

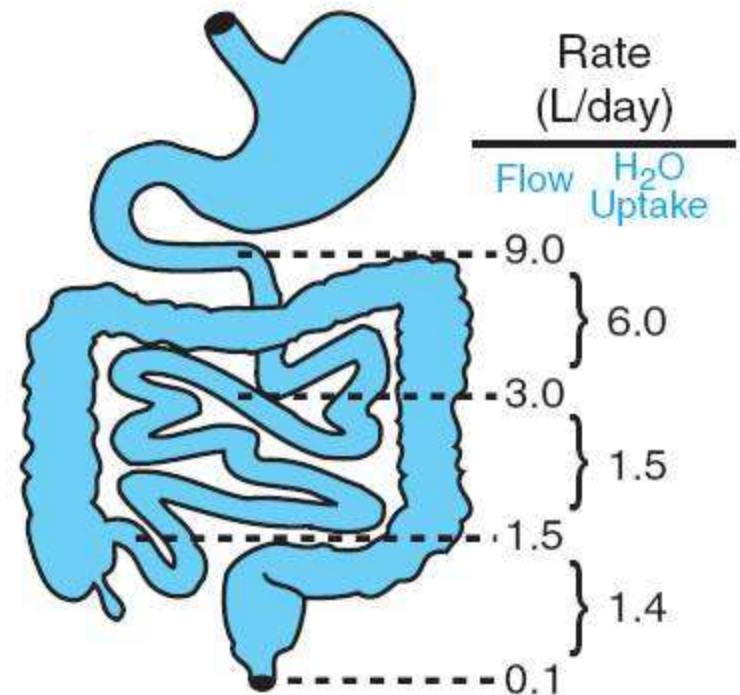
# Topics

- Laxatives
- Antidiarrheal drugs
- Drugs used in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (**IBS**)
- Antiemetic drugs
- Drugs used for **IBD** (Crohn's / UC)

# Laxatives

GI water intake and absorption → water content → stool volume / consistency

- input: 9 L (2 L diet + 7 L endogenous)
- colon: max. absorptive capacity: ~4-5 L
- change in secretion and/or absorption
  - neurohumoral mechanisms
  - pathogens
  - **drugs**
  - altered motility → transit time → absorp.
- constipation
  - defined by **stool frequency** (min 3x weekly)
  - BUT it is a frequent complaint
    - difficulty in initiation or passage
    - passage of firm or small-volume feces
    - feeling of incomplete evacuation



# Drugs causing constipation

- antacids
  - e.g. aluminium hydroxide
- anticholinergics
  - atropin, scopolamin
  - some antiparkinsonian drugs (benztropin, biperiden)
  - antihistamins (H<sub>1</sub> blockers)
  - phenothiazines
  - tricyclic antidepressants
- opioids
- verapamil
- smooth muscle relaxants

# Clinical use of laxatives

- *constipation*
- *emptying colon*
  - before surgical, radiological, and endoscopic procedures
- *laxation*
  - the evacuation of formed fecal material from the **rectum**
- *catharsis*
  - the evacuation of unformed, usually watery fecal material from the **entire colon**

# General mechanism of action of laxatives

- ↑ intraluminal fluid retention
  - hydrophilic – attract water
  - osmotic – hyperosmolality
- ↓ net fluid absorption
  - altered fluid and electrolyte transport
- altered motility
  - ↓ nonpropulsive
  - ↑ propulsive

# Classification of laxatives

- **Luminally active agents** (↑ intraluminal fluid retention)
  - Bulk forming agents (bran, psyllium)
  - Stool surfactant agents - softeners (docusate, mineral oil)
  - Osmotic laxatives (nonabsorbable salts / sugars)
- **Nonspecific stimulants or irritants**
  - diphenylmethanes (bisacodyl)
  - anthraquinones (senna and cascara)
  - castor oil
- **Chloride channel activators**
  - lubiprostone / linaclotide
- **Prokinetic agents**
  - 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor agonists
  - opioid receptor antagonists

# Luminally active agents 1.

- **Bulk forming laxatives** (hydrophilic colloids)
  - **bran** (contains > 40% fiber)
    - wheat bran - **lignin** (insoluble, poorly fermentable by bacteria)
  - **psyllium**
    - fermented by bacteria → colonic bacterial mass ↑
  - **methycellulose / Ca-polycarbophil**
    - poorly fermentable, absorb water, ↑ fecal bulk

*Plantago ovata* (ispaghula/isabgol)



Psyllium husk



AEs:  
bloating  
flatus

Fiber: resists enzymatic digestion and reaches the colon unchanged

# Luminally active agents 2.

- **Softeners**

- ***docusate*** salts

- anionic surfactants
    - widespread use but marginal efficacy

- ***glycerin*** suppository

- ***mineral oil*** – mixture of aliphatic hydrocarbons

- clear viscous oil / indigestible / limited absorption
    - lubricate and softens stool (↓ water absorption)
    - clinical use: prevent and treat fecal impaction
    - undesired effects
      - ↓ absorption of fat-soluble vitamins
      - foreign body reactions in the mucosa
      - lipid pneumonitis ← aspiration (rare)



# Luminally active agents 3.

- **Osmotic laxatives**

- Saline laxatives

- magnesium cations or phosphate anions
      - magnesium sulfate / magnesium hydroxide (milk of magnesia) / sodium phosphate)
    - for colonic preparation - larger doses (purgatives)
    - caution in:
      - renal insufficiency / cardiac disease / preexisting electrolyte abnormalities / diuretic therapy

- Nondigestible sugars and alcohols

- hydrolyzed in the colon to short-chain fatty acids → colon propulsive ↑
    - lactulose = galactose + fructose
    - sorbitol, mannitol
    - adverse effects: abdominal discomfort / flatulence

# Luminally active agents 4.

- **Osmotic laxatives**

- **Balanced PEG (PEG-electrolyte solutions)**

- for **colonic cleansing** – large dose (4 L over 2-4 hours !)
      - e.g. prior to gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures
      - PEG is inert. not absorbed and osmotically active
    - constipation treatment in difficult cases – small dose
      - 250-500 ml daily
    - no significant intravascular fluid or electrolyte shifts
      - no net transfer of ions
      - isotonic mixture of Na-sulfate,  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , NaCl, KCl
    - no cramps and flatus

# Stimulant (irritant) laxatives 1.

- direct effects on
  - enterocytes, enteric neurons, GI smooth muscle
  - but **specific target is not clear** (PG, NO, Na-K ATPase)
- inflammation induction (low-grade, limited)
- ↑ water and electrolyte / ↑ motility
- only for short term administration
  - less than  $\approx 10$  days (but may be required long-term)
  - risk of atonic colon ?

