



# Antipsychotics

**Dr. A. U. Medagedara**  
**Probationary lecturer**  
**Department of Pharmacology**

# Indications for use

- Schizophrenia (Acute, chronic, treatment resistant)
- Schizoaffective disorders
- Bipolar affective disorder (Monotherapy or adjunctive with mood stabilizers)- acute or maintenance to prevent recurrence
- Acute treatment of agitation (Schizophrenia and mania)
- Treatment resistant depression as adjunctive agents
- Severe childhood behavioural problems (Ex: Irritability associated with autism)

# Pathophysiology of schizophrenia

- **Positive symptoms**

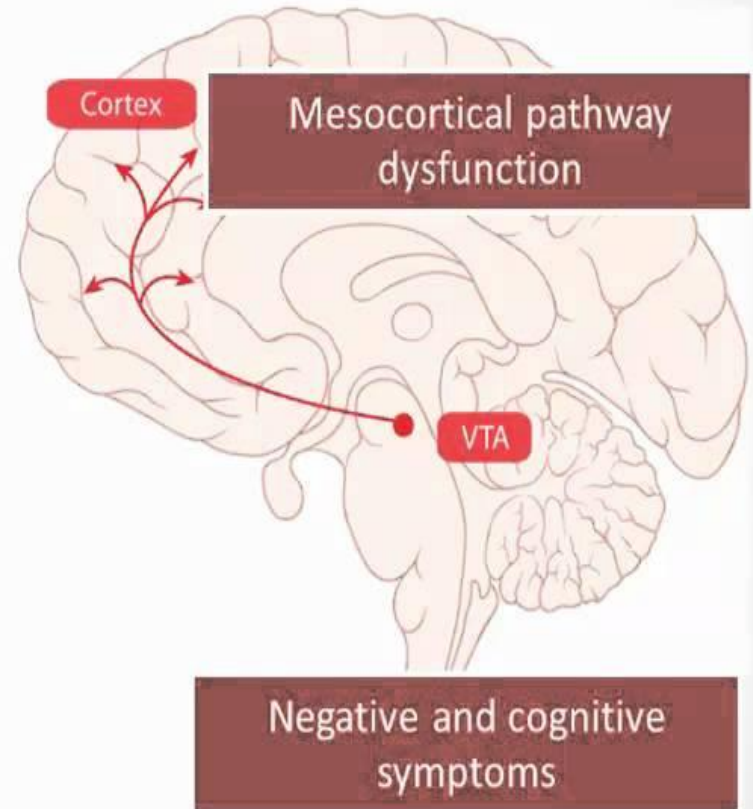
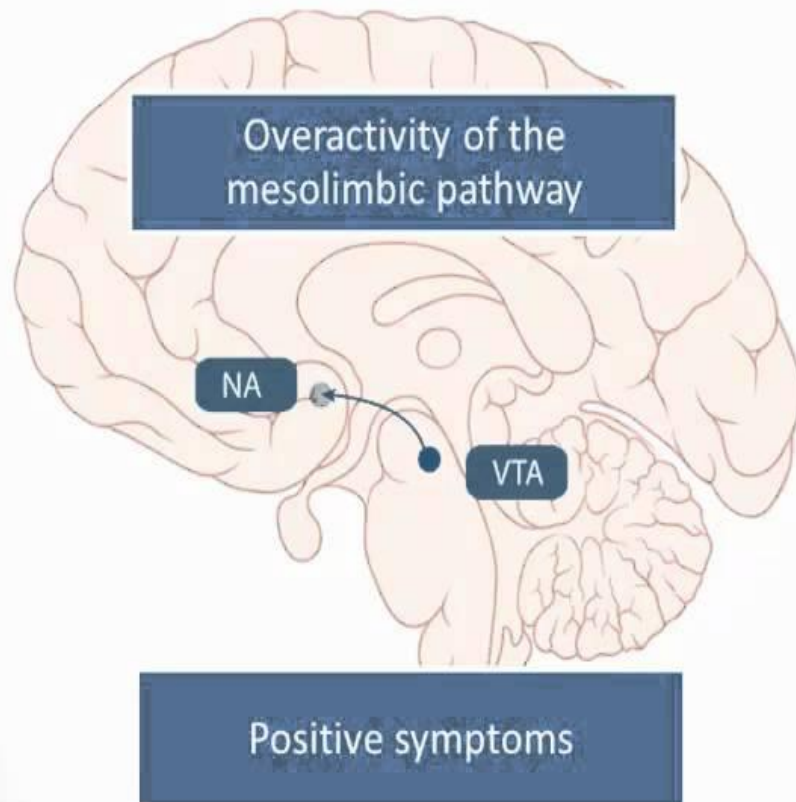
↑ Dopamine in the mesolimbic pathway (From ventral tegmental area of midbrain to nucleus accumbens of basal ganglia)

