

# SYMPATHOLYTIC AGENTS USED IN HYPERTENSION



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# SYMPATHOLYTICS :

- A **sympatholytic** (or **sympathoplegic** ) drug is a medication which **inhibits** the **postganglionic functioning of the sympathetic nervous system**.
- **They can block at 3 different levels :**
  - ✓ **Peripheral sympatholytic drugs** (  **$\alpha$  &  $\beta$  receptor antagonists** ) block the action of NA at the effector organ (heart or blood vessel).
  - ✓ **Ganglionic blockers** that block impulse transmission at the sympathetic ganglia.
  - ✓ **Centrally acting sympatholytic drugs** that block sympathetic activity within the brain.

# CLASSIFICATION OF SYMPATHOLYTIC AGENTS

- ✓  $\beta$  -Blockers
- ✓  $\alpha$  -Blockers
- ✓  $\beta+\alpha$  -Blockers
- ✓ Ganglion blockers
- ✓ Neuronal blockers
- ✓ Centrally acting sympatholytics

# $\beta$ -Blockers

```
graph TD; A["β-Blockers"] --> B["Non-selective (β1 and β2)"]; A --> C["Cardioselective (β1)"]; B --- D["• Propanolol<br>• Pindolol<br>• Timolol<br>• sotalol"]; C --- E["• Metoprolol<br>• Atenolol<br>• Acebutolol<br>• Esmolol"];
```

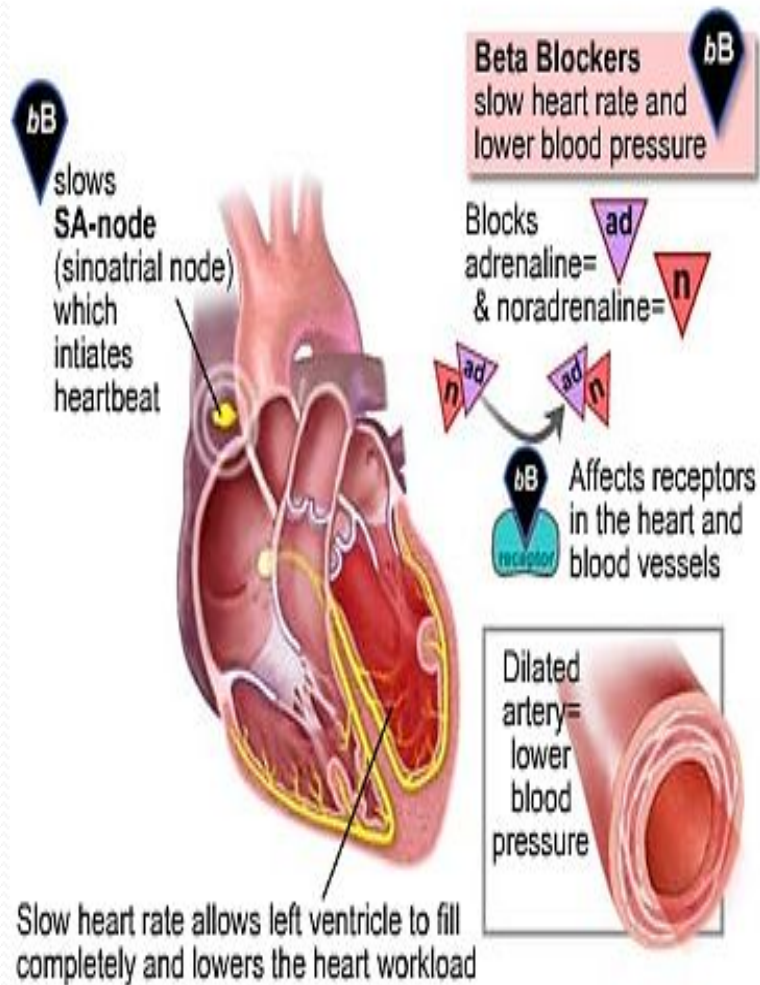
## Non-selective ( $\beta_1$ and $\beta_2$ )

- Propanolol
- Pindolol
- Timolol
- sotalol

## Cardioselective ( $\beta_1$ )

- Metoprolol
- Atenolol
- Acebutolol
- Esmolol

# Mechanism of action



## Blockade of the Beta<sub>1</sub> Receptor



## Blockade of the Beta<sub>2</sub> Receptor



## Uses :

- ⌘ In mild hypertensive patients (stage I SBP-(140-159) & DBP-(90-99))
- ⌘ Hypotensive response develops over 1-3 weeks and is maintained over 24 hrs.
  
- ⌘ **Other uses:**
  - ✓ **Angina**.-decrease frequency of attack and Increase exercise tolerance
  - ✓ **Congestive heart failure**.-antagonizes deleterious reflex of sympathetic system
  - ✓ **As a secondary prophylaxis in MI**-By preventing reinfarction and ventricular fibrillation.