# Stimulant (irritant) laxatives 2.

- Diphenylmethane derivatives
  - ***bisacodyl***
    - delayed effect (hydrolysis in the bowel)
  - ***phenolphthalein***
    - carcinogenic ?
- Anthraquinone derivatives
  - ***senna, cascara, aloe***
    - plantal origin
    - monoanthrones (e.g. rhein) → drying → dianthrones → colonic bacteria → active irritating monoanthrones
      - tricyclic anthracene nucleus – carcinogenicity ?
      - activation is required → delayed effects
- Castor oil
  - derived from the bean of the castor plant (*Ricinus communis*)
  - ricin ↔ triglyceride of **ricinoleic acid**
  - seldom used ← taste / damage of epithelium / enteric neurons

# Chloride channel activators

- **lubiprostone**
  - type 2 chloride channel (ClC-2) activator
  - FDA: 2006
- **linaclotide**
  - guanylyl cyclase-C agonist
  - FDA: 2012 / EMA: 2012
- approved for
  - chronic constipation
  - constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)

# Lubiprostone

- enhance fluid secretion
  - prostanoid activator of  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels –  $\text{EP}_4$  rec.
  - improved stool consistency / volume
  - reflex activation of motility
- indications
  - chronic constipation
  - IBS with constipation
- poor bioavailability – intraluminal activity
  - but pregnancy category C (= animal studies have shown an adverse effect on the fetus)
- with long-term therapy: no loss of efficacy

# Linacotide

- chemistry
  - 14 amino acid peptide
- mechanism of action
  - binds to and **↑ guanylyl cyclase-C** → ↑ cGMP → ↑ cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) → ↑ Cl rich secretion → improved stool consistency / ↑ volume → reflex activation of motility
- pharmacokinetics
  - minimal absorption
- clinical characteristics
  - indications
    - chronic constipation
    - IBS with constipation
    - with long-term therapy: no loss of efficacy
  - adverse effects
    - diarrhea (rarely severe)
  - contraindications
    - in children and pregnancy

# Opioid receptor antagonists

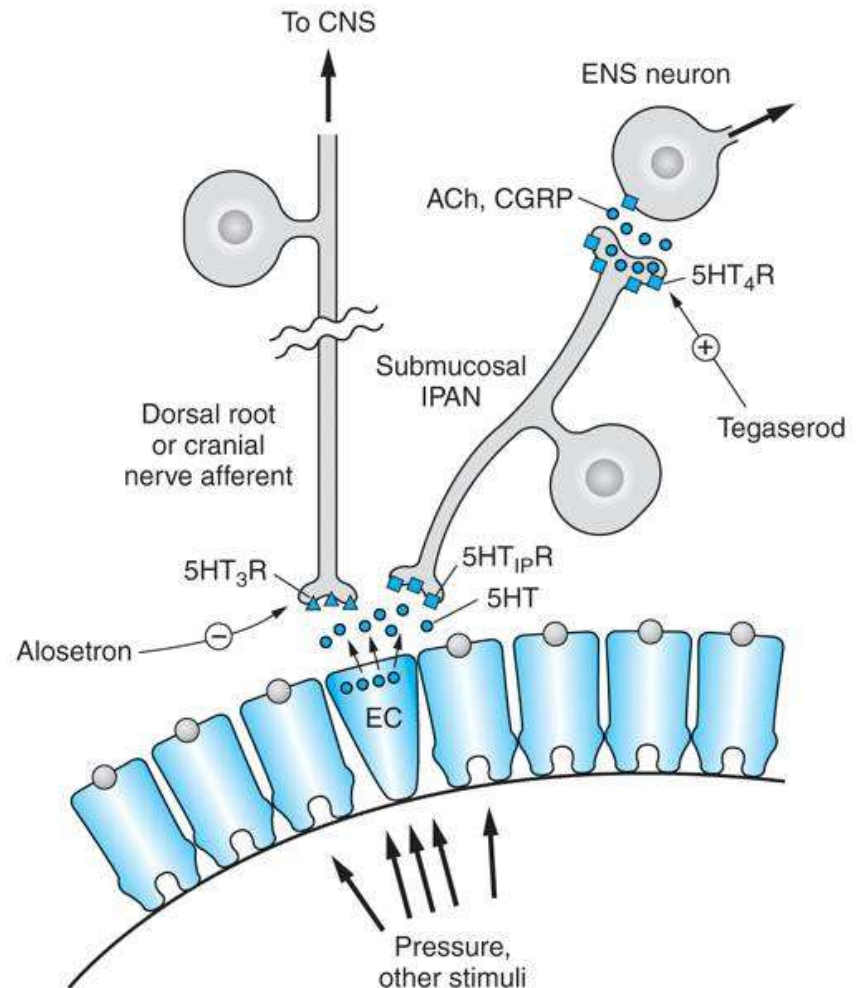
- **methylnaltrexone**
- $\mu$  antagonist
- does not cross BBB
- **chronic**
- sc. inj.
- **alvimopan**
- $\mu$  antagonist
- does not cross BBB
- **short term postop.**
- oral
- possible CV toxicity ?

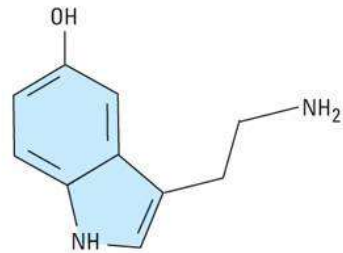


# 5HT<sub>4</sub> receptor agonists

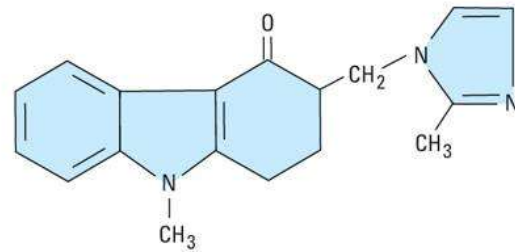
tegaserod → prucalopride

- 5HT<sub>4</sub> partial agonist – presynaptic!
- tegaserod structurally similar to serotonin
- ↑ peristaltic reflex, intestinal secretion
- ACh, calcitonin-gene related peptide release ↑
- ind: chronic constipation / IBS-C
- high cost
- AEs: diarrhea, headache
- **tegaserod: serious CV toxicity (5-HT<sub>1B</sub>)!! (withdrawn)**



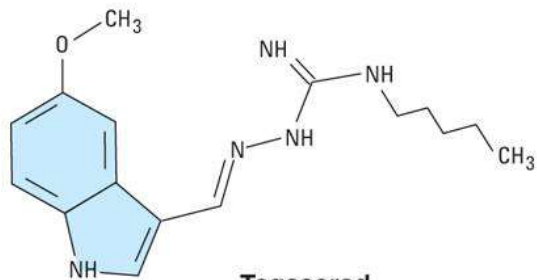


**Serotonin**



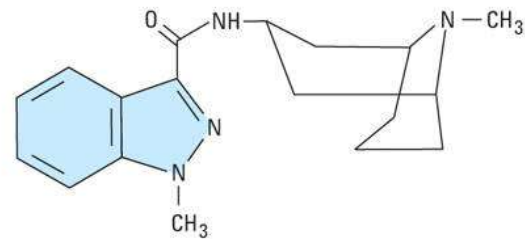
**Ondansetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist



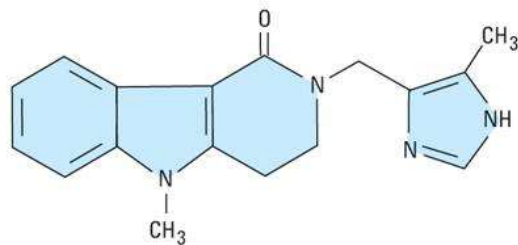
**Tegaserod**

5-HT<sub>4</sub> agonist



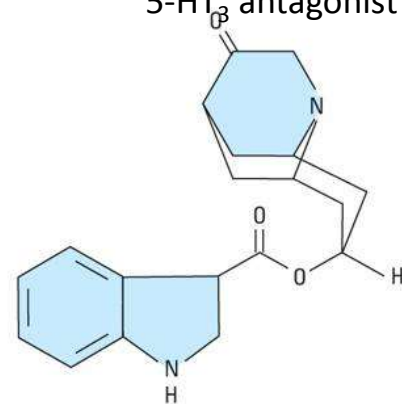
**Granisetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist



**Alosetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist



**Dolasetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist

# Antidiarrheal drugs

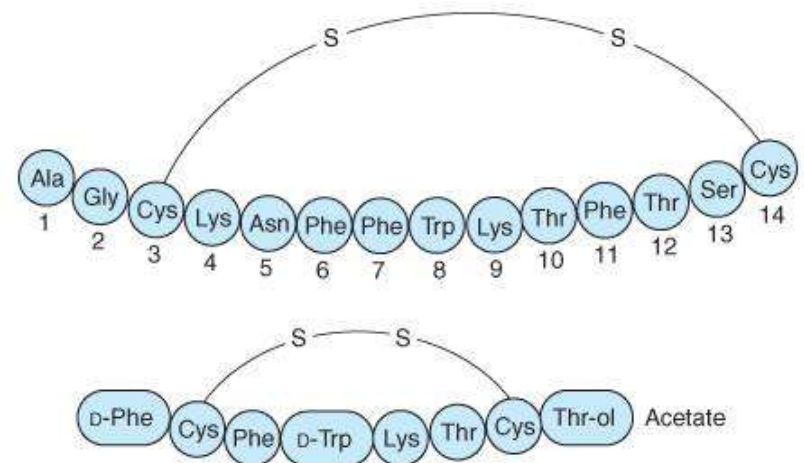
DO – mild acute

DON'T – bloody / fever / worsening

- Opioid agonists
  - **loperamide** – does not cross BBB
  - **diphenoxylate** – combined with atropine (to prevent abuse)
  - difenoxin – active metabolite of diphenoxylate
- Colloidal bismuth compounds
  - **bismuth subsalicylate**, bismuth subcitrate
  - <1% bismuth is absorbed but stored
  - protective layer / direct antimicrobial effects / binds enterotoxins
  - clinical use
    - wide, non-specific / prevention of traveler's diarrhea / *H. pylori* eradication
    - black stools
- Kaolin and **pectin**
  - hydrated Mg-Al silicate / indigestible polymeric carbohydrate (from apples)
  - **absorbents** of bacteria, toxins, and fluid
  - may bind other medications
- Bile salt binding resins
  - cholestyramine, colestipol – in case of malabsorption
- Octreotide

# Octreotide

- synthetic octapeptide – see somatostatin
- iv. ( $t_{1/2} \approx 1.5$  h), sc. , depot im. inj.
- 45x more potent than somatostatin in inhibiting GH release but only twice as potent in reducing insulin secretion
- Effects of somatostatin:
  - blocks: gastrin, cholecystokinin, glucagon, growth hormone, insulin, secretin, pancreatic polypeptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, and 5-HT
  - ↓intestinal fluid secretion and pancreatic secretion
  - ↓gastrointestinal motility and gall bladder contraction
  - contraction of vascular smooth muscle - ↓portal /splanchnic blood flow
  - ↓secretion of anterior pituitary hormone - GH



# Clinical use of octreotide (Sandostatin®)

- carcinoid / VIPoma
  - secretory diarrhea
- other diarrhea
  - higher doses (100-250 µg sc.)
  - chemotherapy-induced diarrhea, diarrhea associated with HIV, diabetes-associated diarrhea
- acromegaly
- esophagus variceal bleeding

## *Adverse effects*

steatorrhea, nausea, abdominal pain, **gallstones**,  
hyperglycemia

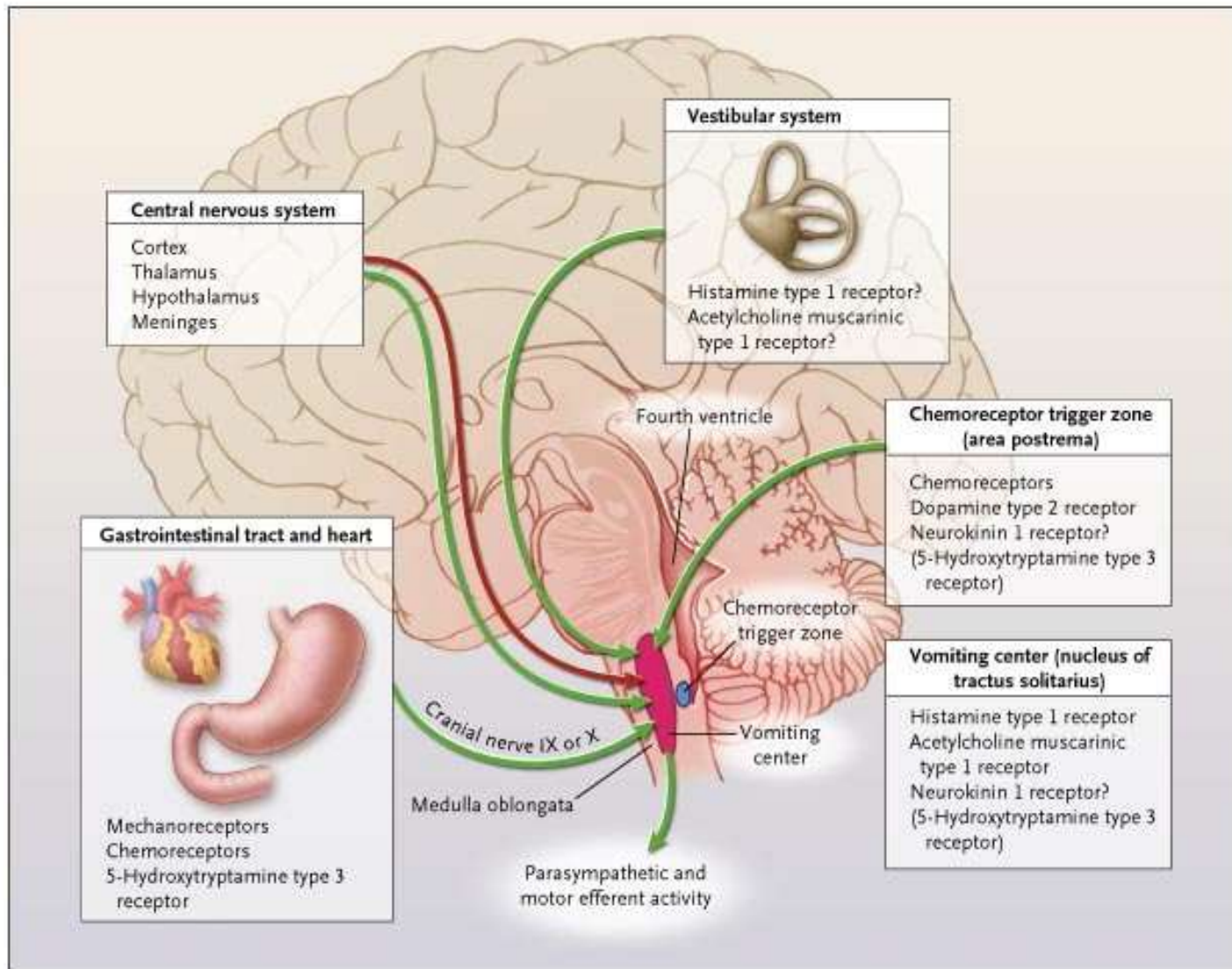
# Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)

IBS – pain / altered bowel movements ≠ IBD

- pain / discomfort
  - anticholinergics (antispasmodics) – **efficacy ?** (anticholinergic adverse effects!)
    - dicyclomine, l-hyoscyamine
    - glycopyrrolate, methscopolamine – quaternary
  - antidepressants
    - low doses of TCAs (amitryptiline / desipramine)
    - in case of persistent abdominal pain
- constipation
  - fiber (e.g. psyllium) / osmotics (milk of magnesia / **polyethylene glycol**)
  - lubiprostone or linaclotide
  - 5HT<sub>4</sub> receptor agonist – *prucalopride*
    - **constipation predominant**
    - **tegaserod was withdrawn because of CV effects**
- diarrhea
  - loperamide
  - 5HT<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonists – *alosetron*
    - approved (restricted) – **diarrhea-predominant** ♀
    - high affinity binding – long duration
    - relatively serious adverse effects: constipation, ischemic colitis – only for severe cases

