

# Zaporozhye State Medical University Pharmacology and Medical Formulation Department



Lecture № 8

## PHARMACOLOGY OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

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# Respiratory Stimulants

## 1. Activating Respiratory Center Directly:

**Caffeine**

**Bemegride** – amp. 0.5% - 10 ml

**Etimizol** – amp. 1.5% - 3 ml, Tab. 0.1 g

## 2. Reflex Action:

**Cytiton**

**Lobeline hydrochloride**

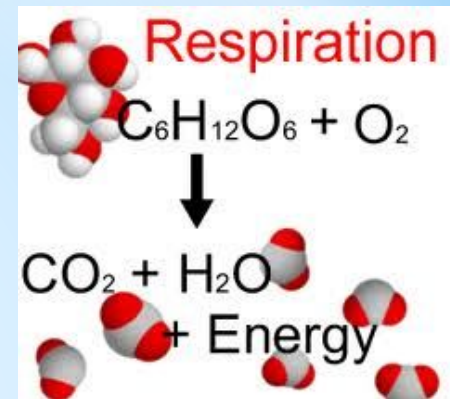
**Ammonia solution**

## 3. Mixed Type of Action:

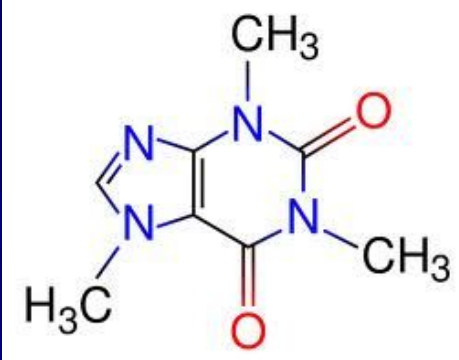
**Cordiamin** (*Nikethamide*) – amp. 1 ml, vial 15 ml

**Sulfocamphocaine** – amp. 10% - 2 ml

**Carbogen** (*Carbon dioxide*) - gas bottles



# Mechanisms of Action of Caffeine



- 1). Blockade of *Phosphodiesterase* => and  $\uparrow$ *cGMP*
- 2) Blockade of *Adenosine Receptors*

## ADENOSINE –

- an **Inhibitory Transmitter** of the CNS
- inhibits **Adenyl Cyclase** activity, causing **Airway Smooth Muscle**



**Contraction of**





**Cordiamin** (*Niketamide*) amp. 1 ml, vial 30 ml -  
an analeptic of *mixed* action

- Direct Exciting influence on Respiratory Center
- Stimulates N-Receptors of Carotid Sinus
  - Acceleration and Deepening of Respiration
  - ↑HR, ↑BP



### Clinical uses:

Respiratory failure in Shock, Collapse, Asphyxia;  
Respiratory depression in Infectious diseases;  
Prophylaxis of lung atelectasis and pneumonia

Adverse effects: clonic seizures, face hyperemia

**Carbogen** - is a mixture of **93-95%  $O_2$**  with  
*Carbon dioxide* **5-7%  $CO_2$**

It is used in anesthesia for inhalation.

Addition  **$CO_2$**  to the  **$O_2$**  => *stimulation* of  
*Respiratory Center* and much better using of  $O_2$



# Clinical Uses of Breathing Stimulants

## Acute Respiratory Failure :

- ▶ Asphyxia (*Respiratory Arrest*) in *newborns* and during *surgical operations*
- ▶ Aggravation of *Chronic Obstructive Bronchial Diseases* with sleepiness, inability to cough out
- ▶ Respiratory depression during *Infectious Diseases, Shock, Syncopal Conditions*
- ▶ During *surgical operations*
- ▶ Poisons with *Hypnotic drugs, Opioid Analgesics, General Anesthetics*

# Antitussive Drugs



## I. Central Cough Suppressants:

### 1. With **opioid** mechanism of action:

Codeine

Ethylmorphine

Dextromethorphan



### 2. With **non-opioid** mechanism of action:

Glaucine

Tusuprex

Broncholytin

## II. Peripherally Acting Drugs:

Libexin, Falimint



**Codeine** (*Methylmorphine*) - an opioid alkaloid

***Analgesic properties*** –

agonist activity at the ***opiate receptors***

***Antitussive action*** – a direct suppressive action on  
***the cough center*** and ☐ **mucosal secretion.**

*Delay gastric emptying,*

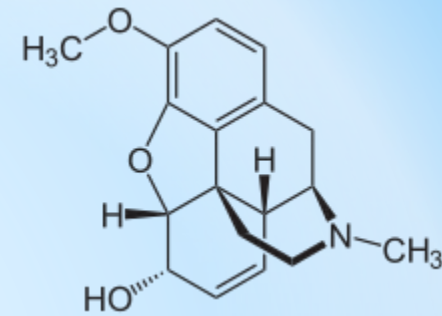
- ☐ Plasma ***Amylase*** and ***Lipase*** levels,
- ☐ Biliary tract pressure resulting from contraction of the sphincter of Oddi.

May produce **dependence** (*psychiatric and physical*).

**Adverse effects:** euphoria, hypotension, bradycardia, constipation, urine retention, physical dependence



- Tablets **Codeine**: 0.015 g  
with *Sodium Bicarbonate*



- Tablets “**Codterpine**”:

Codeine 0.015 g

Sodium Bicarbonate 0.25 g

Terpine hydrate 0.25 g

- “**Tablets for Cough**”:

Codeine 0.02 g

Sodium Bicarbonate 0.2 g

Thermopsis grass 0.01 g

Licorice root 0.2 g.



