

# DRUGS IN GOUT



# ILOS

Know the pathophysiology of gout

Outline the stages of gout and the therapeutic objectives in each stage

Describe drug and non-drug treatment of gout

Classify drugs used for treatment of gout

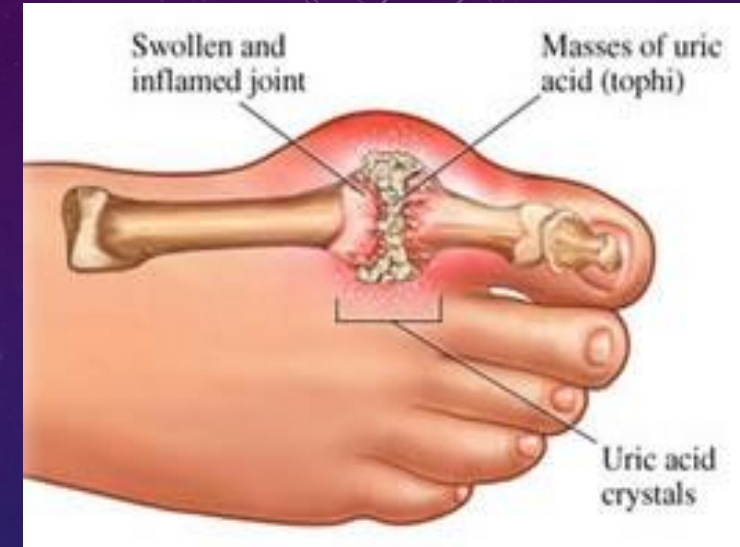
Identify the mechanism of action of drugs used for treatment of gout

Study in detail the pharmacology of drugs used for treatment of gout

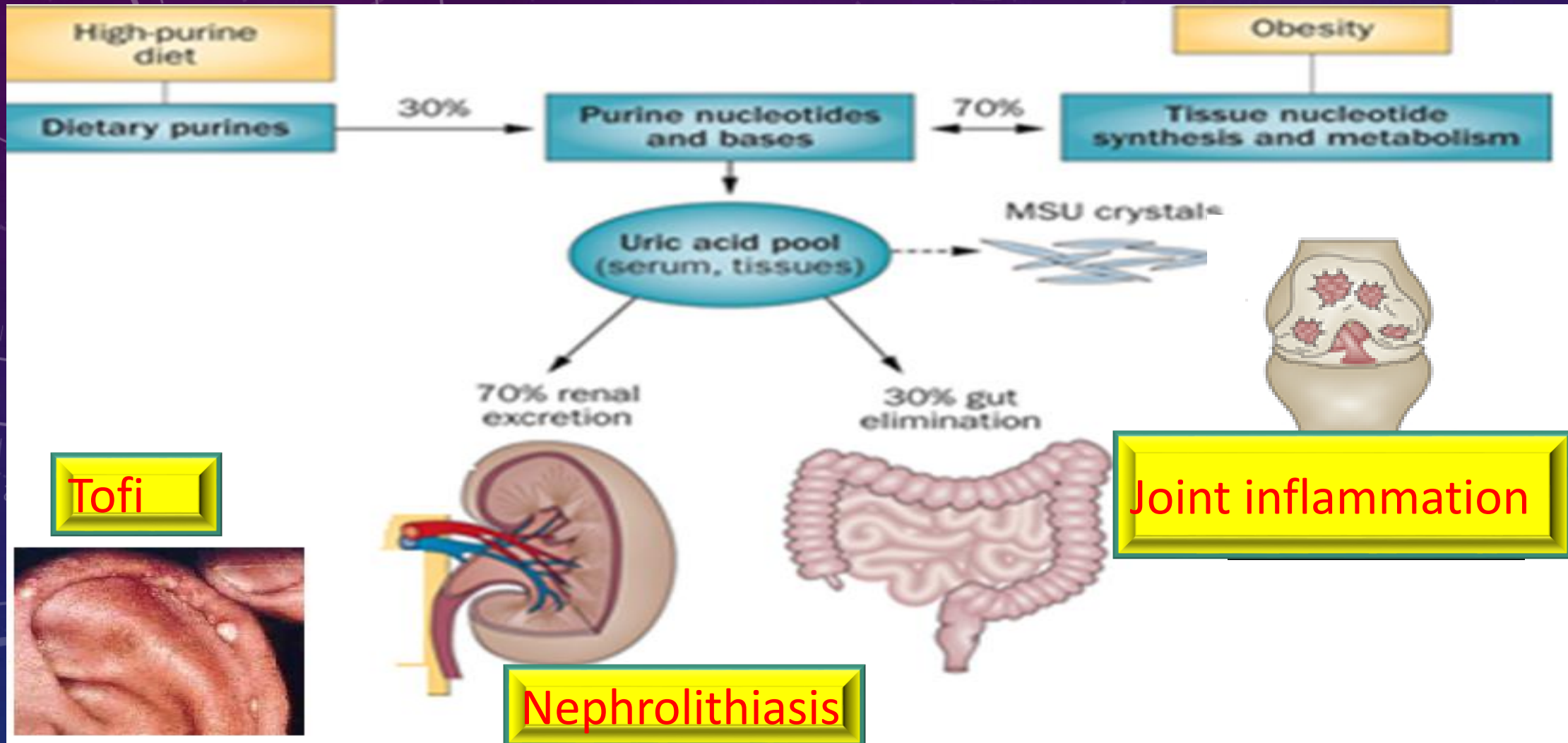


# WHAT IS GOUT?

- Gout is usually characterized by recurrent attacks of acute inflammatory arthritis with red, tender, hot and swollen joints
- Deposits of sodium urate crystals in articular, peri-articular, and subcutaneous tissues
- May be primary or secondary
  - Primary – hereditary error of purine metabolism
  - Secondary – drugs that inhibit uric acid excretion or increase rate of cell death or another acquired disorder