# Antiemetic drugs - background

- nausea, vomiting - symptom
  - adverse effect of drugs
  - infection
  - pregnancy
  - vestibular dysfunction
  - CNS disease (infection, increased pressure)
  - radiation or chemotherapy
- participating anatomical sites
  - vomiting center ( $M_1$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $5HT_3$ ,  $NK_1$  receptors)
  - CTZ ( $D_2$ , opioid receptors,  $5-HT_3$ ,  $NK_1$ )
    - outside BBB → constant monitoring of blood and CSF
  - vestibular system ( $M_1$  and  $H_1$  receptors) → motion sickness
  - CNS (cortex) → anticipatory
  - pharynx
  - GI tract ( $5-HT_3$  receptors)





# Antiemetic drugs - summary

- 1) 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonists – “setrons”
- 2) Dopamine receptor antagonists
  - 1) phenothiazines, butyrophenones (antipsychotics)
  - 2) metoclopramide
  - 3) domperidone
- 3) H<sub>1</sub> antihistamines and anticholinergics
- 4) neurokinin NK<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonists
- 5) corticosteroids (glucocorticoids)
- 6) cannabinoids
- 7) benzodiazepines

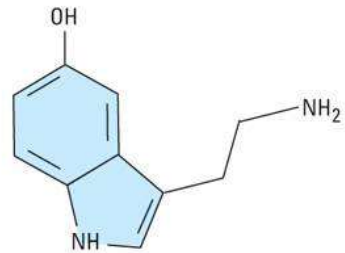
## Receptor Specificity of Antiemetic Agents

Pharmacologic Class (Drugs in Class)	Dopamine (D <sub>2</sub> )	Acetylcholine (Muscarinic)	Histamine	Serotonin
<i>Anticholinergics</i>				
Scopolamine	+	++++	+	—
<i>Antihistamines</i>				
Cyclizine	+	+++	++++	—
Dimenhydrinate, diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine	+	++	++++	—
Medizine	+	+++	++++	—
Promethazine	++	++	++++	—
<i>Antiserotonins</i>				
Dolasetron, granisetron, ondansetron, palonosetron, ramosetron	—	—	—	++++
<i>Benzamides</i>				
Domperidone	++++	—	—	+
Metoclopramide	+++	—	—	++
<i>Butyrophenones</i>				
Droperidol	++++	—	+	+
Haloperidol	++++	—	+	—
<i>Phenothiazines</i>				
Chlorpromazine	++++	++	++++	+
Fluphenazine	++++	+	++	—
Perphenazine	++++	+	++	+
Prochlorperazine	++++	++	++	+
<i>Glucocorticoids</i>				
Betamethasone, dexamethasone	—	—	—	—

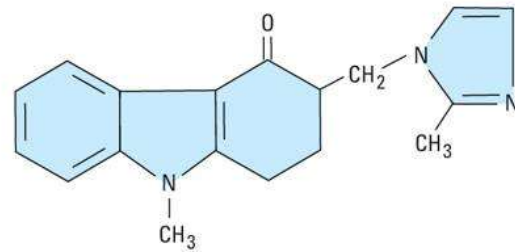
Plus signs indicate some (+) to considerable (+++++) interaction. (—) indicates no effect.

# 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonists

- selective central and **peripheral** blockade
- cancer **chemotherapy associated** & postoperative emesis only
- **ondansetron**, granisetron, dolasetron, tropisetron
  - oral, iv. once daily
- palonosetron
  - iv., longer  $t_{1/2}$ , ↑ affinity for receptors
- PK: extensive hepatic metabolism
- esophageal or gastric motility is not changed
- primary for prevention of chemotherapy induced emesis
  - iv. or oral
  - **in combination** with other antiemetics
- adverse effects
  - well tolerated – constipation, headache, dizziness
  - QT prolongation – dolasetron

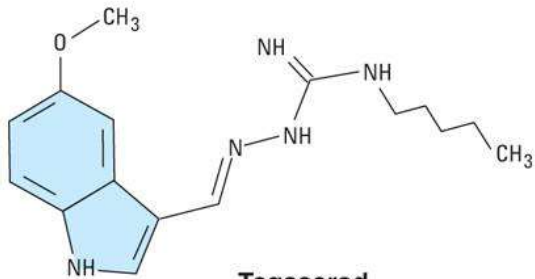


**Serotonin**



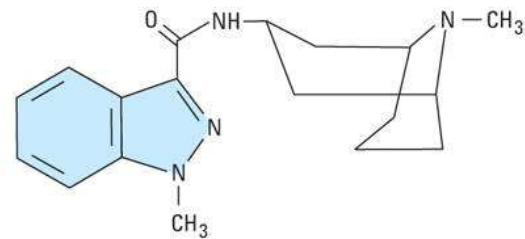
**Ondansetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist



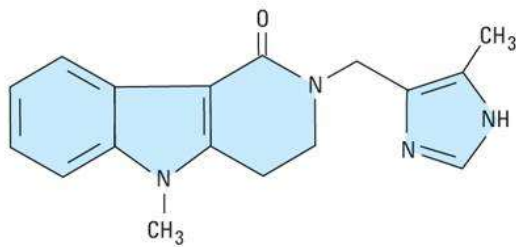
**Tegaserod**

5-HT<sub>4</sub> agonist



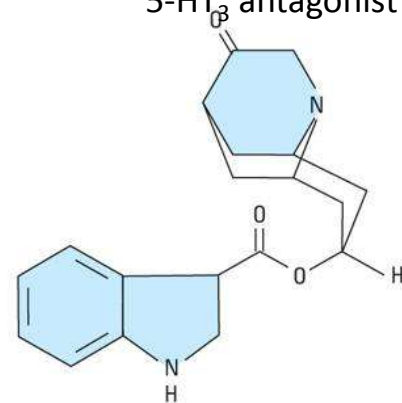
**Granisetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist



**Alosetron**

5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist

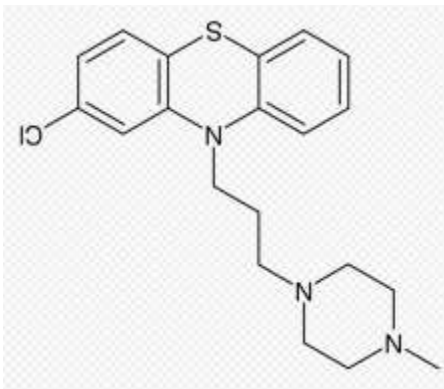
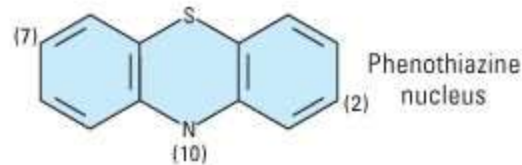


**Dolasetron**

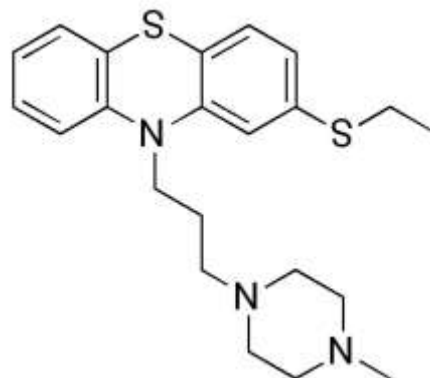
5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist

# Dopamine receptor antagonists 1.

- phenothiazines
  - antiemetic: D<sub>2</sub> and M antagonist / sedative: H<sub>1</sub> blockade



prochlorperazine



thiethylperazine

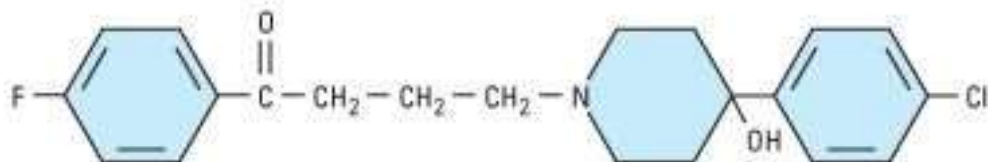


promethazine

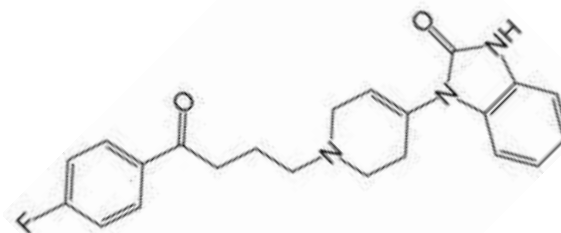
# Dopamine receptor antagonists 2.