## Ctd....

- ✓ **Cardiac arrhythmias**-By suppressing extrasystoles & bradycardia.
- ✓ Supraventricular tachycardias are reduced due to prolonged systoles.(**esmolol**)

### Adverse effects :

- ✓ **Rebound hypertension** on sudden withdrawl.
- ✓ Bradycardia in patients of sick sinus
- ✓ Bronchoconstriction
- ✓ GIT upset,
- ✓ Night mares, forgetfulness

	<b>Non-selective(<math>\beta</math>1+<math>\beta</math>2)</b>	<b>Cardio selective (<math>\beta</math>1)</b>
<b>Pharmacological actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease renal blood flow which ultimately decrease GFR.</li> <li>• Plasma LDL/HDL ratio is increased.</li> <li>• Most of them are lipid soluble.</li> <li>• Carbohydrate tolerance is impaired in prediabetis .(inhibits glycogenolysis due to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal effect on renal blood flow &amp; GFR.</li> <li>• Little/no deleterious effect on blood lipids.</li> <li>• Most of them are lipid insoluble.</li> </ul>



# Ctd....

## Adverse effects

- Fatigue, unconciousness , subtle cognitive effects, loss of libido.
- Cold hands and feet syndrome.
- C/I in partial and complete heart block (propanalol)
- Accenuates MI.

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**Esmolol** :Short lasting fall in B.P when given by i.v infusion(Rapid onset)

# $\alpha$ -Blockers

```
graph TD; A["α -Blockers"] --> B["Non selective"]; A --> C["α 1 Selective"]; A --> D["α 2 selective"];
```

## Non selective

- Phentolamine
- Chlorpromazine
- Phenoxybenzamine

## $\alpha$ 1 Selective

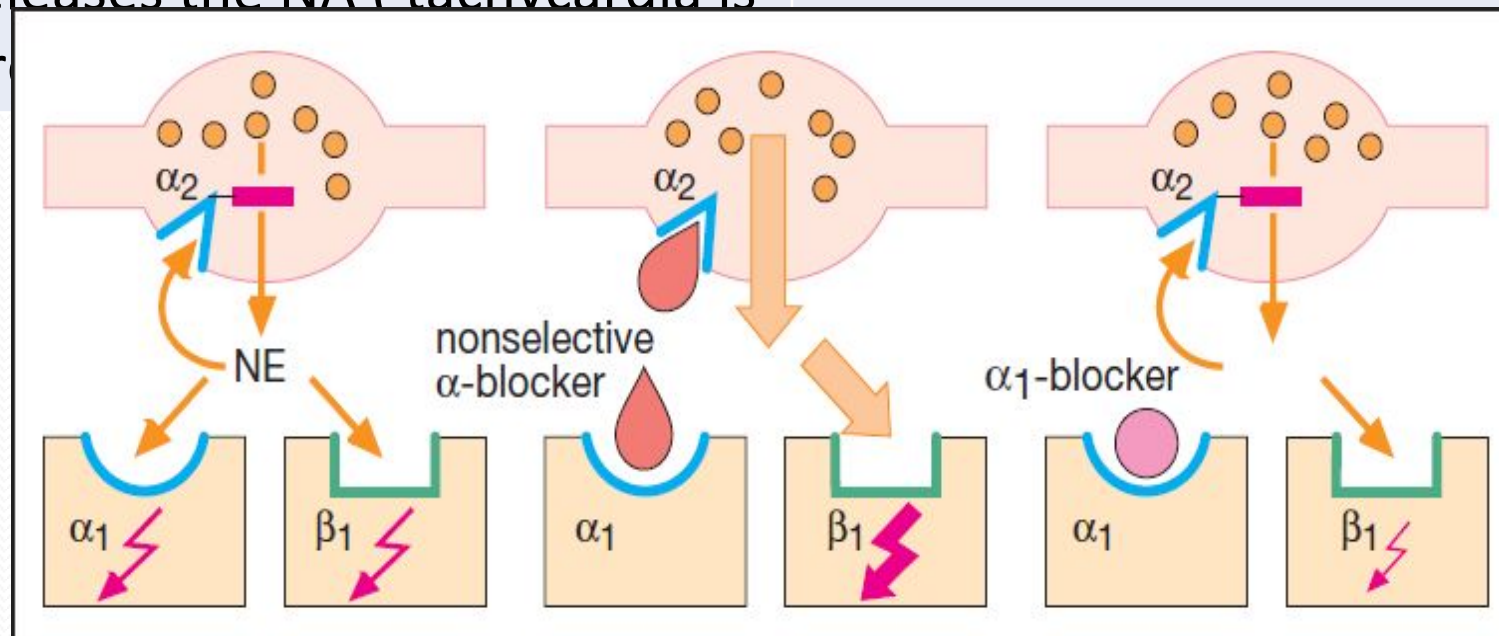
- Prazosin
- Terazosin
- Doxazosin

## $\alpha$ 2 selective

- Yohimbine

# Mechanism of action

Non selective	Selective
Block both $\alpha_1$ and $\alpha_2$ receptors	Block selectively $\alpha_1$ receptors.
Vasodilatation and fall in BP ( $\alpha_1$ blockade) - Presynaptic $\alpha_2$ blockade releases the NA ( tachycardia is pro	Vasodilation and fall in BP ( $\alpha_1$ blockade) - Tachycardia is minimal.