- **Negative symptoms**

↓ Dopamine in the mesocortical pathway (From ventral tegmental area of midbrain to prefrontal cortex)



# Dopamine Pathways Relevant to Schizophrenia Symptoms



# Typical antipsychotics

- **Phenothiazines**

- Chlorpromazine
- Thoridazine
- Trifluoperazine

- **Thioxanthenes**

- Flupenthixol
- Thiothixene

- **Butyrophenones**

- Haloperidol

- **Indole derivatives**

- Oxypertine monolidone

- **Diphenyl butyl piperidine**

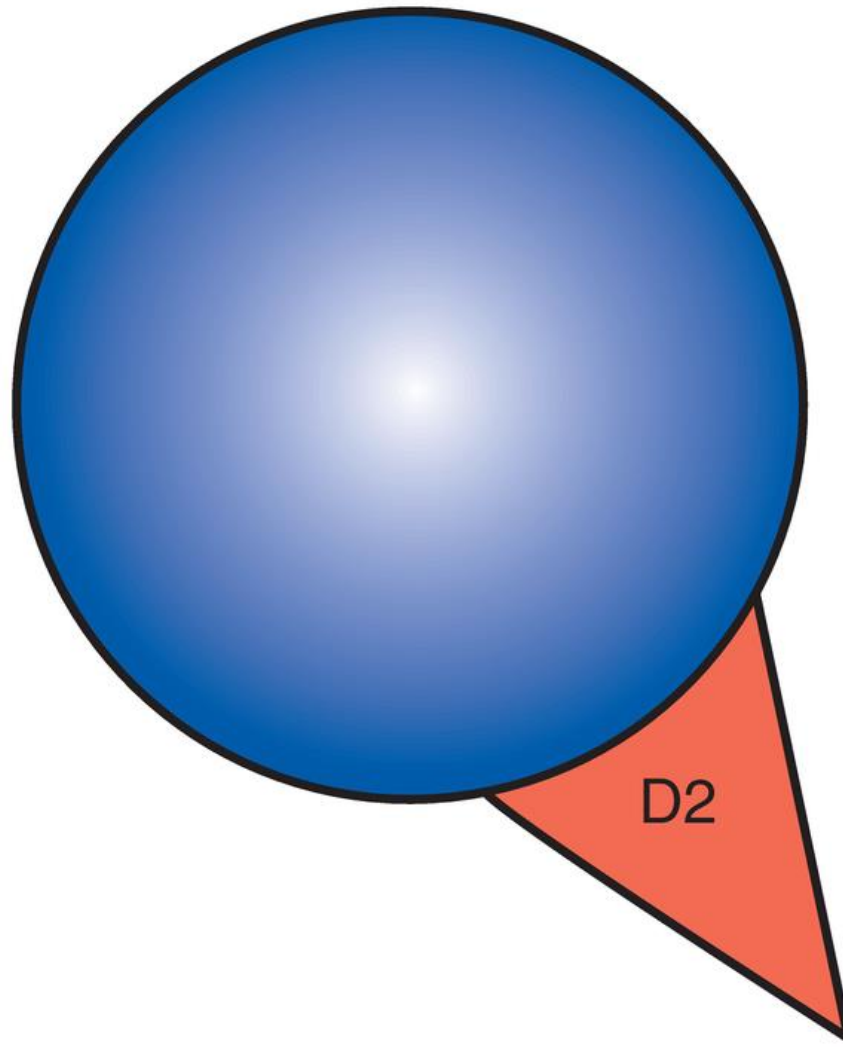
- Pimozide

- **Benzamide**

- Sulpride

# What Makes an Antipsychotic Conventional?

## D2 Antagonist Actions



# Mechanisms of action

- Typical antipsychotics

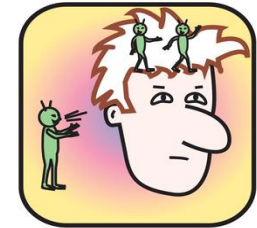
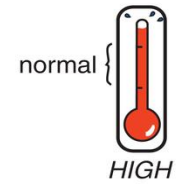
-Inhibits D2 receptors

D2 receptor block in the mesolimbic pathway results in  
reduction of positive symptoms