- butyrophenones – **droperidol**, im. / iv.
- other clinical uses
  - sedative
  - postoperative nausea and vomiting
  - neuroleptanalgesia
- adverse effects
  - extrapyramidal effects
  - QT prolongation – arrhythmias

BUTYROPHENONE



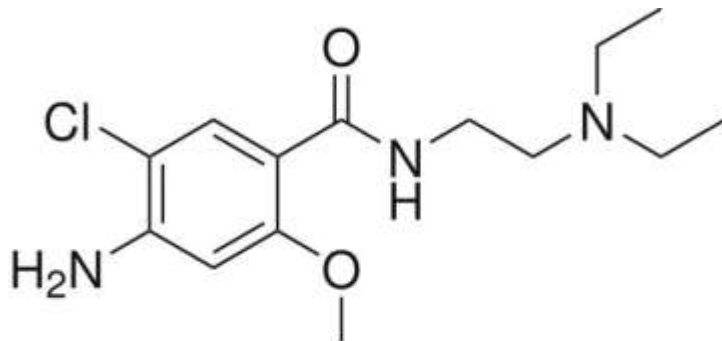
Haloperidol



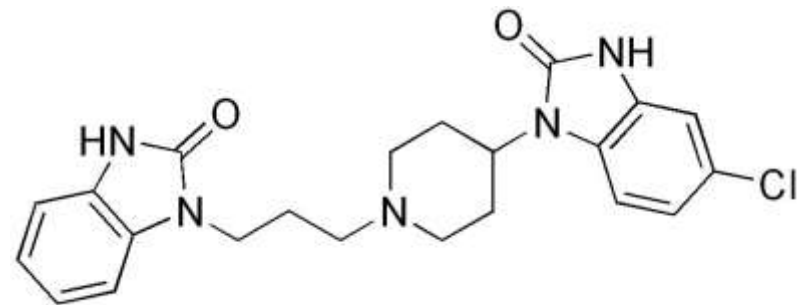
droperidol

# Dopamine receptor antagonists 3.

- **metoclopramide** / trimethobenzamide – extrap. effects
- **domperidone**



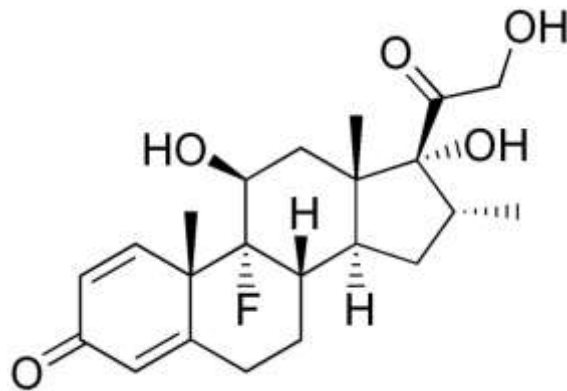
metoclopramide



domperidone

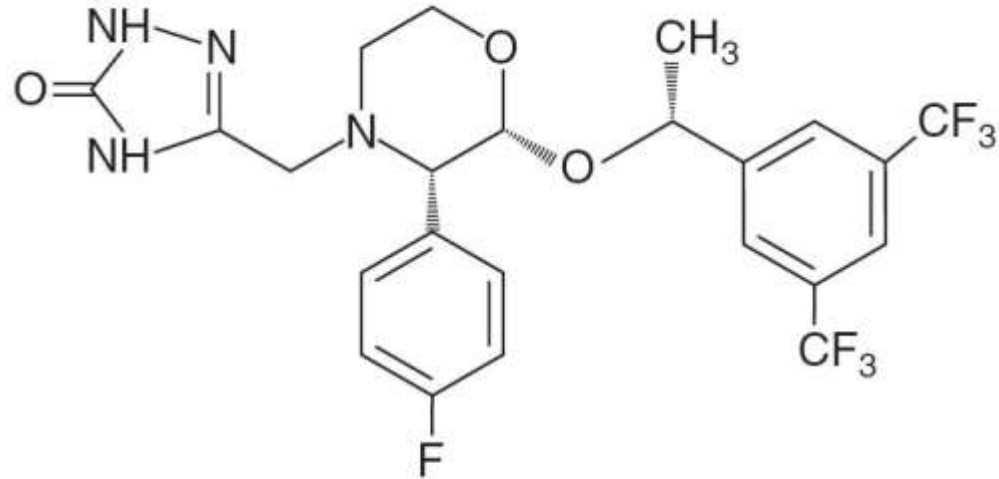
# Corticosteroids

- **dexamethasone** / methylprednisolone
- in combination with other anti-emetics





# NK<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist



APREPITANT

- central blockade
- acute and **delayed** chemotherapy induced emesis / oral
- used in combination (aprepitant + “setron” + dexamethasone)
- extensive metabolism – CYP3A4 – reduce dexamethasone dose!

# H<sub>1</sub> blockers and anticholinergics

- **diphenhydramine / dimenhydrinate** (H<sub>1</sub>, M)
- meclizine (H<sub>1</sub>)
- **scopolamine** (M)
- motion sickness – scopolamine patch
- combination
- AEs: dizziness, sedation, confusion, dry mouth, cycloplegia, urinary retention