# Uses :

- ⌘ In mild to moderate hypertensive patients(prazosin)
- ⌘ Clonidine withdrawal.
- ⌘ **Pheochromocytoma pts** : Release of CA during surgery.
- ⌘ **Benign hypertrophy of prostate** :By decreasing the tone of prostate /bladder neck muscles and by retarding progression.
- ⌘ **Raynauds disease** .
- ⌘ Used in diabetes patients.
- ⌘ Increases the HDL and lowers the LDL & TGS

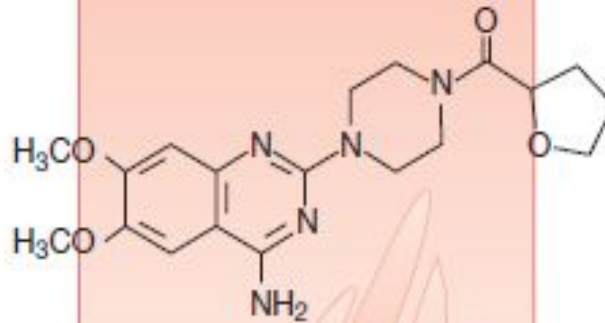
High blood pressure

$\alpha_1$ -blocker  
e.g., terazosin

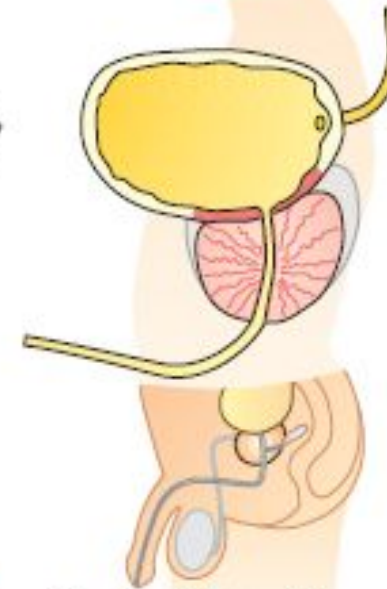
Benign  
prostatic hyperplasia



Resistance  
arteries



Inhibition of  
 $\alpha_1$ -adrenergic  
stimulation of  
smooth muscle



Neck of bladder,  
prostate

## 2. Indications for $\alpha_1$ -sympatholytics

# Adverse effects:

- ⌘ Postural hypotension. (Prazosin: first dose effect)
- ⌘ Fluid retention and tolerance with monotherapy
- ⌘ Head ache, drowsiness, dry mouth
- ⌘ Miosis ( $\alpha_1$  blockage)-blurred vision
- ⌘ Nasal stuffiness
- ⌘ Impotence (inhibits ejaculation)

# $\alpha + \beta$ BLOCKERS

## LABETELOL ( $\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \alpha_1$ )

Fall in BP (Decrease in peripheral resistance)

### Uses:

- Essential hypertension (absence of  $\beta$  blocker action)
- Pheochromocytoma
- Clonidine withdrawal.

### ADR:

- Postural hypertension
- Failure of ejaculation.
- Rashes
- Liver damage

## CARVEDILOL ( $\beta_1 + \beta_2 +$ weak $\alpha_1$ )

Fall in BP (Vasodilation)

### Uses:

- Anti-oxidation property
- Hypertension.
- Cardioprotective in CHF





# GANGLION BLOCKERS

- ✚ **Quaternary ammonium compounds** : Hexamethonium , Pentolinium.
- ✚ **Monosulfonium compounds** : Trimethaphan, Camforsulfonate

## **ACTION:**

- ✓ Ganglionic blockers **inhibit autonomic activity** by interfering with neurotransmission within autonomic ganglia.
- ✓ This **reduces sympathetic outflow to the heart** thereby decreasing CO by decreasing HR and contractility.
- ✓ Reduced sympathetic output to the **vasculature decreases sympathetic vascular tone, which causes vasodilation & fall in B.P**



## Uses:

**Trimethaphan-** Used in hypertensive emergencies (aortic surgeries).

## Adverse effects:

- ✓ excessive hypotension and impotence due to its sympatholytic effect.
- ✓ constipation, urinary retention, dry mouth due to its parasympatholytic effect
- ✓ Cannot be used in chronic HTN.

