

# Local anesthetics

## Definition :-

- ✓ Local anesthetics are drugs that cause reversible loss of sensation in a local area
- ✓ Without loss of consciousness .

## Chemistry :

**Weak** bases.

## Classification :

They can be Amides or Esters

## E.g. :

| <b>Properties of esters and amides</b> |                      | <b>Duration of action</b> | <b>Note</b>                                |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Esters</b>                          | Procain              | Short                     | procain is not effective as topical aneth. |
|  | Cocain               | Medium                    | produce VC                                 |
|  | Benzocain            | Medium                    | only for surface                           |
|  | Tetracain            | Long                      |  |
| <b>Amides</b>                          | Lidocain(ligoncain). | Medium                    | Effective surface .anesthetic              |
|  | Mepivacin            | Medium                    | Not effective as a topical anesthetic      |
|  | Prilocain            | Medium                    | Methemoglobinemia                          |
|  | Bupivacain           | Long                      | is more cardiotoxic                        |
|  | Etidocain            | Long                      |  |
|  | Levobupivacaine      | Long                      |  |
|  | Ropivacaine          | Long                      |  |

Amides act for longer duration of action than esters .

## ❖ Pharmacokinetics in general :

### ➤ **Absorption:**

- Systemic absorption of LA affected by :-
- Dosage
- Drug tissue binding
- Site of injection
- Vasoconstrictor drug .
- Physicochemical properties of the drug .

### ➤ **Distribution :**

- Widely distributed
  - ① To highly perfused organ
    - ✗ Brain
    - ✗ liver
    - ✗ Kidney
    - ✗ Heart
  - ② To moderately perfused organs
    - ✗ GI
    - ✗ Muscle
- Esters have a short  $T_{1/2}$

### ➤ **Metabolism:** T and F

- LA are converted in the liver or in plasma to more water-soluble metabolites and then excreted in the urine .

#### 1- **Esters :**

- ✓ Are hydrolyzed very mainly and rapidly in the blood by pseudocholinesterase (butyrylcholinestrane ). They can be metabolized in the liver too . however, they can't be metabolized by acetylcholinesterase → so short plasma  $T_{1/2}$  .
- ✓ Plasma cholinesterase activity is reduced in :
  - ✗ New born
  - ✗ Pregnancy
  - ✗ Genetic variation

#### 2- **amide:**

- ✓ in the liver by cy P450
- ✓ factors affect their metabolism :-
  - ✗ liver dz .
  - ✗ enzyme inducers & inhibitors
  - ✗ hepatic blood flow.

➤ **Excretion :**

- Main route of excretion urine
- Acidity → excretion (because amides & esters are alkaline substances)

➤ **Mechanism of action:**

- Primarily → block voltage gated  $\text{Na}^+$  channels .
- Prevent initiation ( generation ) and propagation (conduction ) of nerve impulse (action potential ).  
(Remember: this effect is reversible)

**Differential sensitivity of nerve local anesthetics :**

- Smaller fibers are susceptible to the action of local anesthesia than larger fibers
- Sensory fibers are paralyzed before motor fibers .
- The order of sensation loss :
  1. Pain
  2. followed by cold ,warm ,touch
  3. Deep pressure

**Effects of pH on the activity of local anesthesia :**

- Local anesthetics are influenced by changes in PH .their activity increase with rise PH -more alkalinity – since more "unionized " drugs will be available ,this form penetrates through the lipid layer .lowering PH –acidity- to their activity since more ionized form will be available .  
⇒ That's why local anesthetics are much less effective when injected into infected tissue

## Types of L.N

According to methods of producing local ans .: MCQ all except

- 1) Surface (topical) ans.
- 2) Infiltration ans .
- 3) Field block ans .
- 4) Nerve block ans .
- 5) I.V regional ans (bier block ).
- 6) Spinal ans (sub arachnoids / intrathecal block)
- 7) Epidural ans (extradural ),(peridural )

**N.B** : in case ja Q y8ol (by inhalation) Rong × Rong

### **①Surface (topical ) ans**

- A) Skin &mucous membrane
- B) mucous membrane.

#### ***A) mucous membrane***

- ✗ Eyes
- ✗ Nose
- ✗ Mouth
- ✗ Throat
- ✗ tracheobronchial tree
- ✗ esophagus
- ✗ GIT.
- ✓ Dibucaine &Lidocaine(amide )
- ✓ Tetracain & benzocaine (esters )
- ✓ N.B: procain is not effective as topical

#### ***B) Skin & mucous membrane***

- ✓ Dibucain
- ✓ skin →EMLA(lignocain + prilocaine)
- ✓ benzocain →only for surface
- ✓ cocain → also has surface anesthetic action .

## ② infiltration :

- ✓ Direct injection into tissue to reach nerve branches & terminals .
- ✓ Most of the drugs E.g:
- ✓ Lidocain, procain, bupivacaine.

## ③ field:

- ✓ Local anesthetic injected S.C to anaesthetize the region distal to the injection
- ✓ The same drugs used for infiltration as anesthesia .

## ④ nerve block :

- ✓ Injection close to nerve trunk e.g :
- ✓ Brachial plexus ,intercostals or dental nerve .
- ✓ Drugs : lidocain ,procaine ,bupivacain

## ⑤ intravenous : Bier block

- ✓ Injected I.V distal to pressure cuff to arrest blood flow
- ✓ Used in limb surgery .
- ✓ Most of the drug E.g :  
Lidocain ,procaine ,bupivacain

## ⑥ spinal(sub arachnoids) ,(intrathecal ).

- ✓ Injected into subarachnoid space (containing CSF) to acts on spinal roots and spinal cord .