# Benzodiazepines

- lorazepam, diazepam
  - anticipatory chemotherapy / anxiety caused emesis

# Cannabinoids

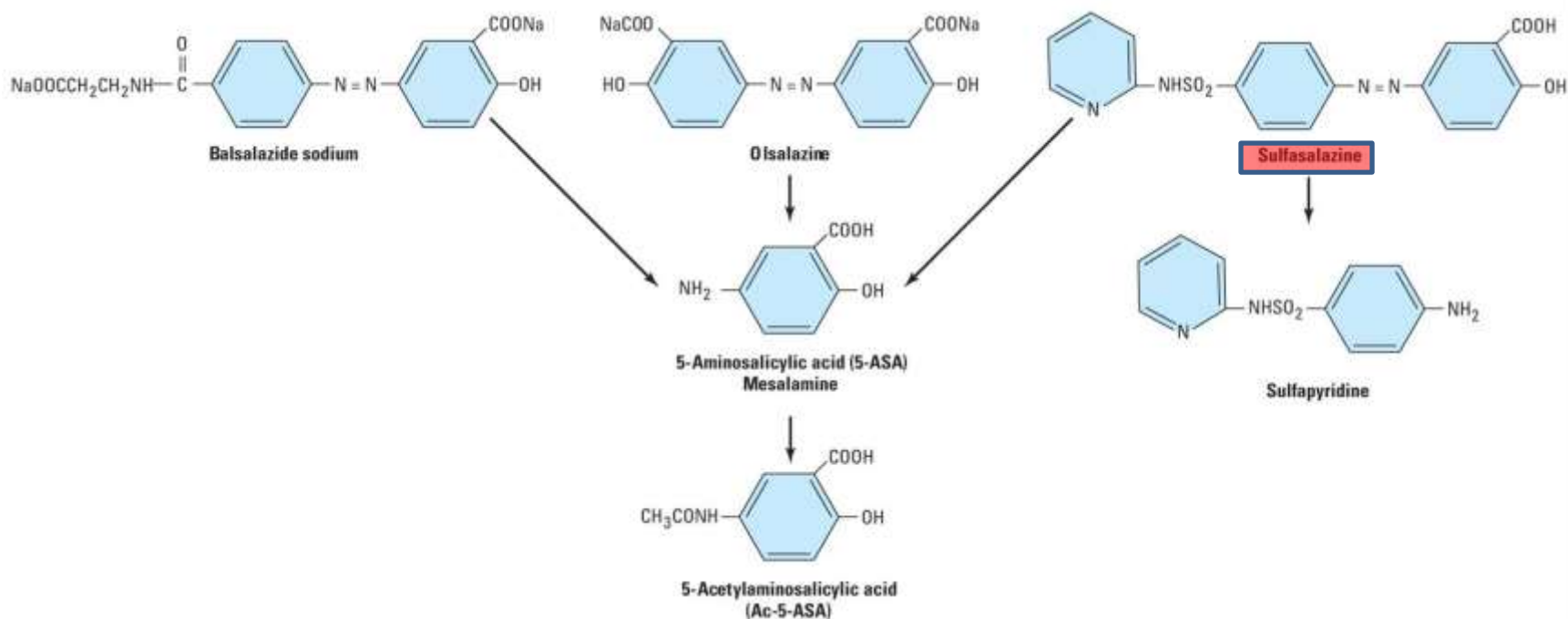
- dronabinol
  - significant first pass metabolism (oral  $F \approx 10-20\%$ )
  - appetite stimulant / antiemetic – mechanism  $CB_1$  agonist?
  - when other antiemetic medications are not effective
  - central sympathomimetic activity
    - palpitations / tachycardia / “bloodshot eyes”
  - “highs” / paranoid reactions / thinking disturbances
  - **nabilone** is a closely related THC analog

# Inflammatory bowel disease = IBD

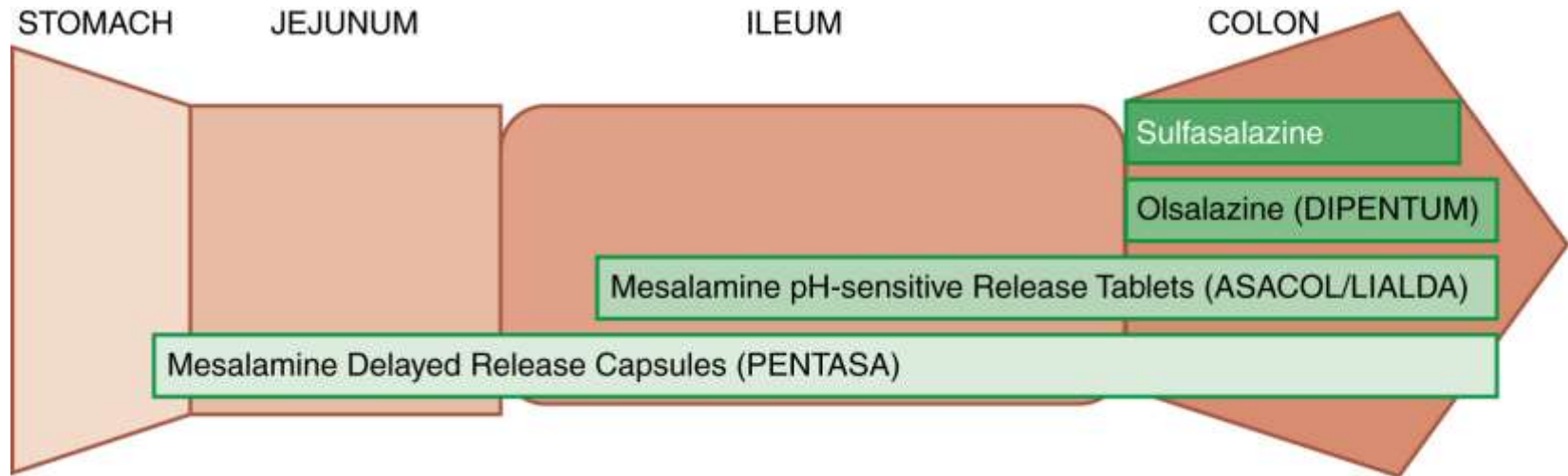
- chronic / idiopathic / inflammatory
- gastrointestinal / extraintestinal
- UC / Crohn's
- purpose of therapy: ↓ generalized inflammatory response
  - control acute exacerbations (induce remission)
  - maintain remission
  - treat complications
- drugs may be different according to purpose
  - induction: e.g. 5-ASA, corticosteroids
  - maintenance: e.g. 5-ASA, immunomodulators
- problems
  - individual differences
  - marked fluctuations in disease activity → assessing drug efficacy ?

# Drugs used for IBD (Crohn's / UC)

- aminosalicylates – 5-ASA (**5-aminosalicylic acid**) = mesalamine
- **sulfasalazine, olsalazine, balsalazide**, and various forms of **mesalamine** – deliver 5-ASA to distal parts - azoreductase



# Release of 5-ASA in the GI tract



# Aminosalicylates (5-ASA)

- absorption from colon is low
- mechanism of action ?
  - modulates inflammatory mediators derived from both the cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways
- indication
  - first-line agents for treatment of **mild to moderate** active **ulcerative colitis** (Crohn's ?)
- AEs (10-45%): due to sulfapyridine
  - **dose related**: headache, fatigue, nausea, GI upset
  - **hypersensitivity**: fever, rash, exfoliative dermatitis, pancreatitis, hepatitis, hemolytic anemia, bone marrow↓

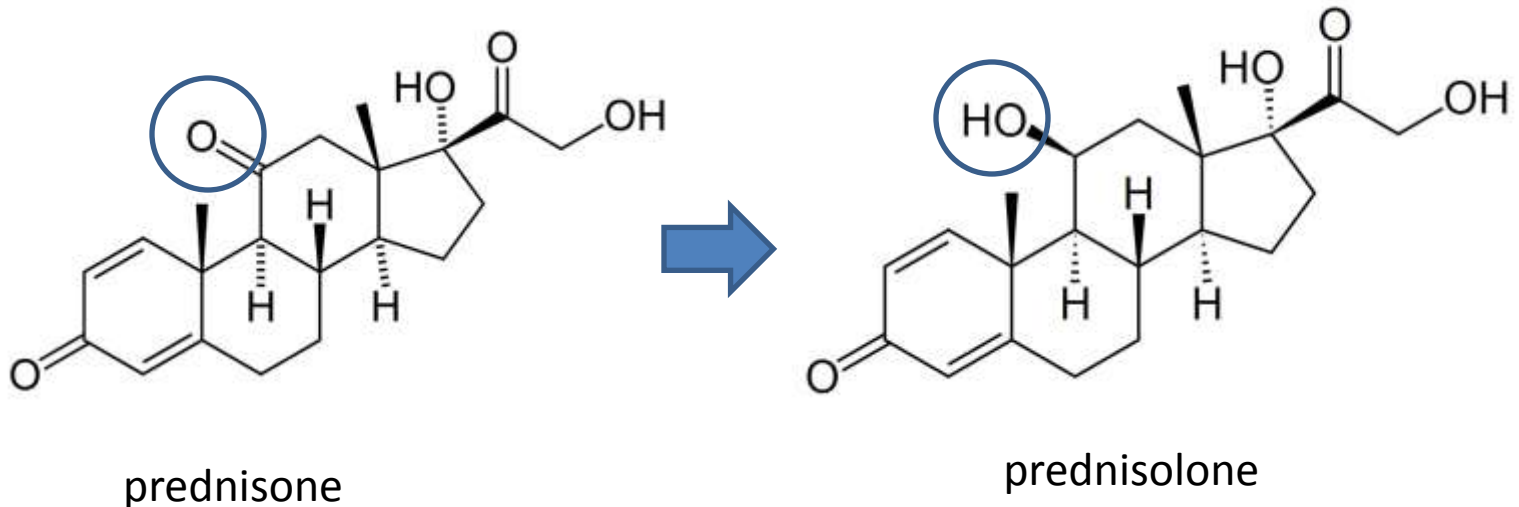
# Other drugs used for IBD (Crohn's / UC)