# Neuronal blockers

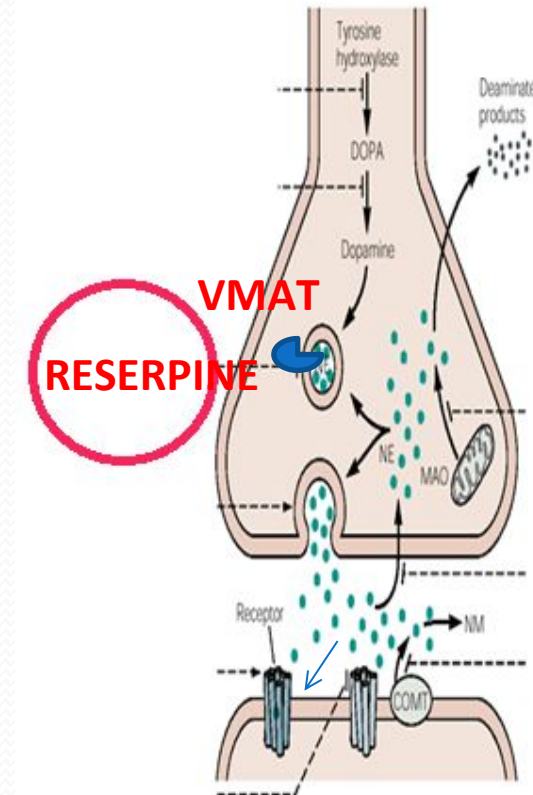
- ✓ **Reserpine** : Popular antihypertensive in 1950
- It inhibits the **VMAT 2** (stores monoamines) at the neurons of intraneuronal vesicles

Monoamines get degraded by MAO.

- Effects are long lasting as the CA stores are restored gradually

## Adverse effects:

At higher doses cause sedation, mental depression (deplete CA in brain)

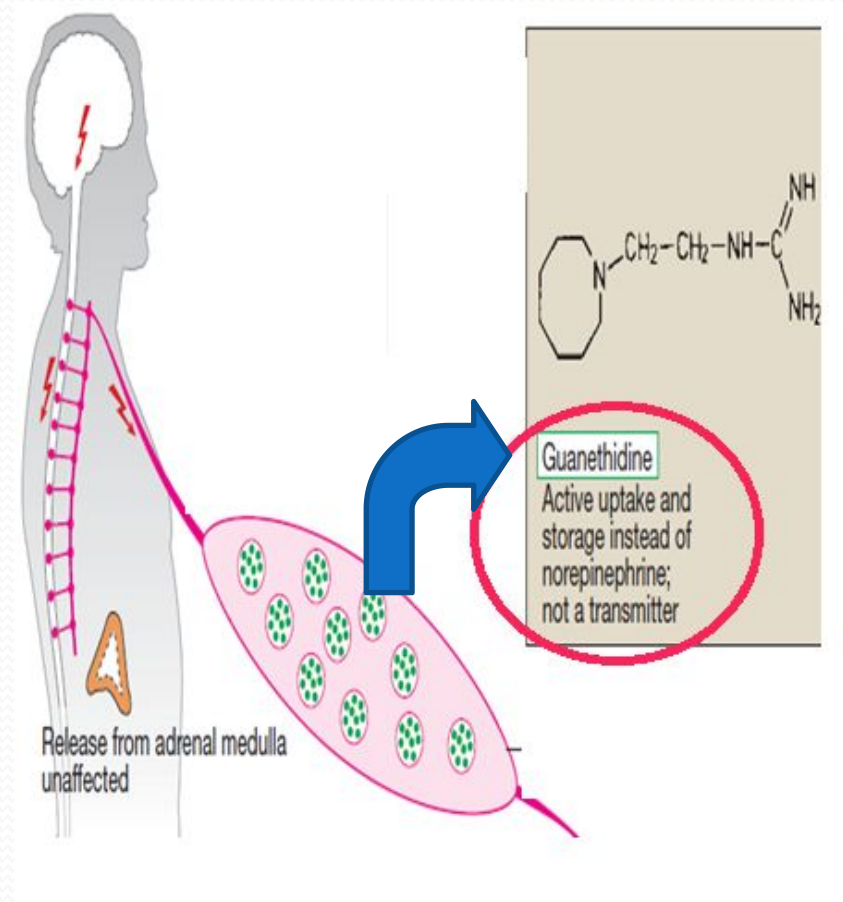


# Guanethidine

- ∞ Polar guanidine compound
- ∞ Taken into adrenergic nerve endings by **active amine transporter**.

## Actions:

- ✓ Engages & blocks NA uptake mechanism.
- ✓ Displaces NA in vesicles.
- ✓ Inhibits nerve impulse.
- Not used now because of side effects.





**THANK YOU**