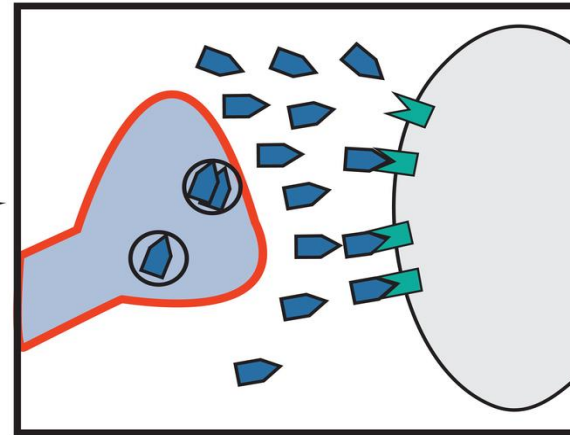
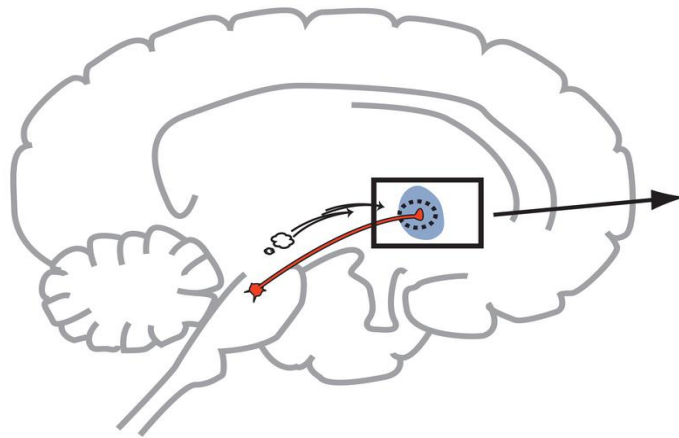
takes days or weeks to work

BUT.....

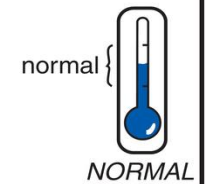
# Mesolimbic Pathway - Untreated Schizophrenia



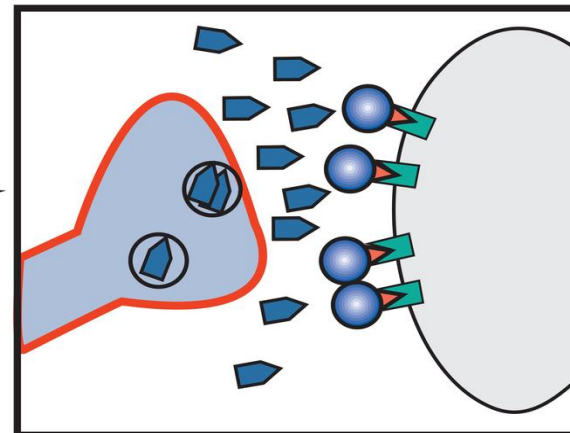
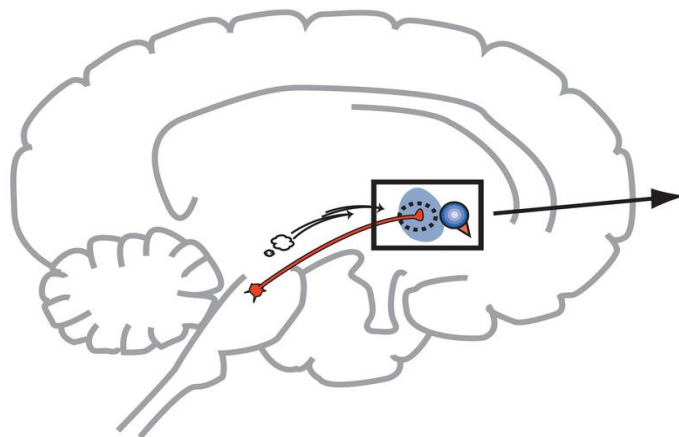
positive symptoms



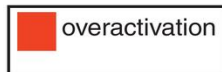
# Mesolimbic Pathway - D2 Antagonist



reduced  
positive symptoms



= pure D2 antagonist



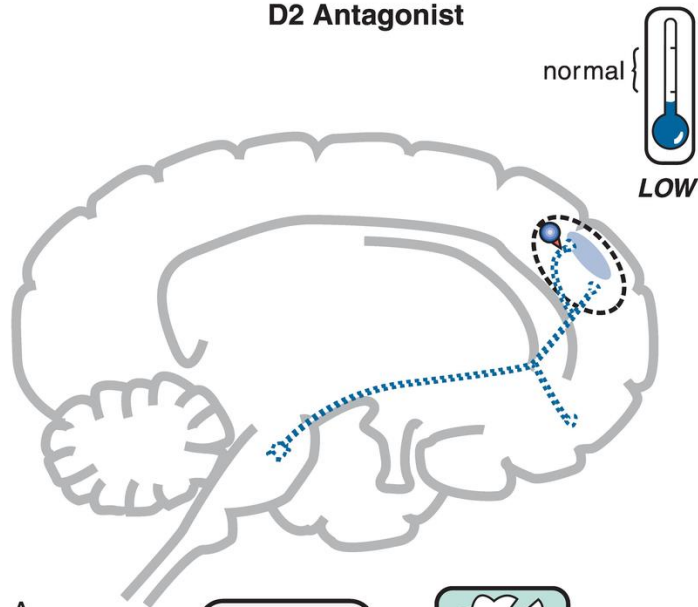
overactivation



# Side effects

- D2 block in  
**-meso cortical dopamine pathway** results in further  
aggravation of negative symptoms- **Neuroleptic induced  
deficient syndrome**