**Glaucine hydrochloride** – *Tab. 0.05 g* –

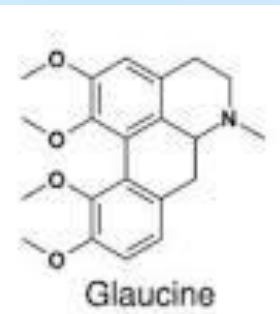
It is an **alkaloid** from the **Yellow Poppy** plant  
**Glaucine** (*Glaucium Flavum*) and may  
also be synthetically derived.



It is a **powerhouse ingredient** in the reduction of cough.

**Mechanism of action:**

□ inhibits the **Central Link** of the **Cough Reflex**.



**Broncholytin** - *Syrup 125 ml* –  
a complex antitussive drug.

**125 ml of syrup contains:**

**Glaucine** 0.125 g

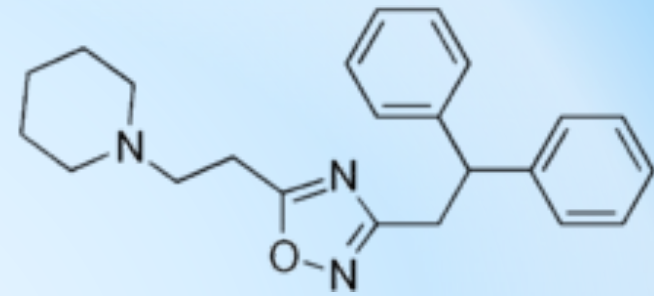
**ephedrine** 0.1 g

**basil Oil** 0.125 g



**Libexine** (*Prenoxdiazine*)- Tab. 0.1 g -

a synthetic **Antitussive of Peripheral Action**



**Mechanism of action:**

□ inhibits the **Peripheral Link** of the **Cough Reflex**.

□ Anesthesia of Mucous Membrane of upper  
Respiratory Tract

□ Broncholytic properties





# EXPECTORANTS



## I. BRONCHOSECRETOR DRUGS:

### 1. Reflex type of action:

*Thermopsis Grass Infusion*: (0.6 – 180 ml)

*Althaea Root Decoction* : (6.0 – 180 ml)



### 2. Resorptive type of action:

Potassium Iodide **[KI]**: 0.3-1 g PO as  
3% solution 1 tbsp. 3-4 times a day.

Sodium Bicarbonate **[NaHCO<sub>3</sub>]**

Mucaltin (tab. 0.05 g)





**II. Mucolytic Drugs** – convert *sticky* and *viscous sputum* to more liquid one and **promote** its easier release.

**1. Activating Hydrolytic Enzymes in Sputum:**

**Acetylcysteine (ACC)** - *amp. for inhalation 20%-10 ml, amp. for injection 10%-2 ml , tab 0.5 mg*

**2. Activating Hydrolytic Enzymes and Endogenous Surfactant Production:**

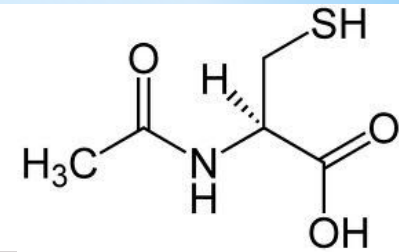
**Bromhexine** - *Tab. 0.004 and 0.008 g*

**Ambroxole** - *Tab. 0.03 g; syrup 0.3%-100 ml*

**Acetylcysteine** (ACC) -

an **mucolytic** of direct action

It is administered by *Nebulazation*,  
*PO*, *Direct Application*, or  
*Intratracheal Instillation*.



Mechanism of Action:

**ACC** splits the **disulfide (-S-S-)** bonds of **mucoproteins**, responsible for **increased viscosity** of **mucus secretions** in the **lungs** - secretions become *less viscous* and *more liquid*.





**ACC** is a *Paracetamol* antidote.

The mechanism:

- Restores hepatic stores of **Glutathione** – important in biological oxidations and the activation of some enzymes.

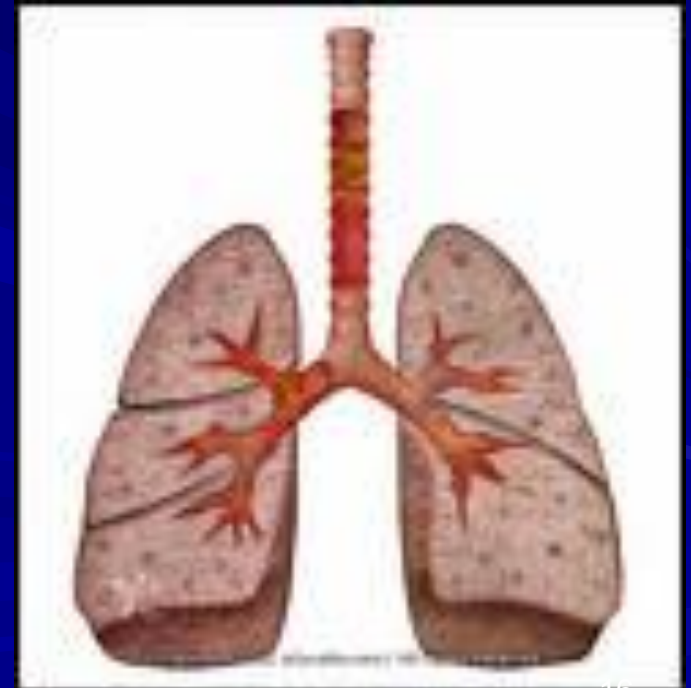
Formula:  $C_{10}H_{17}N_3O_6S$

- Inactivates the Toxic Metabolites  
Preventing **Liver Damage**



# Clinical uses of ACC:

- Acute and chronic broncho-pulmonary diseases
- Tracheostomy care
- Pulmonary complications of surgery
- Diagnostic bronchial studies