- glucocorticoids
  - prednisone, prednisolone
- immunosuppressants
  - antimetabolites
    - purine analogs (azathioprine, 6-MP)
    - methotrexate
  - *cyclosporine*
- biological therapies
  - TNF- $\alpha$  antagonists
    - infliximab, adalimumab, certolizumab
  - natalizumab
- antibiotics / probiotics
  - e.g. metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, clarithromycin



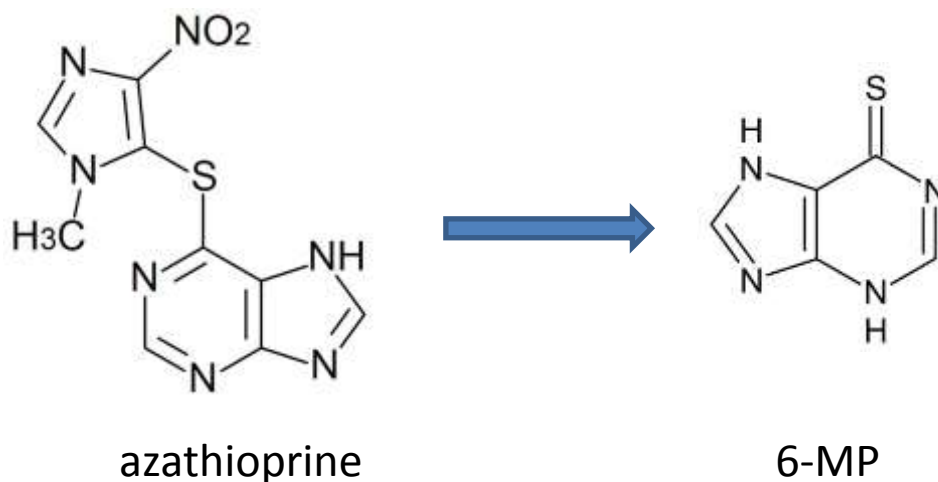
# Glucocorticoids

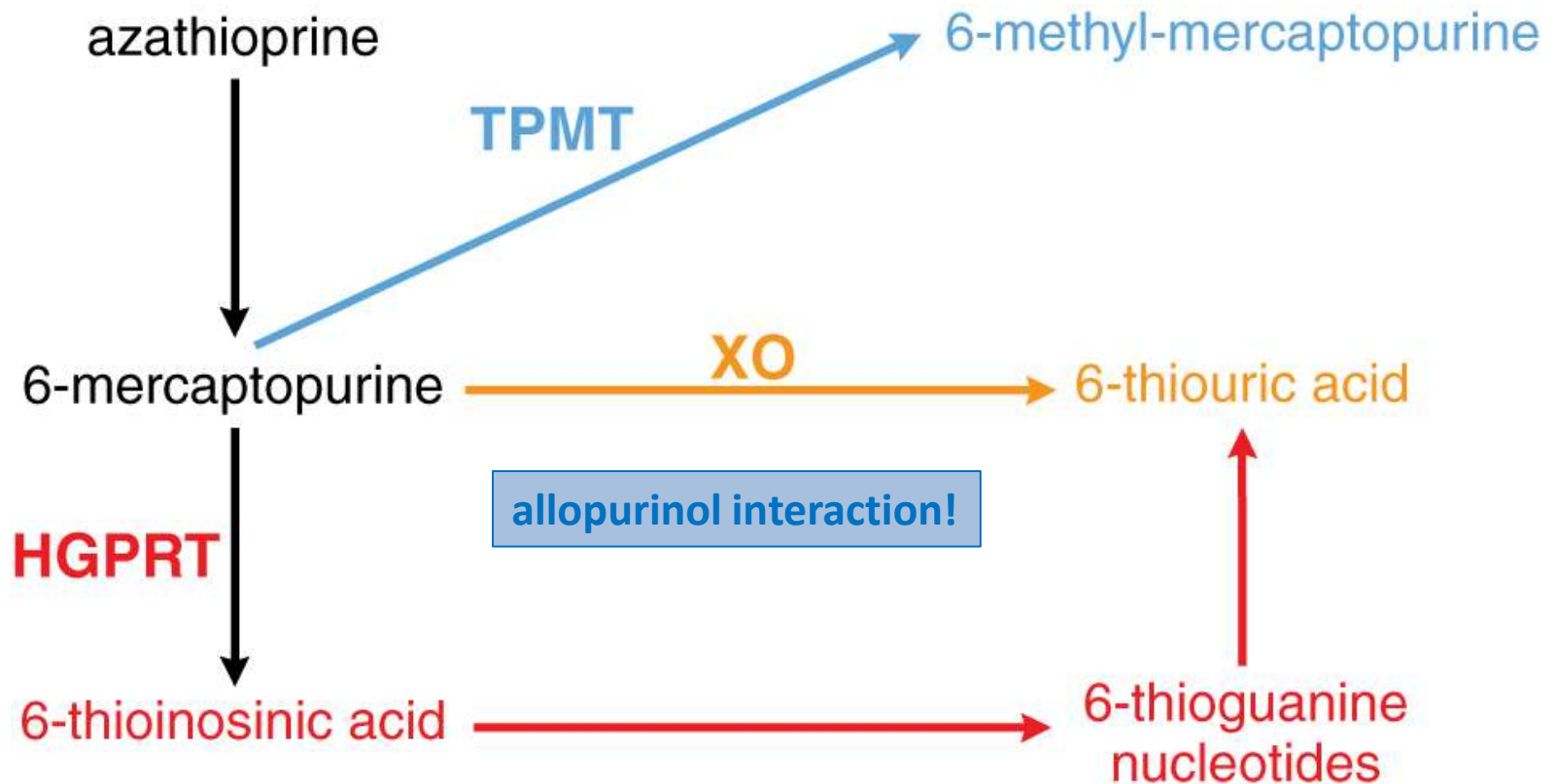
- used in moderate / severe cases
  - responsive / dependent / unresponsive
- **for induction** and not for maintenance of remission
- intermediate duration – once daily
- slow dose tapering
- topical – enema, suppository
  - in selected cases / less effective
  - budesonide – first pass met. – low oral F



# Purine analogs

- antimetabolite – 6-MP leukemia treatment
- catabolism – xanthine oxidase / thiopurine methyltransferase
- anabolism – thioguanine nucleotides
- in **severe** / **steroid resistant** or dependent cases
- delay in the occurrence of effect
- **induction and maintenance** of remission (UC + Crohn's)
- AEs: pancreatitis / nausea, vomiting / bone marrow suppression
- low TPMT levels or allopurinol treatment – decrease dose