### Mesocortical Pathway to DLPFC - D2 Antagonist



A

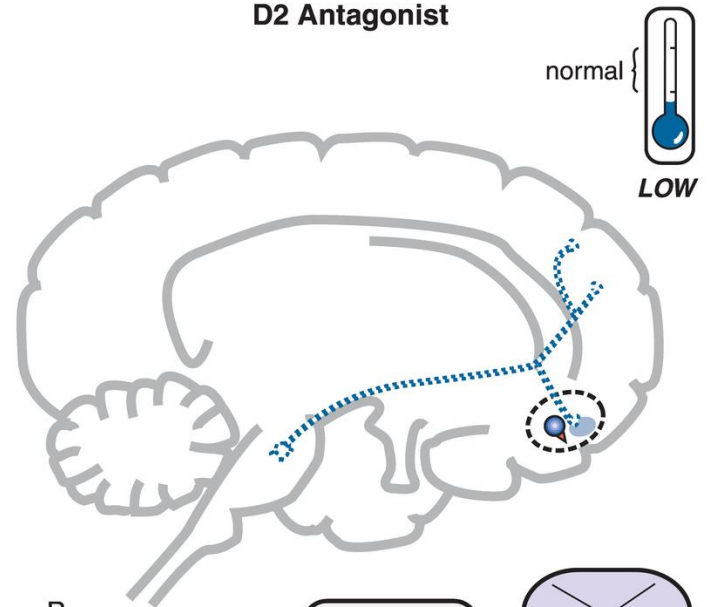


production of  
secondary  
negative  
symptoms



no improvement  
or worsening of  
cognitive  
symptoms

### Mesocortical Pathway to VMPFC - D2 Antagonist



B





production of  
secondary  
negative  
symptoms



no improvement  
or worsening of  
affective  
symptoms

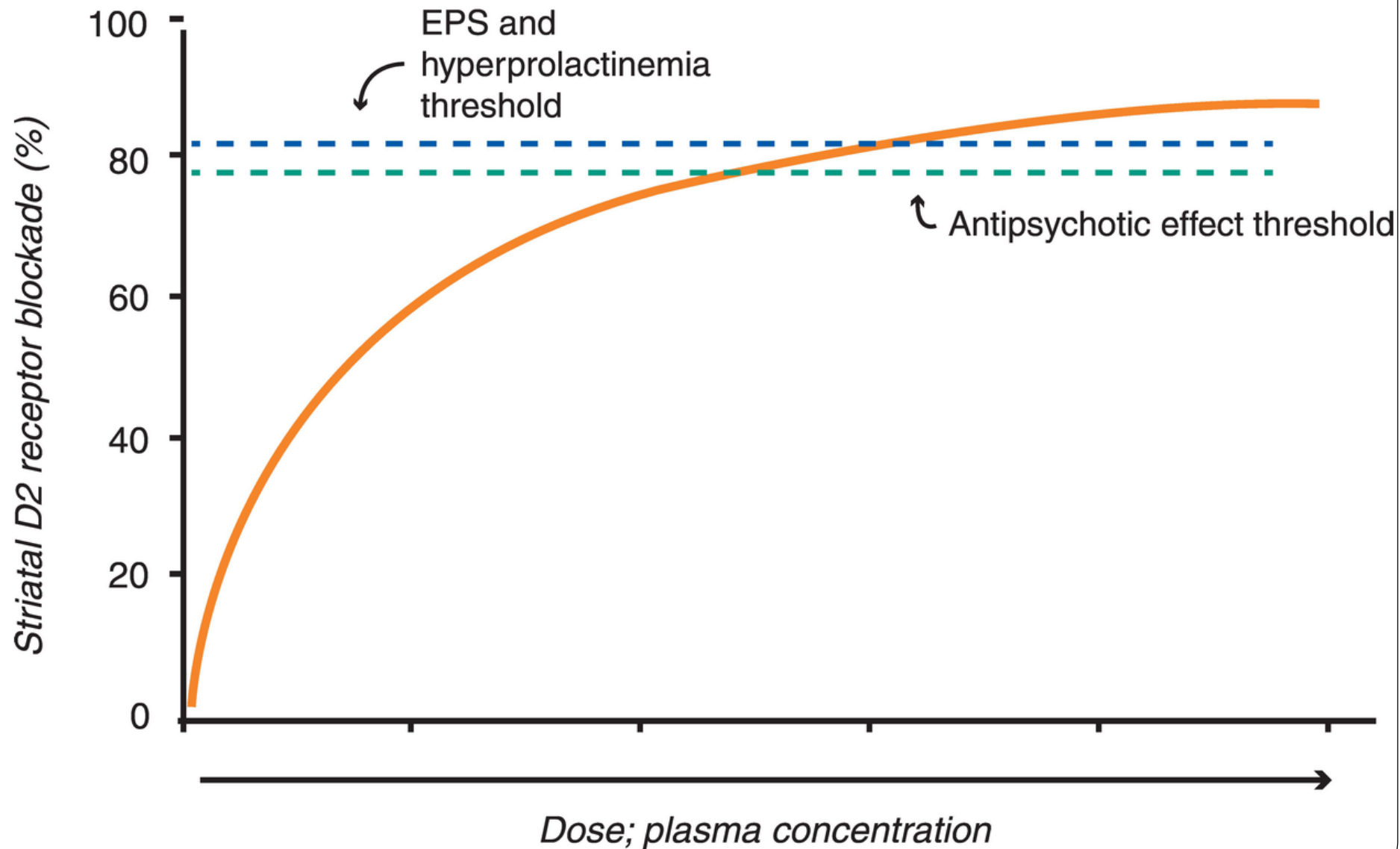


= pure D2 antagonist

**-nigrostriatal dopamine pathway** results in extra pyramidal symptoms (  DA /  ACh )  
(dystonia, akathisia, pseudoparkinsonism)