# Untreated gout may lead to... Tophaceous masses of MSU crystals in cartilage & joints, Renal stones, Urate nephropathy



Tofi



Nephrolithiasis

Joint inflammation

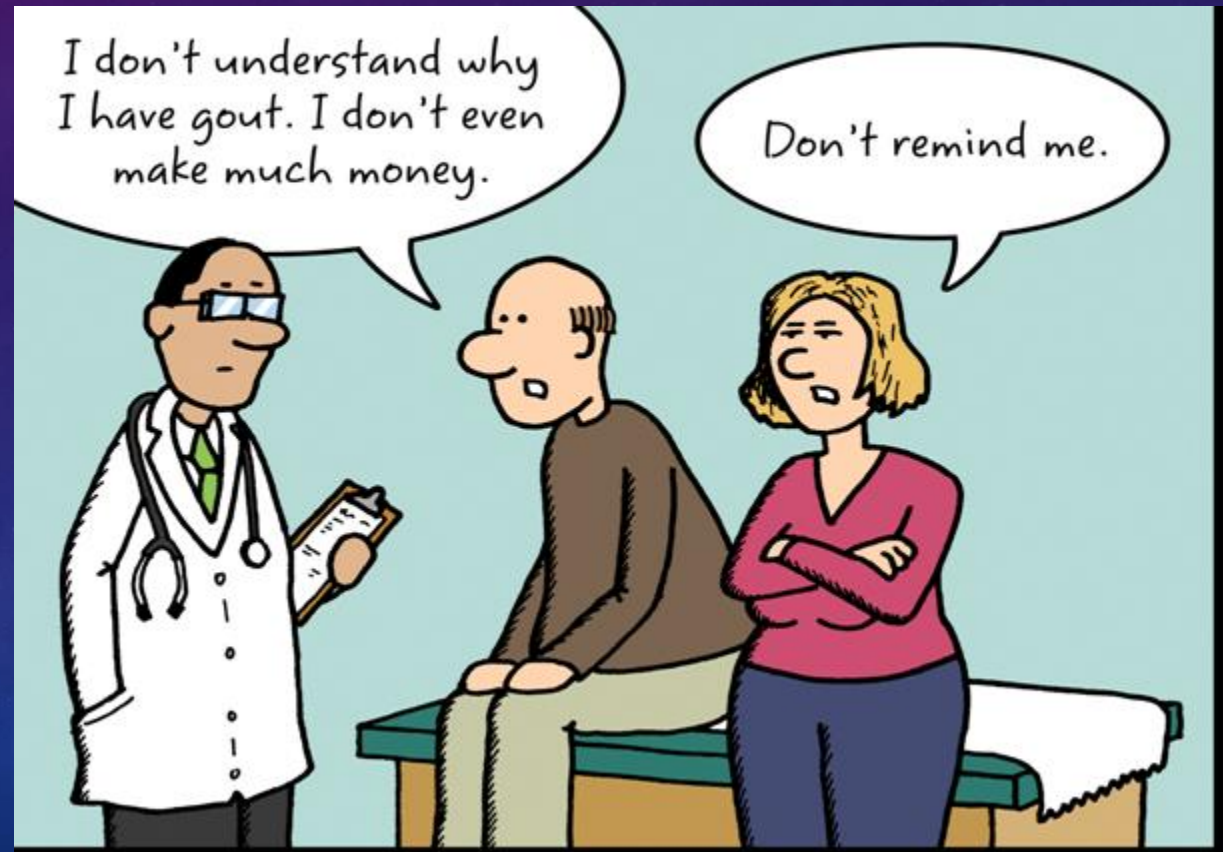
# EPIDEMIOLOGY

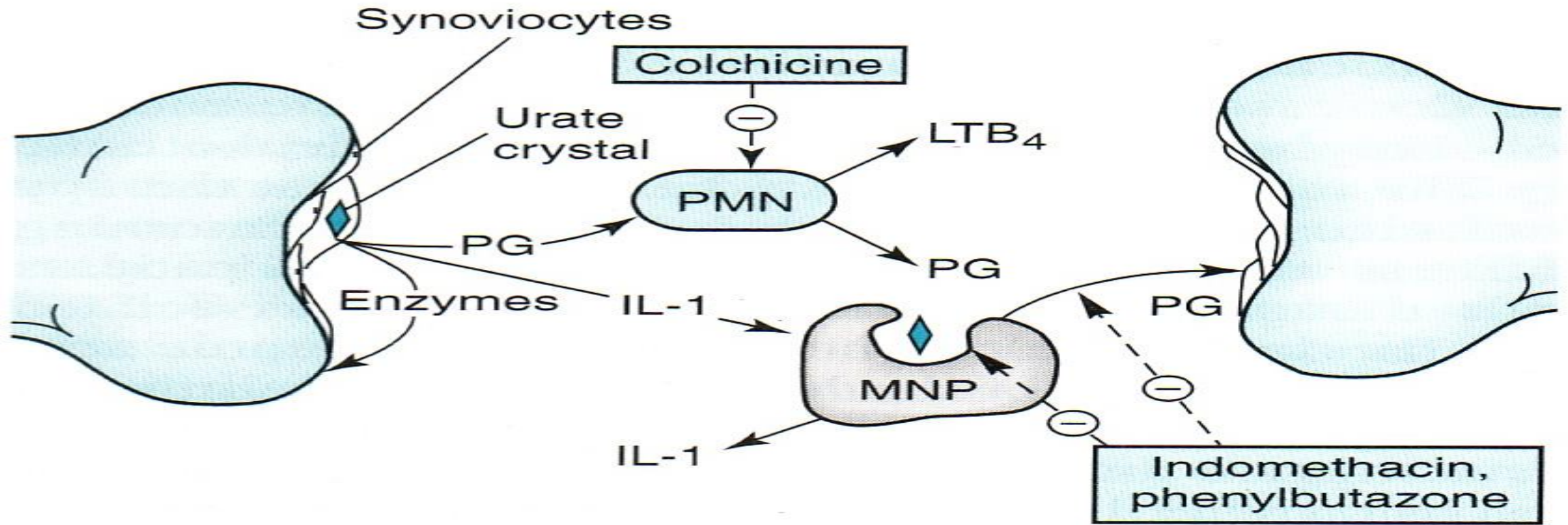
Gout was historically known as "the disease of kings" or "rich man's disease."