**Bromhexine** and **Ambroxole** –

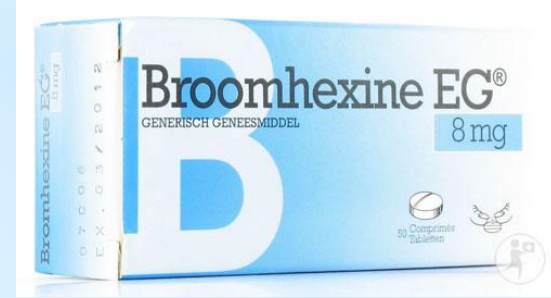
are **Mucolytic** and **Expectorant Agents**:

Mechanism of Action:

=> **Depolymerization** of **Mucoproteines** and **Mucopolysaccharides** of expectoration that induces its liquefaction.

They also stimulate production of **Surphactant** - endogenous **Superficially Active Substance** produced in alveolar cells.

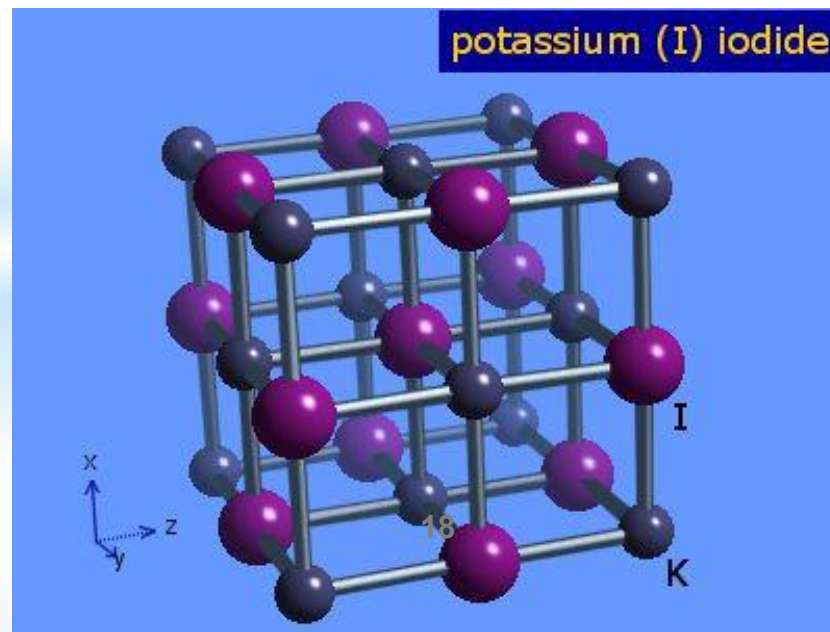
- ☐ **Normalize** Secretion of Bronchial Glands,
- ☐ **Improve** reological properties of *sputum*,
- ☐ **Reduce** its viscosity,
- ☐ **Relieve** excretion of *sputum* from bronchi



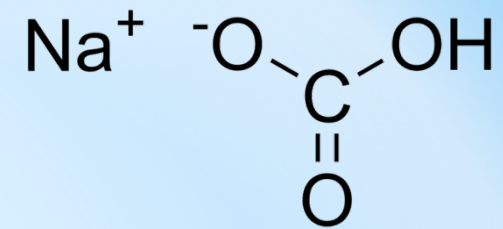
**Potassium Iodide** is an **Expectorant** and  
**Antihyperthyroid Agent**.

It reduces **viscosity** of mucus by increasing  
**respiratory tract secretions**.

In addition it acts directly on the **Thyroid Gland** to  
inhibit synthesis and release of **Thyroid Hormone**.