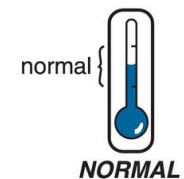
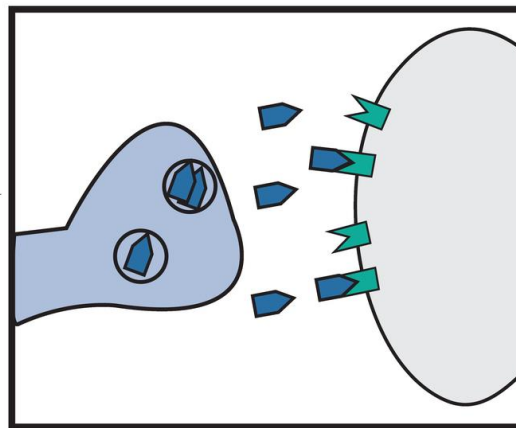
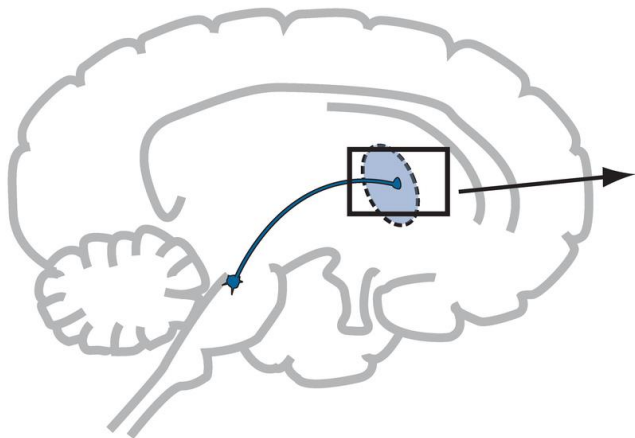
**-tuberoinfundibular dopamine pathway** results in hyperprolactinaemia (amenorrhoea, sexual dysfunction, galactorrhoea, osteoporosis)

## Hypothetical Thresholds for Conventional Antipsychotic Drug Effects

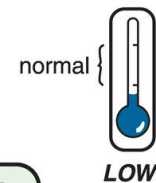
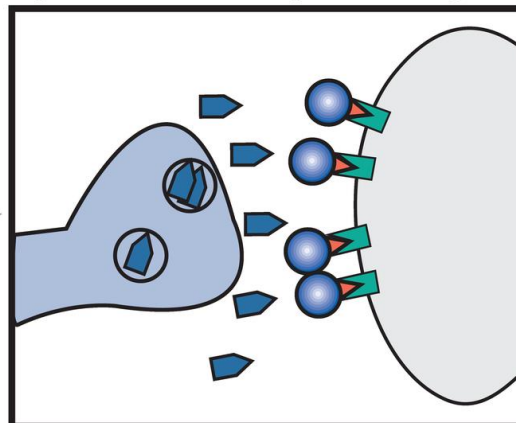
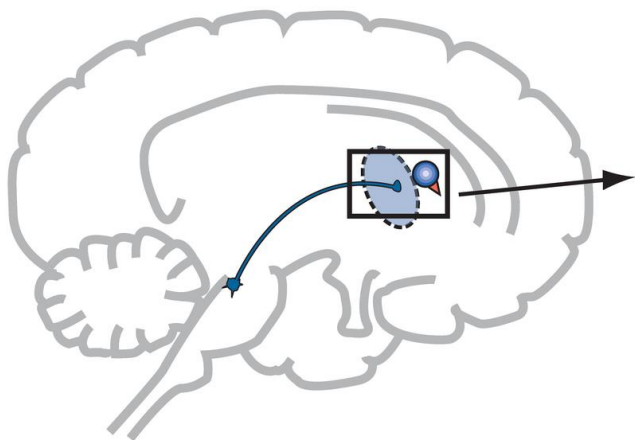