Prevalence of hyperuricemia 5%

Prevalence of gout 0.2%

Male to female ratio 10:1

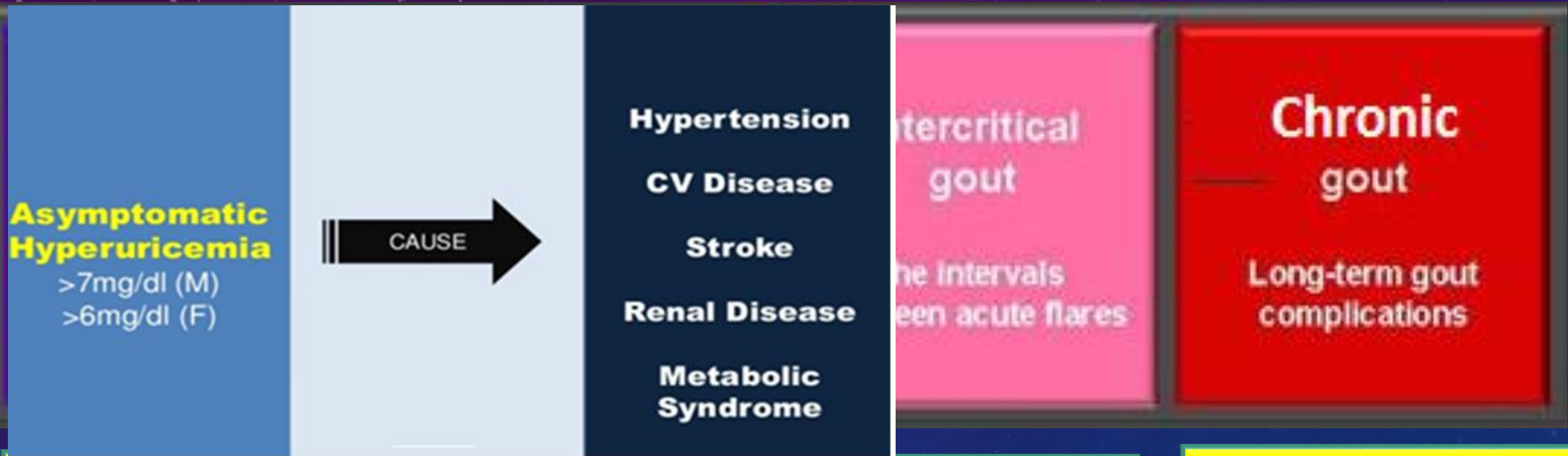




**Figure 36–5.** Pathophysiologic events in a gouty joint. Synoviocytes phagocytose urate crystals and then secrete inflammatory mediators, which attract and activate polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMN) and mononuclear phagocytes (MNP) (macrophages). Drugs active in gout inhibit crystal phagocytosis and polymorphonuclear leukocyte and macrophage release of inflammatory mediators. (PG, prostaglandin; IL-1, interleukin-1; LTB<sub>4</sub>, leukotriene B<sub>4</sub>.)

# STAGES OF GOUT

- Four distinct stages: a) asymptomatic hyper-uricemia; b) acute intermittent gout; c) Intercritical stage ; d) chronic gout



Treat or not to treat?

Terminate The attack

Prevent recurrent attacks

-Prevent complications  
-Lower serum uric acid

# DRUGS IN GOUT



## Treatment of gout



**Non-  
pharmacologic**

**Pharmacologic**



# NON-PHARMACOLOGIC THERAPY

## LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

Loss of weight

Exercise

Diet control

Smoking cessation

Drink plenty of fluids, especially water.



Choose low-fat or fat-free dairy products.



Consume complex carbohydrates.



Reduce saturated fat consumption.



Limit fish, meat, and poultry.



Avoid eatables sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup.



Avoid alcohol.



# Aim of pharmacotherapy

Most therapeutic strategies for gout involve lowering the uric acid level below the saturation point (<6 mg/dL), thus preventing the deposition of urate crystals.

This can be accomplished by:

1. **interfering with uric acid synthesis** with allopurinol, Febuxostat
2. **increasing uric acid excretion** with probenecid or sulfinpyrazone
3. **inhibiting leukocyte entry** into the affected joint with colchicine
4. **administration of NSAIDs**