### ◇ Used for:-

- abdomen ,pelvis ,leg .
- Mainly when general anesthesia can not be used

### ◇ Drug: lidocine

◆ **Adverse effects :**

- 1) 1-bradychardia ,hypotension→ due to sympathetic block .
- 2) respiratory depression → due to effect on phrenic nerve or respiratory center.
- 3) urinary retention → effect on pelvic anatomic (parasympathetic nerve)
- 4) paraplesia
- 5) meningitis .

● **Epidural (extradural).:**

- ✓ Injected into epidural space to acts on spinal roots

◆ **uses :**

- ✓ **Same as spinal :-**
- ✓ Widely used in **obstetrics** (as for painless child birth).

◆ **Drugs:**

lodicaine & bupivacaine

◆ **Advers effects : -**

- ★ Like spinal but less
- ★ avoid potentially serious hazards of putting foreign substance into CSF .

## Adverse effect of L.A:

### **1. Hypersensitivity: MCQ**

- Dermatitis, asthma, rash, edema, anaphylaxis.
- Almost exclusively with esters due to metabolite PABA, so usually derivatives of PABA e.g.: procaine, tetracaine.  
(PABA= para amide benzoic acid )

### **2. CNS:**

- ⬆ Most important in **IV** route.
- ⬆ Sleepiness, light headedness, visual & auditory disturbances & restlessness.
- ⬆ **Circum oral & tongue numbness (this is the first sign of CNS toxicity) & metallic taste.**
- ⬆ Nystagmus & muscular twitching.
- ⬆ Tonic-clonic convulsions
- ⬆ Stimulation followed by depression.
- ⬆ Prevention by Benzodiazepines.
- ⬆ Treatment by:
  - ✓ **oxygen**, tracheal intubation, mechanical ventilation for respiratory depression.
  - ✓ **Benzodiazepines** (midazolam, diazepam).
  - ✓ **Succinylcholine** for muscle manifestations of seizures.

### **3. Skeletal muscle:** (NMJ = neuromuscular junction) & autonomic ganglia block.

**4. CVS:** T and F

- ♥ (Direct & indirect) effect **on cardiac & smooth muscles & (indirect) on autonomic nerves.**
- ♥ **Bupivacaine** → is **more cardiotoxic** than others:-
  - Myocardium → ↓excitability, ↓conduccion rate, ↓ force of contraction  
causing → ↑arrhythmia (ventecular arrhythmia ),  
widened QRS complex,
  - cardiac arrest.
- ♥ Mostly arteriolar dilatation → ↓BP (except cocaine which produce VC ).
- ♥ Cardiovascular collapse & death.
- ♥ Cocaine block nor-adrenaline uptake → VC → **hypertension**
  - precipitate arrhythmia,
  - cerebral hemorrhage,
  - myocardial infarction.

**5. Smooth muscles:** depress → GI, vascular ,bronchial, uterine smooth muscles.

**6. Methemoglobinemia:** **prilocaine** due to metabolite **toluidine**,  
treatment by: **IV methylene blue** Or **Ascorbic acid**.



## Factors affecting L.A action: T and F

- 1) **Diameter of nerve fiber:** smaller the diameter faster the block.
- 2) **Myelination:** myelinated nerves block before the unmyelated nerves of the same diameter.
- 3) **High firing rate** (frequency of depolarization ) → more block (pain fibers)
- 4) **Long AP** ( action potential) duration → more block (pain fibers ).
- 5) **Infection** → ↓ action due to → ↓ in pH.
- 6) **Hypercalcaemia** → partially antagonize the action of L.A.
- 7) **Hyperkalaemia** → enhances the effect.
- 8) **Tachyphylaxis** (repeated injection result in loss of effectiveness due to extracellular acidosis).
- 9) **Fiber position** in the nerve bundle: in large nerve trunks, **motor nerves** are located in the outer portion so they are the **first** to be exposed to the drug when given by injection into the surrounding tissues.

## Some L.A:

### **Benzocaine**

(Ethyle 4-aminobenzoate)

- ✓ Lack terminal hydrophilic amino group.
- ✓ Only slightly soluble in water.so it is useless for injection . it is applied topically assurface anesthetic in the form of ointment or powder .
- ✓ Slowly absorbed.
- ✓ Used only for surface anesthesia.

### **Mepivacaine**

- Not effective as a topical anesthetic.

### **Bupivacaine:**

- More cardiotoxic than other L.A drugs.

### **Procaine:**

- Metabolized by psuedocholinesterase.
- Onset of action is slow.
- Duration of action is short.
- Potency is less.
- Not effective as surface anesthetic.

### Lignocaine: (lidocaine,xylocaine)

- Amide.
- Metabolized by hepatic microsomal enzymes.
- Onset of action is rapid.
- Duration of action is intermediate.
- Potency is more.
- Effective surface anesthetic.

### Adrenaline:

- Catecholamine.
- Stimulate  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$  receptors.
- Causes **vasoconstriction** by stimulating  $\alpha_1$  receptors:  
↓ Absorption, ↑ duration, ↓ dose, ↓ side effects.
- Precaution: end arteries, so should not be used in **fingers, toes, ear, penis.**

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