# Nigrostriatal Pathway - Untreated Schizophrenia

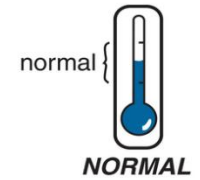
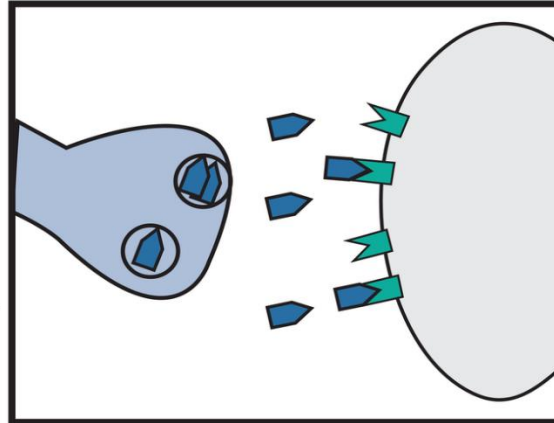
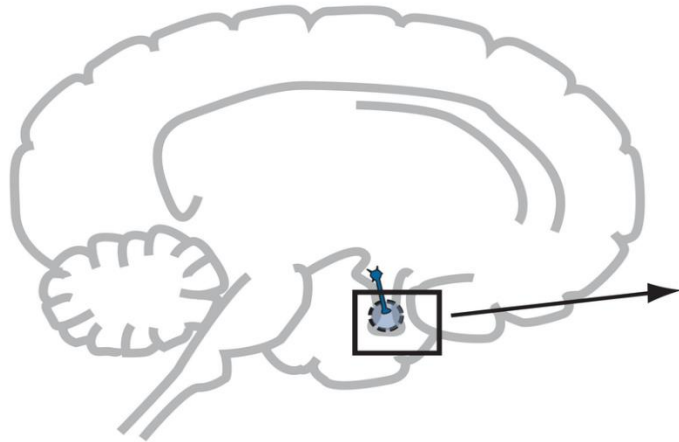


# Nigrostriatal Pathway - D2 Antagonist

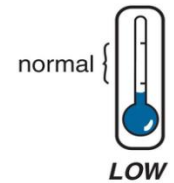
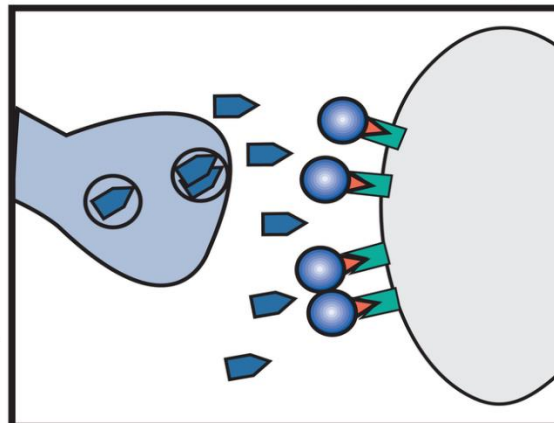
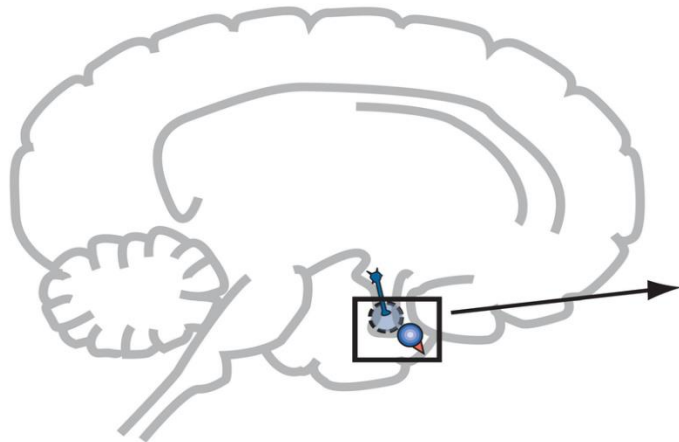