# DRUGS IN GOUT

Uricosstatic

Allopurinol ,  
Febuxostat

Uricosuric

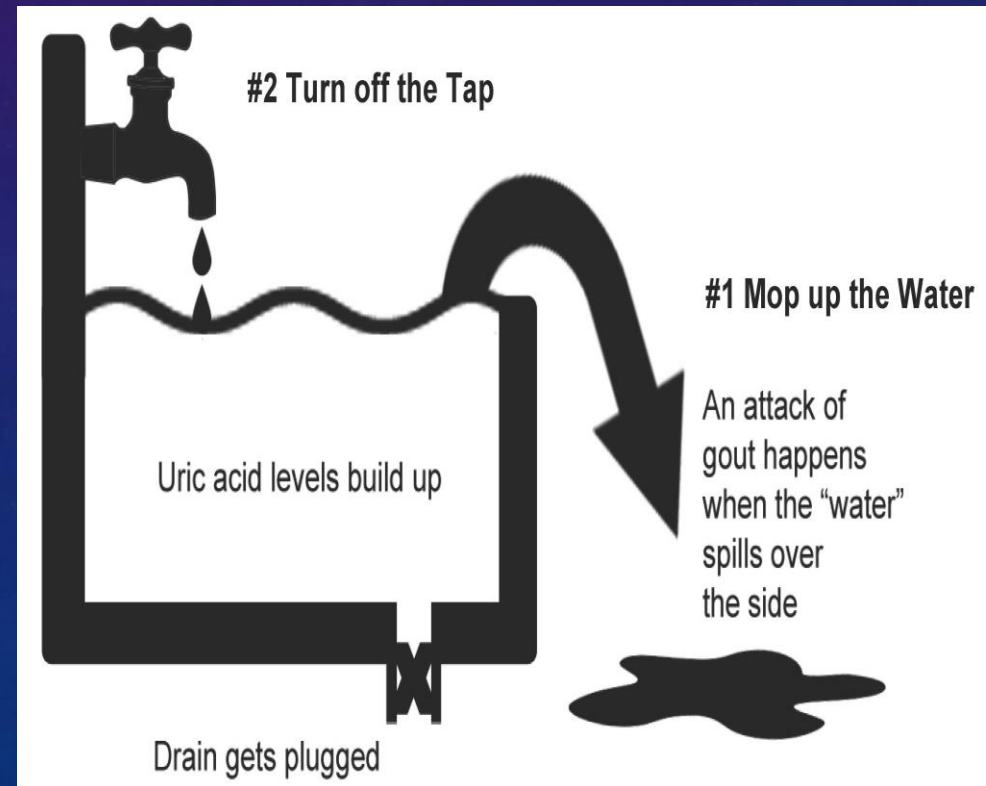
Probenecid ,  
Sulfinpyrazone

Anti- inflammatory

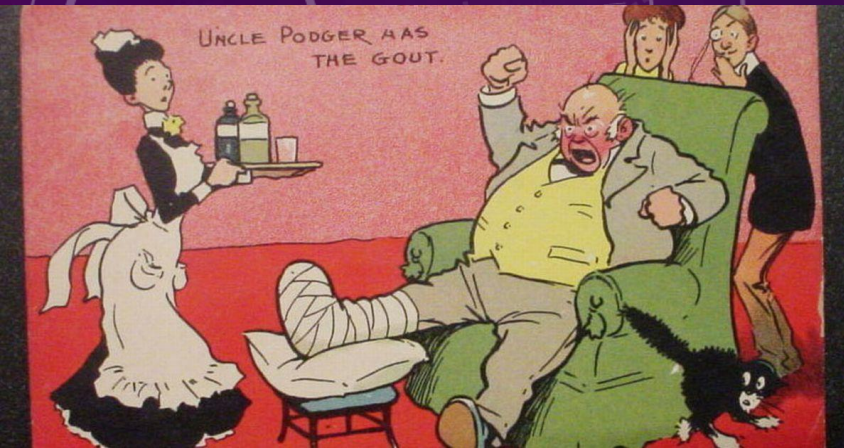
NSAIDs, Steroids

Tubulin inhibitors

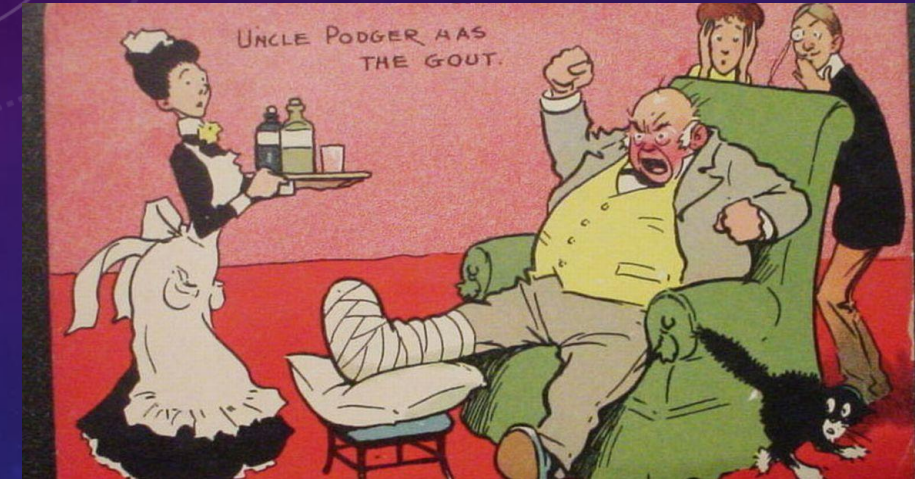
Colchicine



# TREATMENT OF ACUTE GOUT



**Acute gouty  
arthritis**



**Colchicine**

**NSAIDs**

**Corticosteroids**

# NSAIDS

NSAIDs are the most commonly used first-line treatment

Head-to-head studies show few differences between drugs

Full doses of NSAIDs should be initiated immediately and tapered after resolution of symptoms

Avoid NSAIDs:

- GI ulcer
- Bleeding or perforation
- Renal insufficiency
- Heart failure
- Use of oral anticoagulants



# STEROIDS

Corticosteroids are a good alternative where NSAIDs and colchicine cannot be used or in refractory cases

Studies showed equal efficacy between corticosteroid and NSAIDs, with no reported side-effects with short-term use of corticosteroids

In elderly people, patients with liver or hepatic impairment, Peptic ulcer disease IHD : ischemic heart disease, hypersensitivity to NSAIDs

- Intra articularly (preferred route if one or two joints affected)
- Orally
- Intramuscularly or intravenously.