# Sodium Bicarbonate -



- ☐ Viscosity of mucus
- ☐ Bronchial secretions

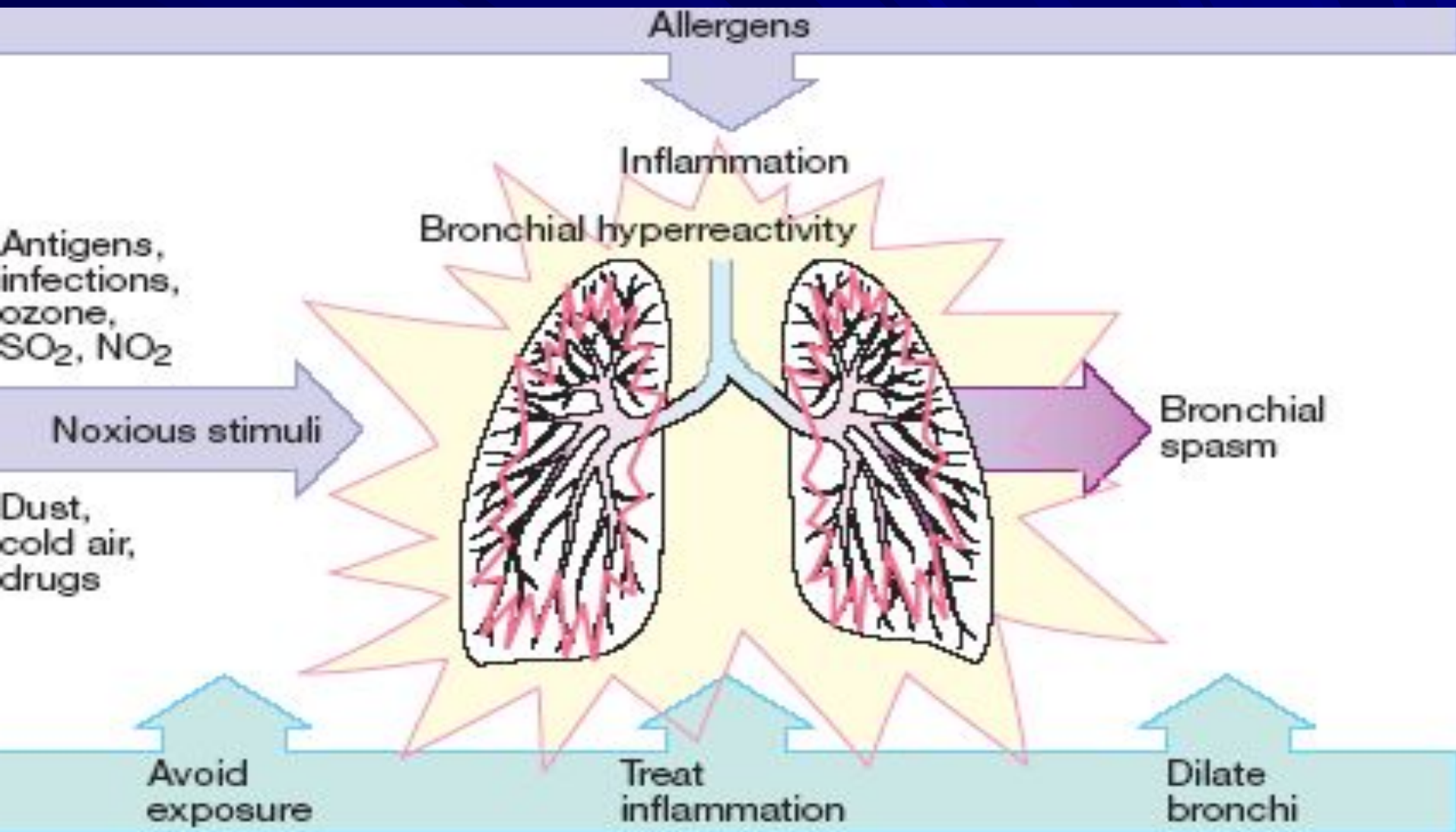
**Sodium Bicarbonate** abuse have been associated with **Hypokalemic Hypochloremic Metabolic Alkalosis**.

**Hypernatremia** => water retention, weight gain, and edema, which may be important in patients with **CHF**, **Renal Insufficiency**, or **Severe Liver Disease**.

Metabolic side effects have included metabolic alkalosis, hypernatremia/hyperosmolarity, hypochloremia, and hypokalemia.

Side effects have rarely included

**intravascular volume expansion** with resultant **Hyporeninemia** and **Hypoaldosteronemia**: the **plasma K<sup>+</sup>** may be **elevated**.



**Bronchial asthma, pathophysiology and therapeutic approach**



# BRONCHODILATORS

1. Agents stimulating  $\beta_2$  – adrenoreceptors of bronchi:

a) Selective  $\beta_2$ -adrenomimetics (AMs):

$\beta_2$ -AMs of Short action (4–6 hours):

Salbutamol

Terbutaline

Fenoterol

$\beta_2$ -AMs of Long action (> 12 hours):

Salmeterol

Formoterol

b) Non-selective Adrenomimetics:

Ephedrine, Adrenaline hydrochloride,

Isadrin, Orciprenaline sulfate (*Alupent*)



## 2. Methylxanthines – Spasmolytics of direct action:

a) **Theophylline** preparations with **short** period of action:

**Theophylline**

**Euphylline** (*Aminophylline*)

**Oxtriphylline**

b) **Theophylline** preparations with **long** period of action :