 = pure D2 antagonist

### Tuberoinfundibular Pathway - Untreated Schizophrenia




### Tuberoinfundibular Pathway - D2 Antagonist



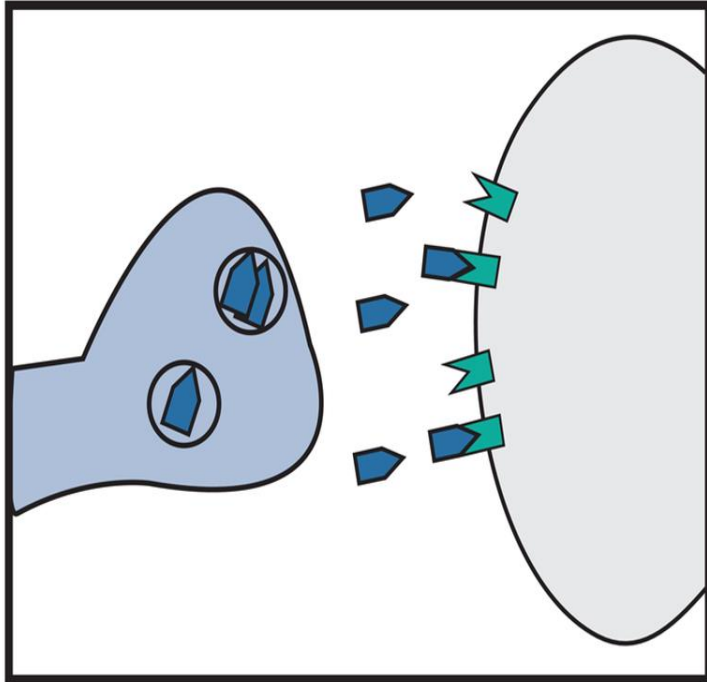
 = pure D2 antagonist

# Tardive dyskinesia

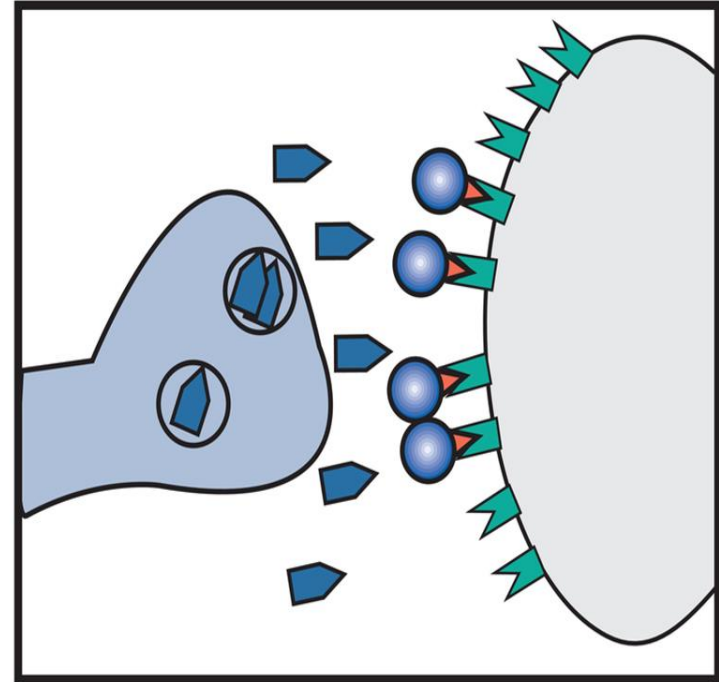
- Long term blockade of D2 receptors in the nigrostriatal system result in upregulation of D2 receptors with increased affinity/sensitivity for dopamine.
- So at one point they will overcome the D2 block exerted by antipsychotics and will result in increased activity of DA at D2 receptors
-  ↑ DA/ ↓ ACh
- Lip smacking, tongue protrusion, choreiform movements of hands-pill rolling, piano playing
- Rx: Stop anticholinergics, give cholinergics-Physostigmine, GABA facilitating drugs- Na Valproate, benzodiazepam; tetra benzene, ginkgobilabo,, Vit E, propranolol

blockade of D2 receptors in the  
nigrostriatal dopamine pathway  
causes them to upregulate