# Colchicine

Alkaloid obtained from autumn  
crocus

Minimal effect on uric acid  
synthesis , excretion & is not  
analgesic



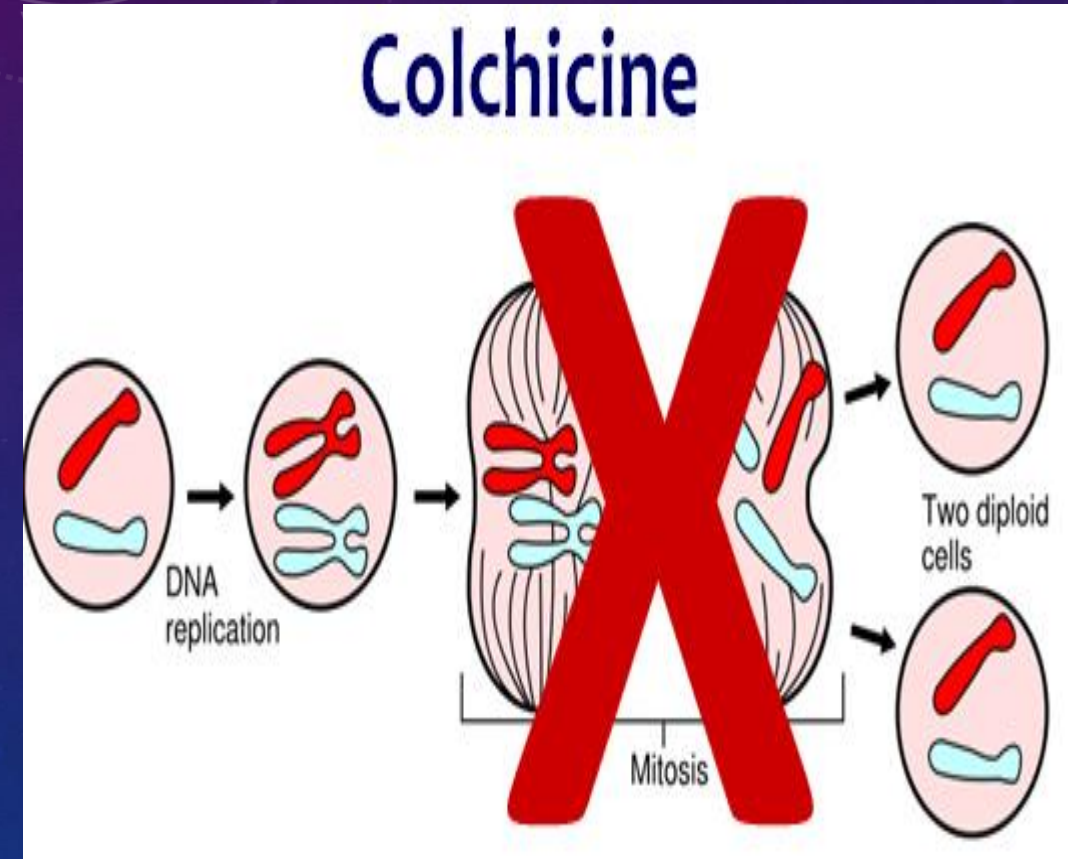
## MECHANISM

Binds to microtubules in neutrophils

Inhibits cell division

Inhibits chemotactic factors

Inhibits inflammasomes & IL-1 production





# Colchicine

## PHARMACOKINETICS

Administered orally, rapidly absorbed from the GI tract

Reaches peak plasma levels within 2 hours

Recycled in the bile and is excreted unchanged in the faeces or urine

Use should be avoided in patients with a creatinine clearance of less than 50 ml/min.

# Colchicine

## CLINICAL USES

- Treatment of gout flares
- Prophylaxis of gout flares
- Treatment of Mediterranean fever

# ADRS

-Diarrhea (sometimes severe)

-Nausea  
-Vomiting

-Abdominal cramps  
-Dehydration

Bone marrow depression

-Cardiac toxicity, arrhythmia  
-Vascular collapse  
- Hepatotoxicity , alopecia

## Prevention of recurrent attack



**Inhibition of uric acid synthesis**

- Allopurinol
- Febuxostat

**Uricosuric drugs**

- Probenacid
- Sulfinpyrazone

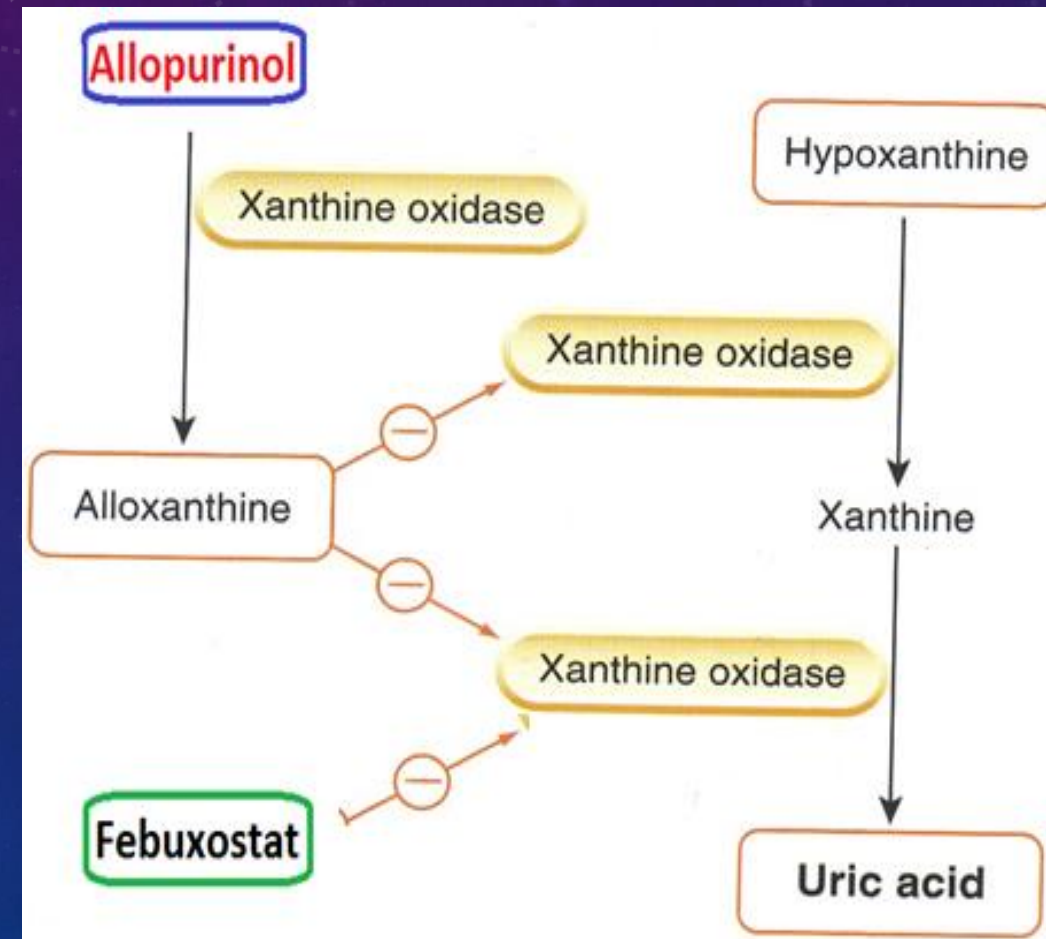
**Mammalian Uricase**

# INHIBITORS OF URIC ACID SYNTHESIS

Inhibit xanthine oxidase

Include allopurinol & febuxostat

Allopurinol is metabolized by xanthine oxidase into alloxanthine which is pharmacologically active