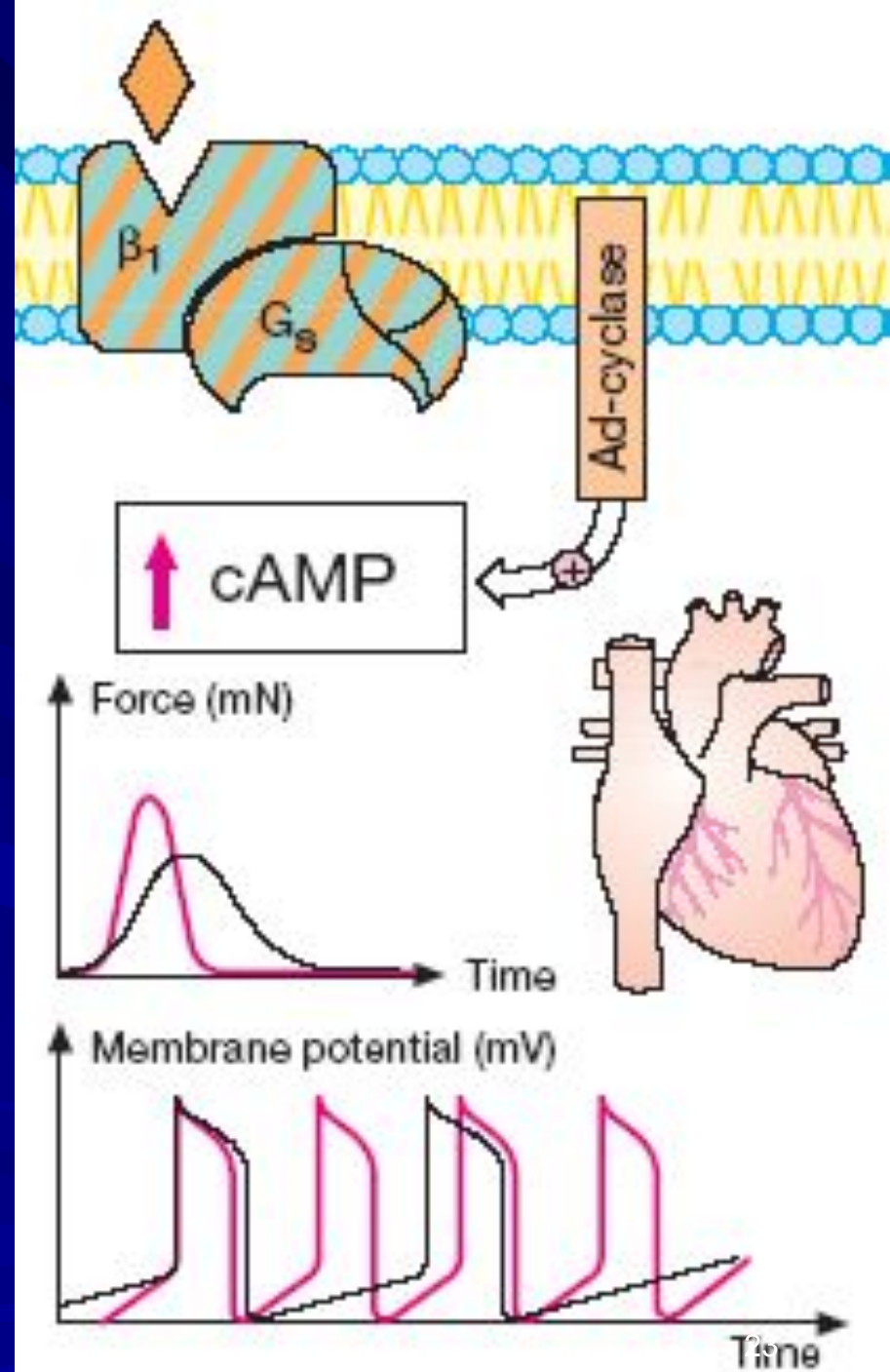
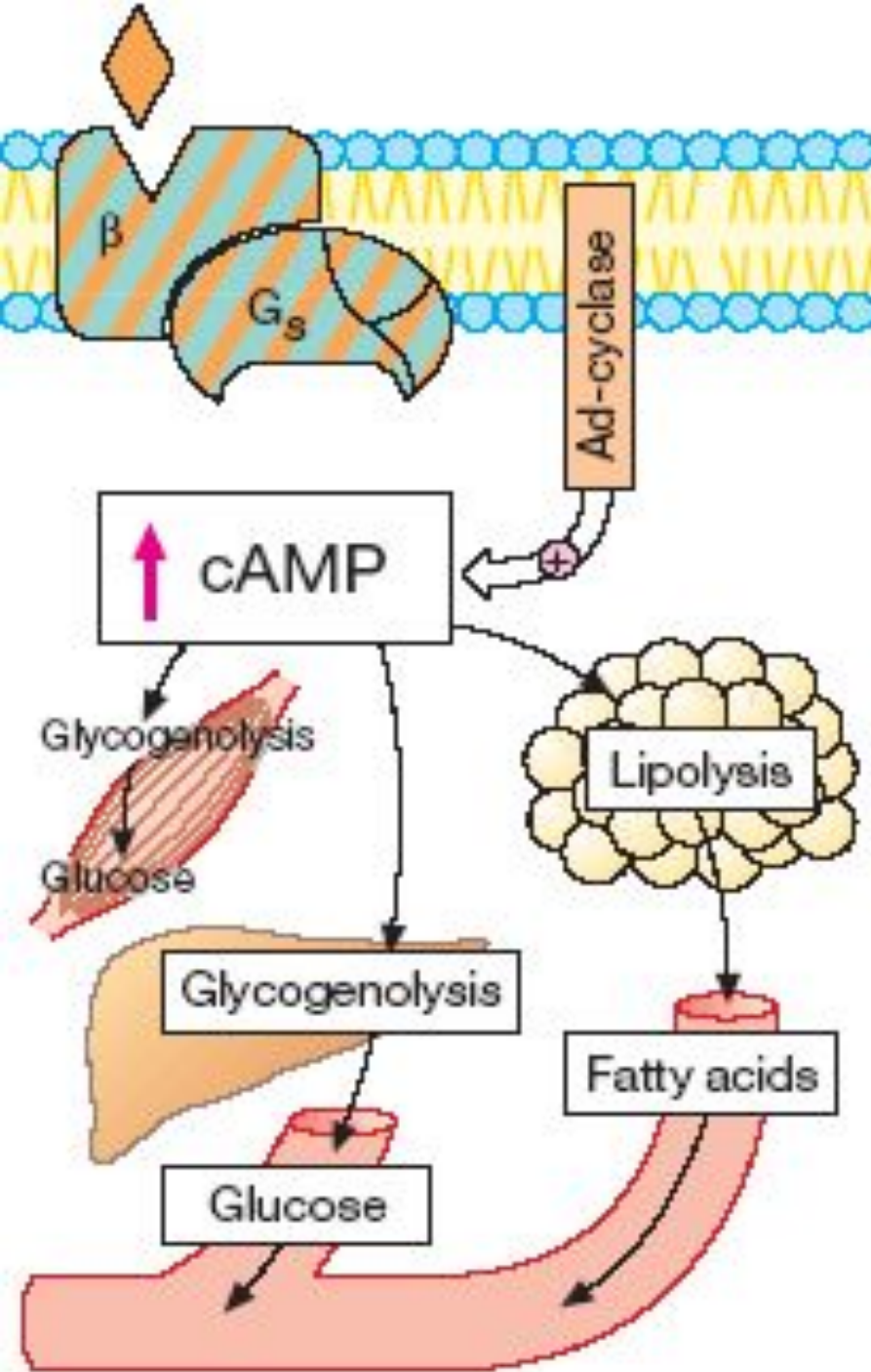
**Theobilong, Theodur, Theotard, Durophyllin**