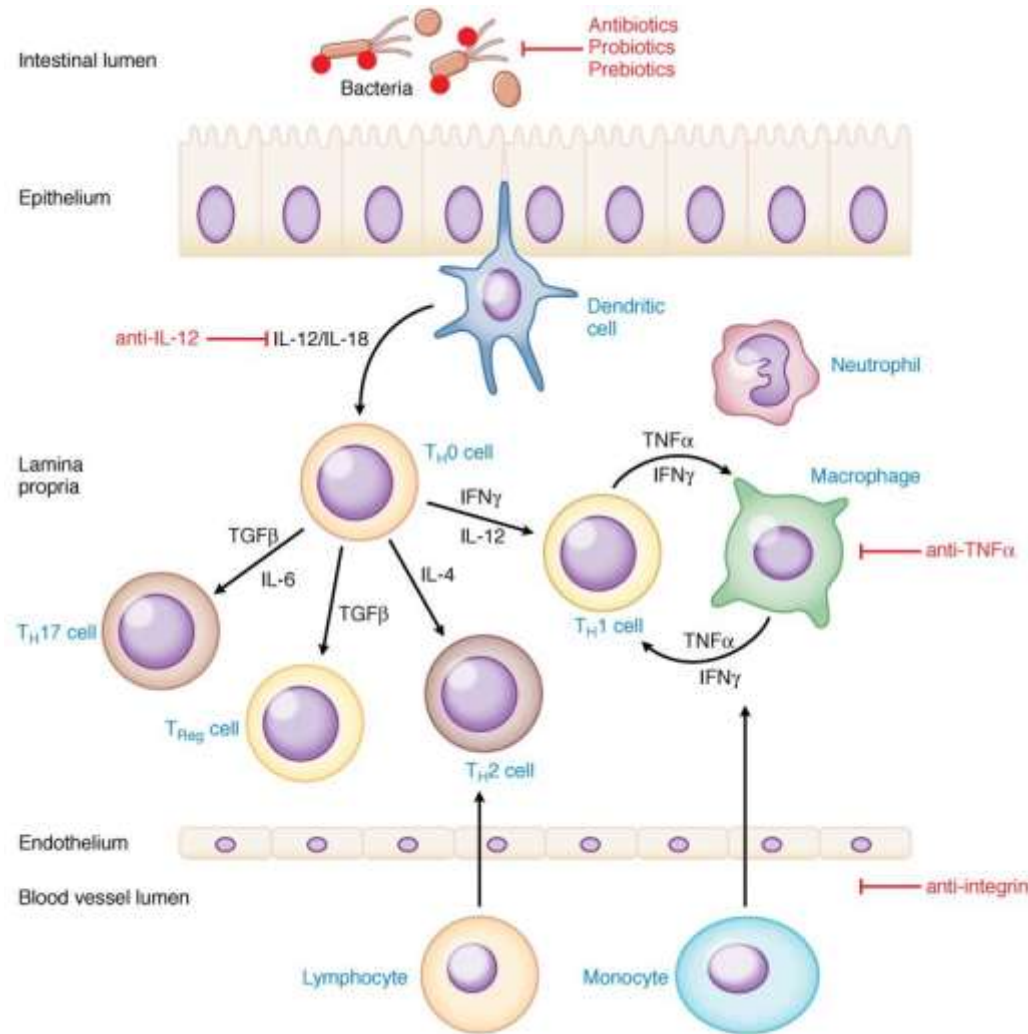


HGPRT: hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase  
XO: xanthine oxidase  
TPMT: thiopurine methyltransferase

# Methotrexate

- antimetabolite
- also used in cancer chemotherapy
- oral, sc., im.
- inhibits dihydrofolate reductase
- low dose (15-25 mg / week sc.)
- **Crohn's** disease – **induce and maintain** remission
- rare adverse effects at low doses
  - bone marrow depression
  - megaloblastic anemia
  - alopecia
  - mucositis

# Pathogenesis of IBD



Type I helper T cell response and regulatory T cell (T<sub>reg</sub>) dysregulation (Crohn)

# anti-TNF- $\alpha$ antibodies

	<b>Infliximab</b>	<b>Adalimumab</b>	<b>Certolizumab</b>
Class	Monoclonal antibody	Monoclonal antibody	Monoclonal antibody
% Human	75%	100%	95%
Structure	IgG <sub>1</sub>	IgG <sub>1</sub>	Fab fragment attached to PEG (lacks Fc portion)
Route of administration	Intravenous	Subcutaneous	Subcutaneous
Half-life	8–10 days	10–20 days	14 days
Neutralizes soluble TNF	Yes	Yes	Yes
Neutralizes membrane-bound TNF	Yes	Yes	Yes
Induces apoptosis of cells expressing membrane-bound TNF	Yes	Yes	No
Complement-mediated cytotoxicity of cells expressing membrane-bound TNF	Yes	Yes	No
Induction dose	5 mg/kg at 0, 2, and 6 weeks	160 mg, 80 mg, and 40 mg at 0, 2, and 4 weeks	400 mg at 0, 2, and 4 weeks
Maintenance dose	5 mg/kg every 8 weeks	40 mg every 2 weeks	400 mg every 4 weeks

TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

## adverse effects (!)

infections

antibodies against antibodies

acute infusion reactions

delayed serum sickness like reaction

liver damage

increased risk of lymphomas

# Natalizumab (Tysabri®)

- humanized monoclonal antibody against  **$\alpha$ 4-integrin**
- indication: **severe Crohn's** disease
  - induction and maintenance of remission
- *risk: progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy*
  - contraindicated in combination with another immunosuppressive drug
  - only in selected cases
- effective in approx. 50% of patients
  - remission is prolonged in 40% of responders

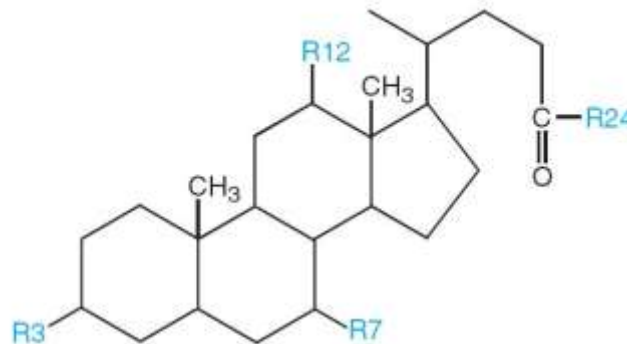
# Pancreatic enzyme supplements

- indication: exocrine dysfunction ( $< 10\%$  of normal)
  - causes: CF / chronic pancreatitis / pancreatic resection
  - symptoms: maldigestion → steatorrhea, azotorrhea, vitamin malabsorption, weight ↓
- mixture of amylase, lipase, proteases (extracted from hog pancreas)
  - pancreatin / **pancrealipase** (enriched)
  - non-enteric-coated (acid suppression required) / **enteric-coated**
- administered with each meal and snack
- no significant adverse effects
  - oropharyngeal mucositis (swallow, do not chew)
  - high doses - diarrhea and abdominal pain



# Drugs used for dissolution of gallstones

- **Ursodiol** (ursodeoxycholic acid) / chenodiol (chenodeoxycholic acid)
- less lithogenic bile
  - alter relative concentrations of bile acids
  - decrease biliary lipid secretion
  - reduce the cholesterol content of the bile
- cytoprotective effects on hepatocytes
- used for
  - dissolution of small cholesterol gallstones
  - prevention of gallstones in obese patients undergoing rapid weight loss
  - early-stage **primary biliary cirrhosis**



Bile Acid	R3	R7	R12	R24
Cholic acid	-OH	-OH	-OH	glycine (75%) taurine (24%) -OH (<1%)
Chenodeoxycholic acid	-OH	-OH	-H	
Deoxycholic acid	-OH	-H	-OH	
Lithocholic acid	-SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> / -OH	-H	-H	
Ursodeoxycholic acid	-OH	-OH	-H	