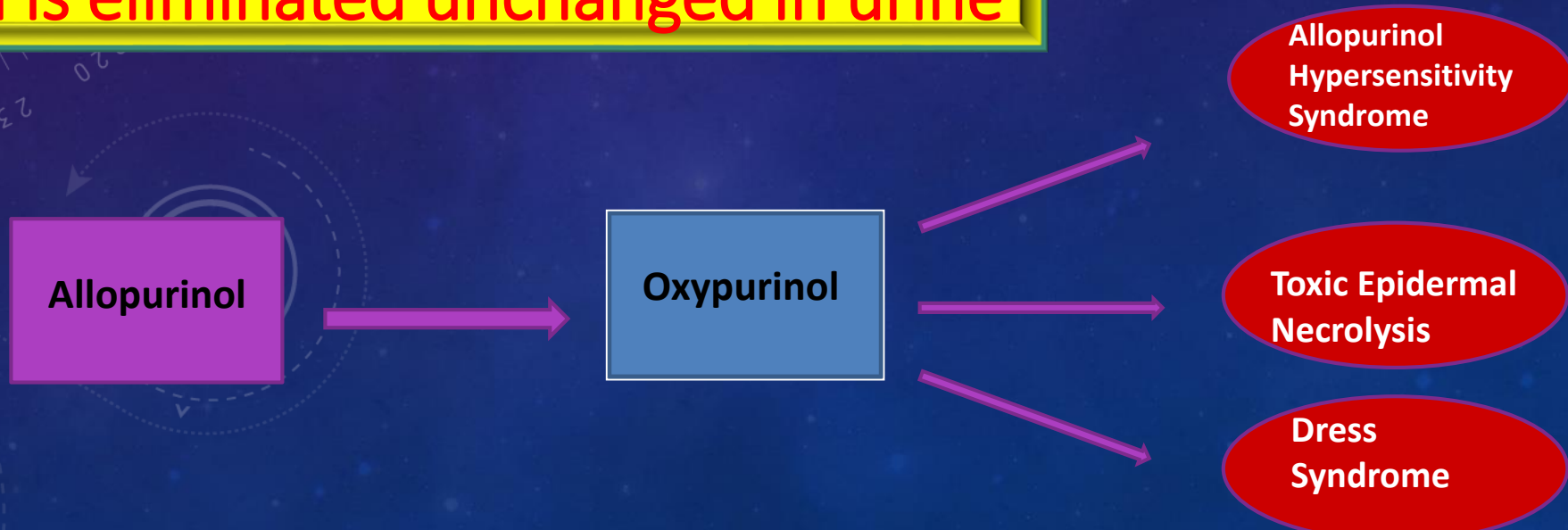
# PHARMACOKINETICS

Absorption 70%

Protein binding negligible 5%

Hepatic metabolism, 70% converted to active metabolite (oxypurinol)

Oxypurinol is eliminated unchanged in urine



# ADRS

Diarrhea, nausea, abnormal liver tests

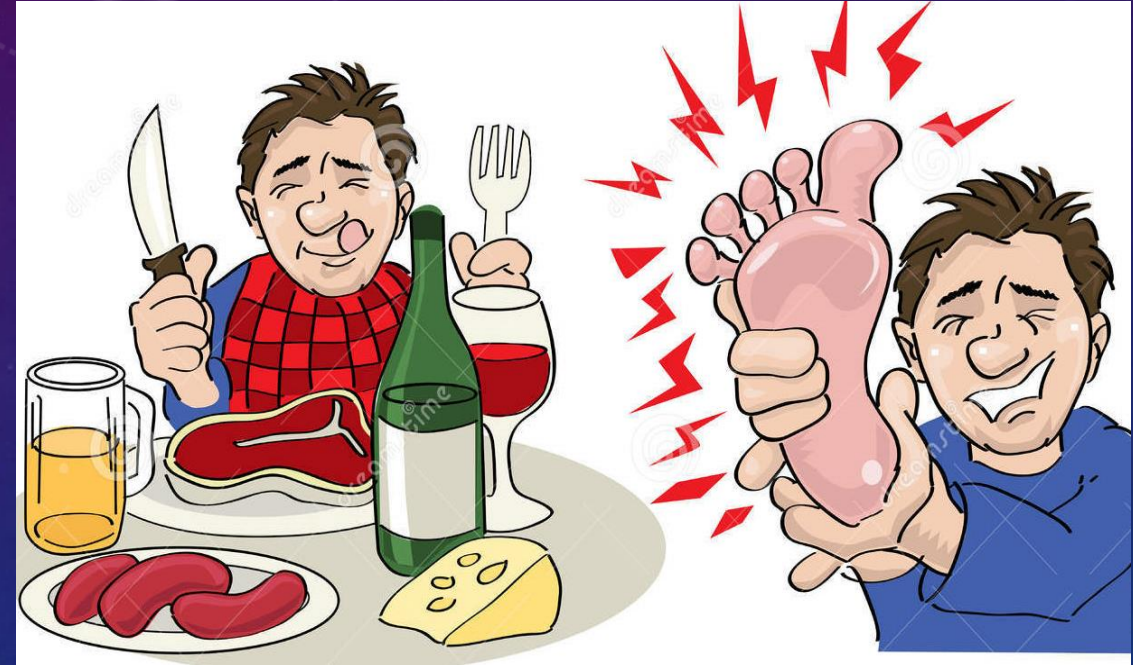
Acute attacks of gout

Fever, rash, **toxic epidermal necrolysis**, hepatotoxicity, marrow suppression, vasculitis