## 3. M-cholinoblockers:

**Ipratropium bromide** (*Atrovent*)

**Tiotropium bromide**

**Oxitropium bromide**



**Salmeterol** and **Formoterol** - have **lipophilic** properties  
**Salbutamol** and **Fenoterol** have minor length (11 Angstrom)  
and **hydrophilic** properties.

These comparatively quickly “**wash out**” from receptor’s area  
and their duration lasts 4-6 hours.

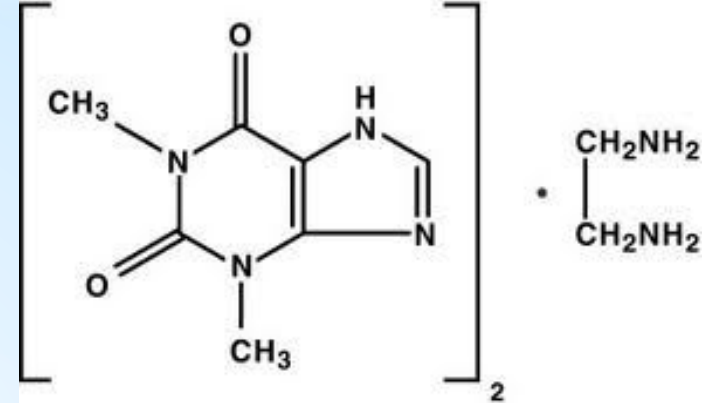
**Salmeterol** is long (25 Angstrom) molecule and exceeds  
*Salbutamol* in lipophilicity by dozens times.

The long chain is strongly attaching to the cell membrane  
and active center of the drug is capable to *activate receptor*  
*repeatedly* providing bronchodilation for 12 hours.





**Aminophylline** (*Euphylline*):  
Theophylline **79%**  
Ethylenediamine **21%** complex



**Theophylline:**

- ☐ inhibits PDE => **↑cAMP**
- ☐ blocks **Adenosine** receptors

**Anti-Inflammatory action:**

It inhibits the late response to *antigenic challenge*, and withdrawal of *theophylline* causes worsening of asthmatic symptoms, a fall in spirometry, and significant ☐ in **CD4+** and **CD8+** Lymphocytes in bronchial biopsies

## Clinical uses of Euphylline:

- ☐ Asthma, including IV in  
Acute Severe Asthma
- ☐ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases
- ☐ Acute Bronchospasm
- ☐ Left-Sided Heart Failure
- ☐ Severe Bronchospasm in Infants



## Drugs with Anti-Inflammatory Activity

### I. Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (SAIDs) - Glucocorticoids:

1. Natural - Hydrocortisone acetate

2. Synthetic with resorptive action -

Prednisolone, Dexamethasone, Triamcinolone

3. Synthetic with local action -

Beclometasone, Budesonide, Flunisolide, Fluticasone

### II. Mast cell stabilizers:

Cromolyn sodium ( *Intal* -caps for inhalation 0.2 g)

Nedocromil (Nedocromil sodium - aerosol dosed: 2 mg/dose)

Ketotifen (tab. 1 mg)

