinic	C-Nicotinic	D-Both B & C
------	--------------	-------------	--------------

Q4: Which of these binds to the two binding sites of Cholinesterase:

A-Alcohols	B-Carbamate esters	C-Phosphate esters	D-Both B & C
------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------

Q5: Which one of these drugs used as diagnosis of myasthenia gravis?

A-Neostigmine	B-Edrophonium	C- isofluorophate	D- Donepezil
---------------	---------------	-------------------	--------------

Q6 : Which drug has very long duration of action ?

Ecothiophate	isofluorophate	Pyridostigmine	Neostigmine
--------------	----------------	----------------	-------------

Q7 : All of the following drugs used to treat myasthenia gravis except?

Ambenonium	Neostigmine	Pyridostigmine	Physostigmine
------------	-------------	----------------	---------------

ANSWERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	D	D	D	B	A	D

SAQ

1) Describe the bond between Ach esterase and Alcohol.

2) How many binding sites does Ach esterase have? And their names?

3) Mention the drugs that have CNS effects.

4) What are the muscarinic actions in the eye?

5) Describe the mechanism of action of indirect acting Cholinergic drugs.

6) List the adverse effects of cholinergic drugs:

7) List 2 ways to treat organophosphate toxicity.

8) Treatment of dementia?

ANSWERS

A1) Forms weak hydrogen (electrostatic) bond with acetylcholinesterase enzyme.

A2) 2, anionic and esteratic.

A3) physostigmine & phosphate ester (except ecothiophate)

A4) slide 4.

A5) slide 2

A6) slide 10

A7) slide 8

A8) Donepezil

GOOD LUCK!



*Success is not final,
Failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to
CONTINUE THAT COUNTS*
Winston S. Churchill

Girls team members

منيرة السدحان

لينا المزيد 📧

سديم الحازمي

نورة المسعد

وسام آل حويس

رانيا المطيري

الجوهرة البنيان

شادن العبيد

سديم آل زايد

روان باقادر

ميس العجمي

نورة السالم 📧

نوف السبيعي

ندي بابلي

دانة نائب الحرم

Team leaders

• طرفة الشريدي

• حمود القاضب

Boys team members

عبداللطيف المشاط

بسام الاسمري

ماجد العسكر

باسل فقيها 📧

عبدالرحمن الدويش

حمد الموسى

راكان الدوهان

محمد القهيدان

يزيد القحطاني



teampharma439@gmail.com



@pharmacology439