**DRESS** syndrome: 20% mortality rate

**D**rug **R**eaction, **E**osinophilia,

**S**ystemic **S**ymptoms: skin rash, fever, lymphadenopathy, and inflammation of the liver, lung, and heart.



# Allopurinol

## CLINICAL USES

Management of hyperuricemia of gout

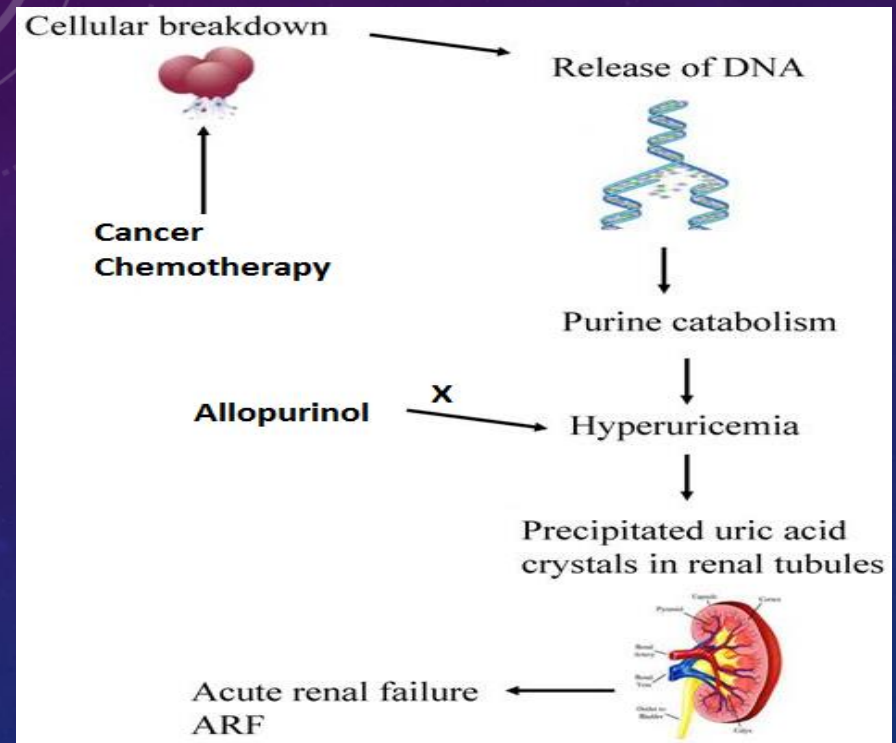
Uric acid stones or nephropathy

It is a drug of choice in patients with both gout & ischemic heart disease

Severe tophaceous deposits (uric acid deposits in tissues)

Management of hyperuricemia associated with chemotherapy

Prevention of recurrent calcium oxalate kidney stones





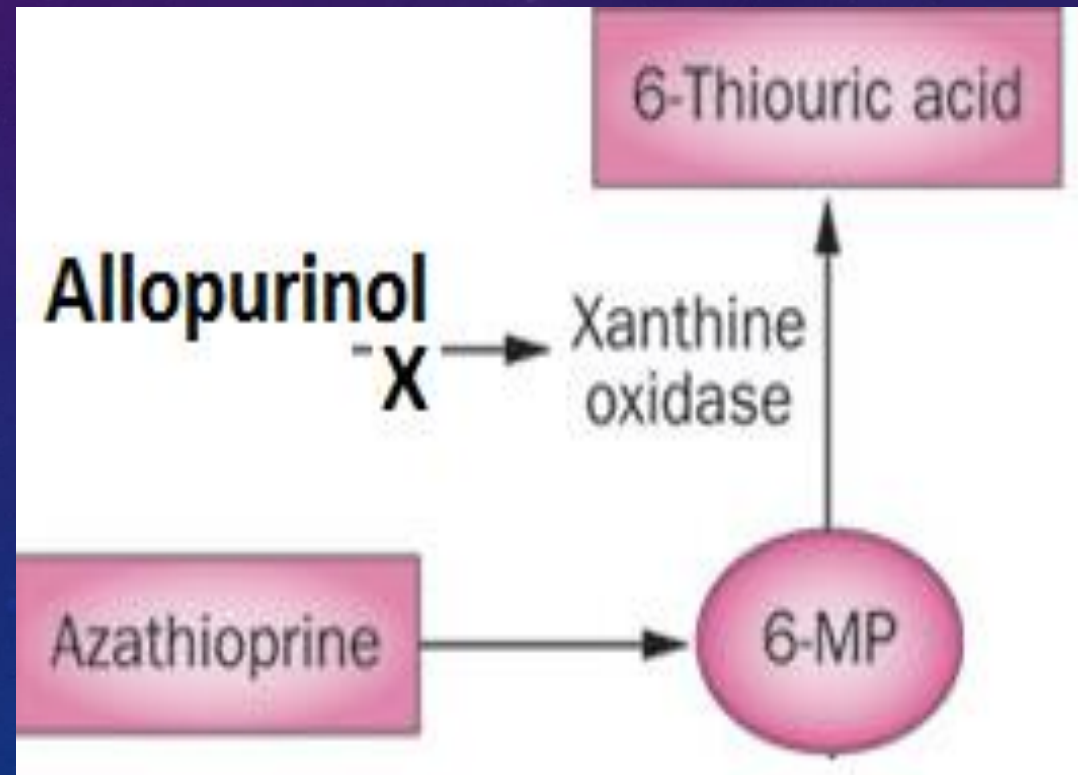
# Drug Interactions

## Warfarin & dicumarol

- inhibits their metabolism

Reduce the metabolism of  
**6-mercaptopurine**  
and **azathioprine**

With ampicillin : Increases frequency  
of **skin rash**



# Febuxostat

**Oral specific xanthine oxidase inhibitor**

**Indicated for the management of hyperuricemia in patients with gout (as it reduces serum uric acid levels)**

**Chemically distinct from allopurinol (non purine)**

**Can be used in patients with renal disease**

# Febuxostat

## PHARMACOKINETICS

Given orally once daily, well absorbed (85%)