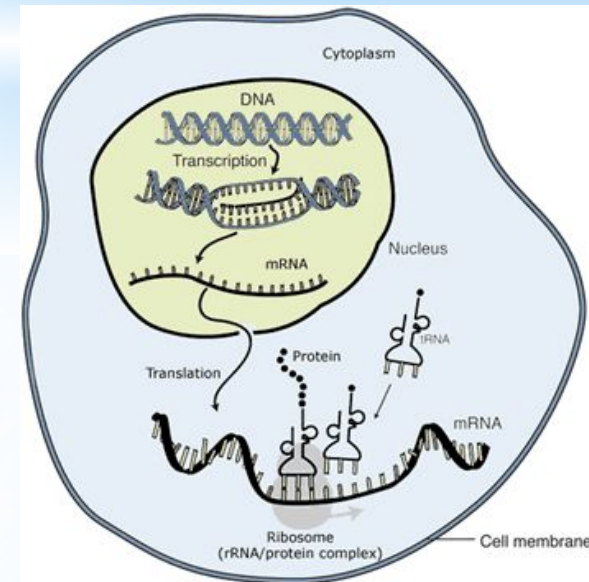
### III. Leukotriene Modifiers:

1. Inhibitors of 5-lipoxygenase: Zileuton

2. Leukotriene Receptor Blockers: Zafirlukast, Montelukast

# Mechanism of action of Glucocorticoids

- Steroid hormones are lipid soluble and cross cell membranes easily.
- Once inside the cell, the hormone molecules bind with specific receptor proteins.
- The **hormone–receptor complex** enters the **nucleus** of the cell where it activates **Gene Expression** –  
nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) and  
the Genetic Code to synthesize  
new proteins.





For **Anti-inflammatory Action** GCs produce:

- **Inhibition** of transcription of the genes for:  
**COX-2**, **Cytokines** (*interleukins*), cell adhesion molecules and  
the inducible form of **Nitric Oxide synthase**;
- **Block** of **vitamin D<sub>3</sub>-mediated** induction of  
the **osteocalcin** gene in **osteoblasts** and  
**modification** of **transcription** of the **Collagenase Gene**;
- **Increased synthesis** of **Annexin-1** (*Lipocortin-1*), which is  
important in the **negative feedback** on the **hypothalamus**  
and **anterior pituitary** and has **anti-inflammatory actions**.

**!! Annexin-1** blocks the release of **Arachidonic Acid**,  
the **precursor** of the **PGs** and **leukotrienes**.

## Pharmacological Effects of Glucocorticoids:

- □ Prostaglandin production due to decreased expression of **COX-2**;
- □ Generation of Cytokines – *IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-8*, **TNF- $\gamma$**  and **cell adhesion factor** – through **inhibition of transcription of the relevant genes**;
- □ level of ***Complement Components*** in the plasma;
- □ Generation of ***Nitric Oxide, IgG***;
- □ **Histamine** release from basophils.

**The anti-inflammatory effect of GCs takes several hours to become evident since formation of **Annexin-1** and other active proteins is relatively slow.**

**Glucocorticoids** - do not relax airway smooth muscle directly but:

- Stimulate the synthesis of **enzymes** needed to **inhibit Inflammatory Response**

- □ **Number** and **Activity** of cells

involved in airway inflammation:

**Macrophages, Eosinophils, and T-lymphocytes**

- Suppress the Immune System by reducing activity and volume of the lymphatic system

# Glucocorticoids

Beclometasone

Budesonide

Fluticasone

- are given by inhalation with metered-dose inhaler, the full effect being attained only after several days of therapy.





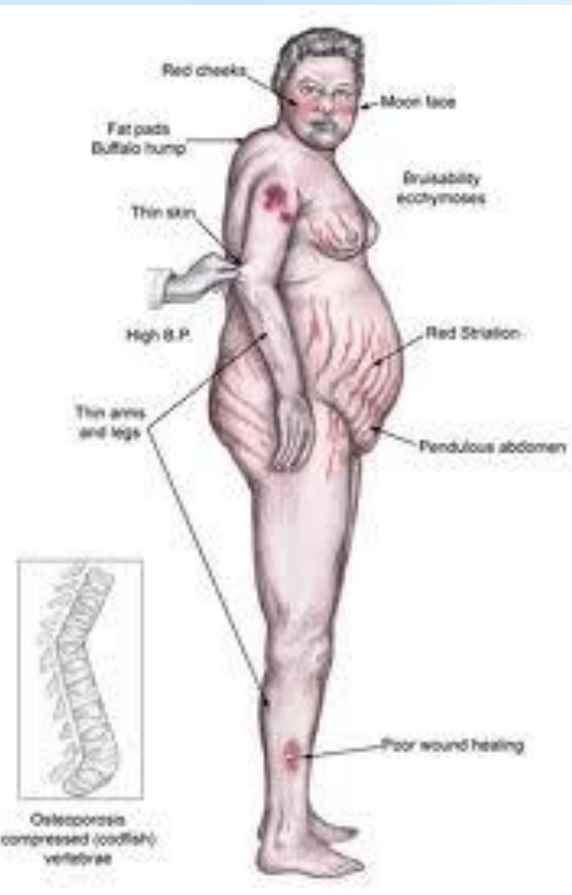
# ADVERSE EFFECT OF GCs:

## Local Effects:

Oropharyngeal Candidiasis – Thrush

## Systemic Effects:

□ BP, Edema, CHF,  
Thromboembolism,  
Thrombophlebitis,  
**Cushingoid State** (*moonface*,  
*buffalo hump*, *central obesity*),  
Peptic Ulceration,  
Increased Appetite,  
Muscle Weakness,  
Osteoporosis, Hirsutism,  
Growth Suppression in Children.