Metabolized in liver , mainly conjugated to glucouronic acid

Given to patients who do not tolerate allopurinol

99% protein bound

$t_{1/2}$  8 hours

# Febuxostat

## ADRS

Increases number of gout attacks during the first few months of treatment

Increases level of liver enzymes

Nausea, Diarrhea

Headache

Numbness of arm or leg

# URICOSURIC DRUGS

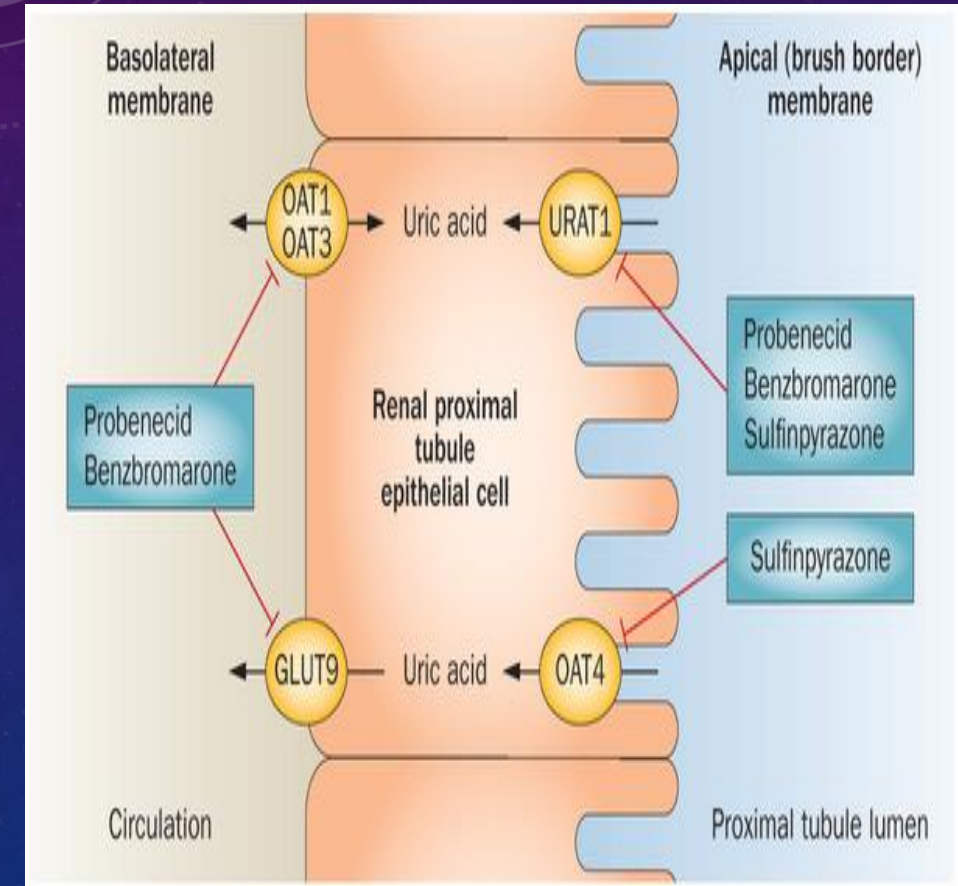
## Mechanism

Blocks tubular reabsorption of uric acid & enhances urine uric acid excretion

Probenecid inhibits Urate Transporters (URAT) in the apical membrane of the proximal tubule

It also inhibits organic acid transporter (OAT) → ↑ plasma concentration of penicillin

Sulfinpyrazol inhibits URAT1 & OAT4



# URICOSURIC DRUGS

Control hyper-uricemia and prevent tophus formation

Probenecid is moderately effective

Increases risk of nephrolithiasis

Not used in patients with renal disease

Some drugs reduce efficacy (e.g., aspirin)

## ADRS

### Probenecid

Exacerbation of acute attack

Risk of uric acid stone

GIT upset

Allergic rash

## CONTRA-INDICATIONS

History of nephrolithiasis

Recent acute gout

Existing renal disease

Less effective in elderly patients



## DRUGS IN GOUT

### Sulfinpyrazone

Sulfinpyrazone can aggravate peptic ulcer disease

Aspirin reduces efficacy of sulfinpyrazone

Sulfinpyrazone enhance the action of certain anti-diabetic drugs

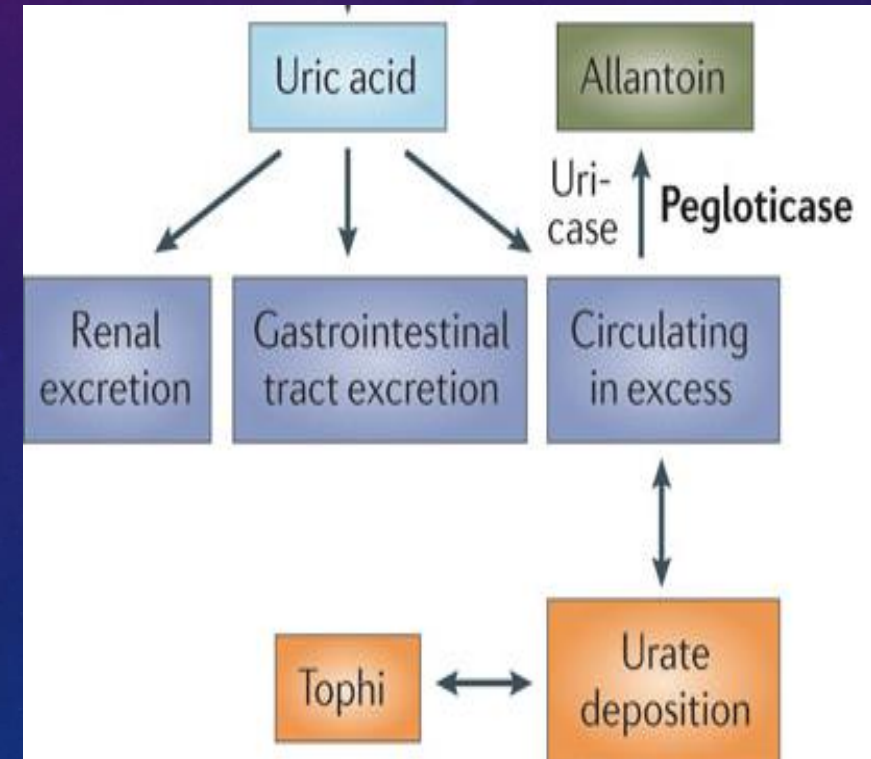
## Recombinant mammalian uricase

### Pegloticase

A uric acid specific enzyme which is a recombinant modified mammalian uricase enzyme

enzymatically convert urate to allantoin, which is more soluble and readily excreted in the urine

Given I.V. → peak decline in uric acid level within 24-72 hours



# Pegloticase

Used for the treatment of chronic gout in adult patients refractory to conventional therapy

## ADRS

Infusion reactions

Anaphylaxis

Gout flare

Arthralgia, muscle spasm

Nephrolithiasis