**Cromolyn sodium** (*caps. 20 mg for inhalation*) and **Nedocromil** (*aerosol: 2 mg/dose*) stabilize mast cells and prevent the release of **bronchoconstrictive** and **inflammatory** substances when mast cells are confronted with allergens and other stimuli.

They are **effective prophylactic** anti-inflammatory agents, but are **not useful in managing acute asthmatic attack** because they are not direct bronchodilators.

*Mechanism of action:*

□ **stabilize the mast cell membrane** and **inhibits release** of the **spasmogenic mediators** of **Type I** allergic reaction, including **Histamine** and **slow reacting substance of anaphylaxis (SRS-A)** from sensitized mast cells.

**Ketotifen** (tab. 1 mg), a *cromolyn* analog,

is an antihistaminic ( $H_1$ ) with some *cromolyn* like action.

Mechanism of action:

□ It inhibits stimulation of immunogenic and inflammatory cells (*mast cells, macrophages, eosinophils, lymphocytes, neutrophils*) and mediator release.

□ It is believed to inhibit airway inflammation induced by platelet activating factor (PAF).

Clinical uses: bronchial asthma, rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, conjunctivitis, urticaria, food allergy, migraine.

Adverse effects:

sedation, dry mouth, dizziness, nausea, weight gain.

**Montelukast** (*tab. 0.01 g*) and  
**Zafirlukast** (*Tab. 0.02 and 0.04 g*):



competitively inhibit cysteinyl **Leukotriene** receptors.

**Leukotriene B<sub>4</sub>** is a potent neutrophil **chemoattractant**,  
**LTC<sub>4</sub>** and **LTD<sub>4</sub>** produce **bronchoconstriction**, **mucosal edema**.  
All the leukotriens (**LTC<sub>4</sub>**, **LTD<sub>4</sub>** and **LTE<sub>4</sub>**) act  
on **the same cysteinyl-leukotriene receptor**.

**Zafirlucast** and **Montelukast** relax the airways in mild asthma,  
the bronchodilator activity being *one third*  
that of **Salbutamol**.

They ☐ Sputum Eosinophilia.



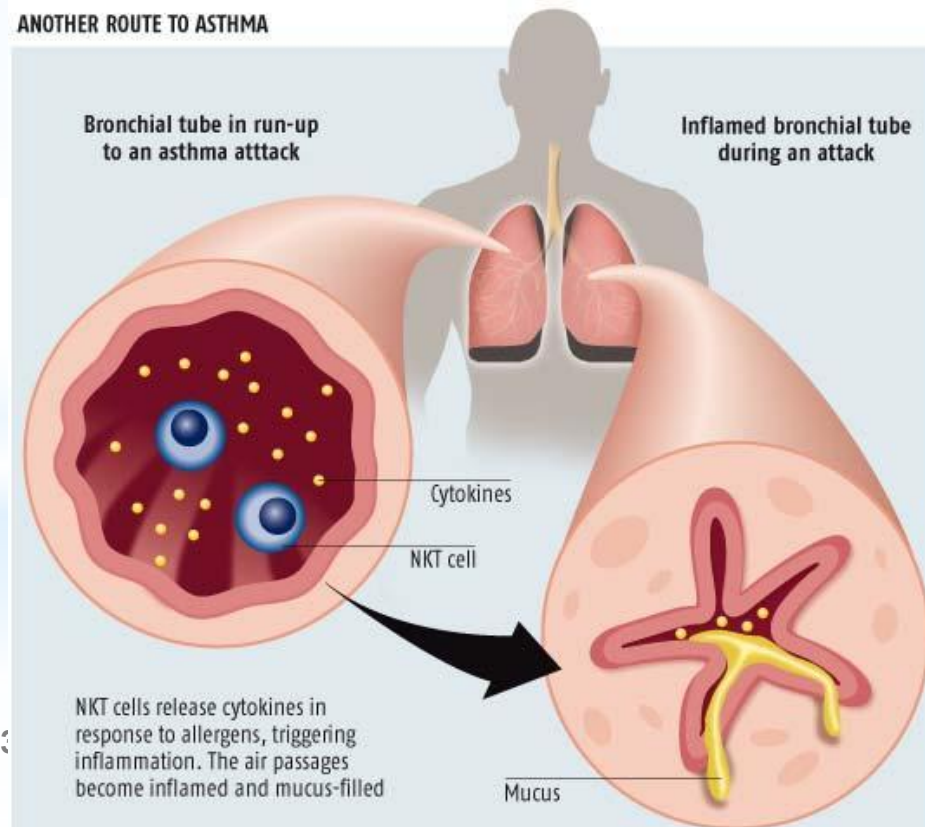


**Zafirlukast** and **Montelukast** – are not a cure-all for asthma;  
their main use is as **add-on therapy** for:

- **Mild-to-moderate asthma** – that is not controlled by an ‘as required’ **short-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonist** + **Inhaled GC**
- *Exercise-induced bronchospasm*
- *Aspirin- induced asthma*



#### ANOTHER ROUTE TO ASTHMA



A wide-angle photograph of a snow-covered road with numerous tire tracks, receding into the distance towards a range of snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky. The road is flanked by snow-covered fields and a line of dark evergreen trees on the right.

**Thank You for Attention !**