this upregulation may lead  
to tardive dyskinesia



A



B

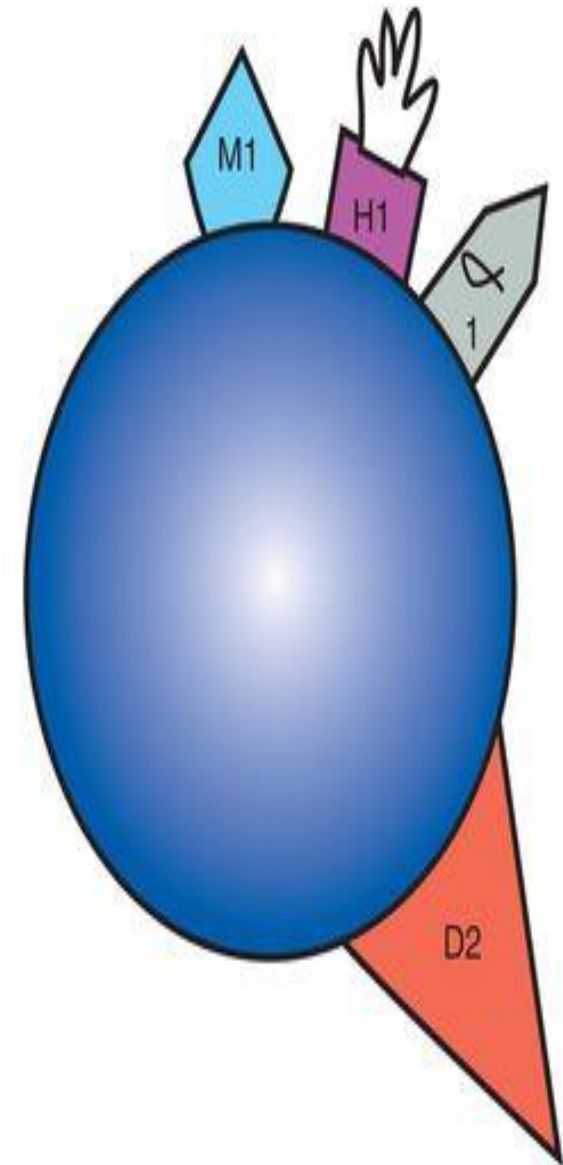


tardive  
dyskinesia

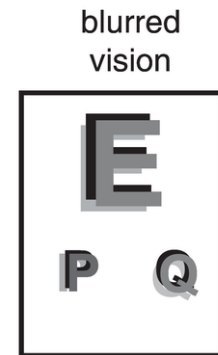
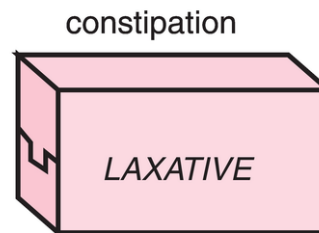
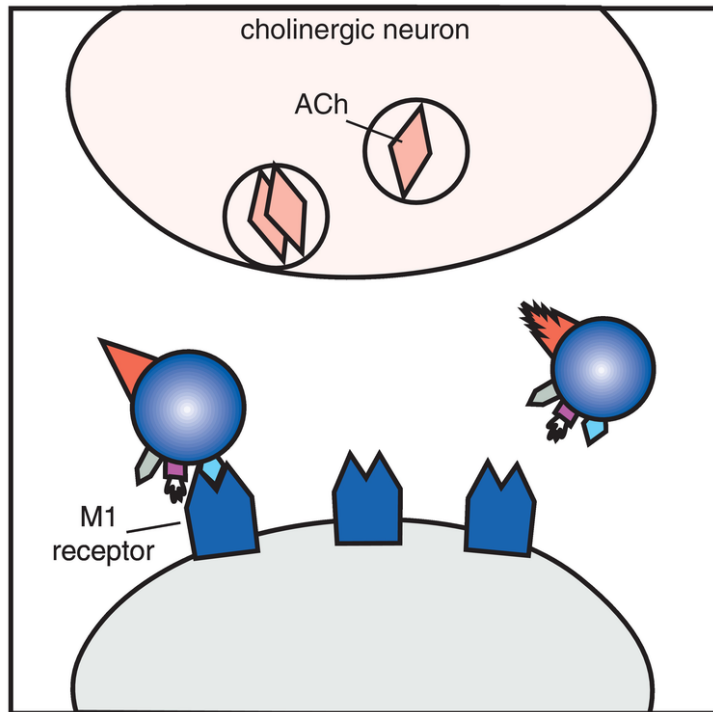


# Side effects

- **Anti histamine(H1) side effects**
  - Sedation, Weight gain
- **Anti muscarinic(M1) side effects**
  - Dry mouth, blurring of vision, constipation, difficulty in micturition, drowsiness and cognitive impairment
- **Alfa 1 block side effects**
  - Hypotension, dizziness and drowsiness



## M1 Inserted



# Atypical antipsychotics

- **Pines**

- Clozapine
- Olanzapine
- Quetiapine
- Asenapine
- Zotepine

- **Dones**

- Risperidone
- Paliperidone
- Ziprasidone
- Iloperidone
- Lurasidone

- **Pips**

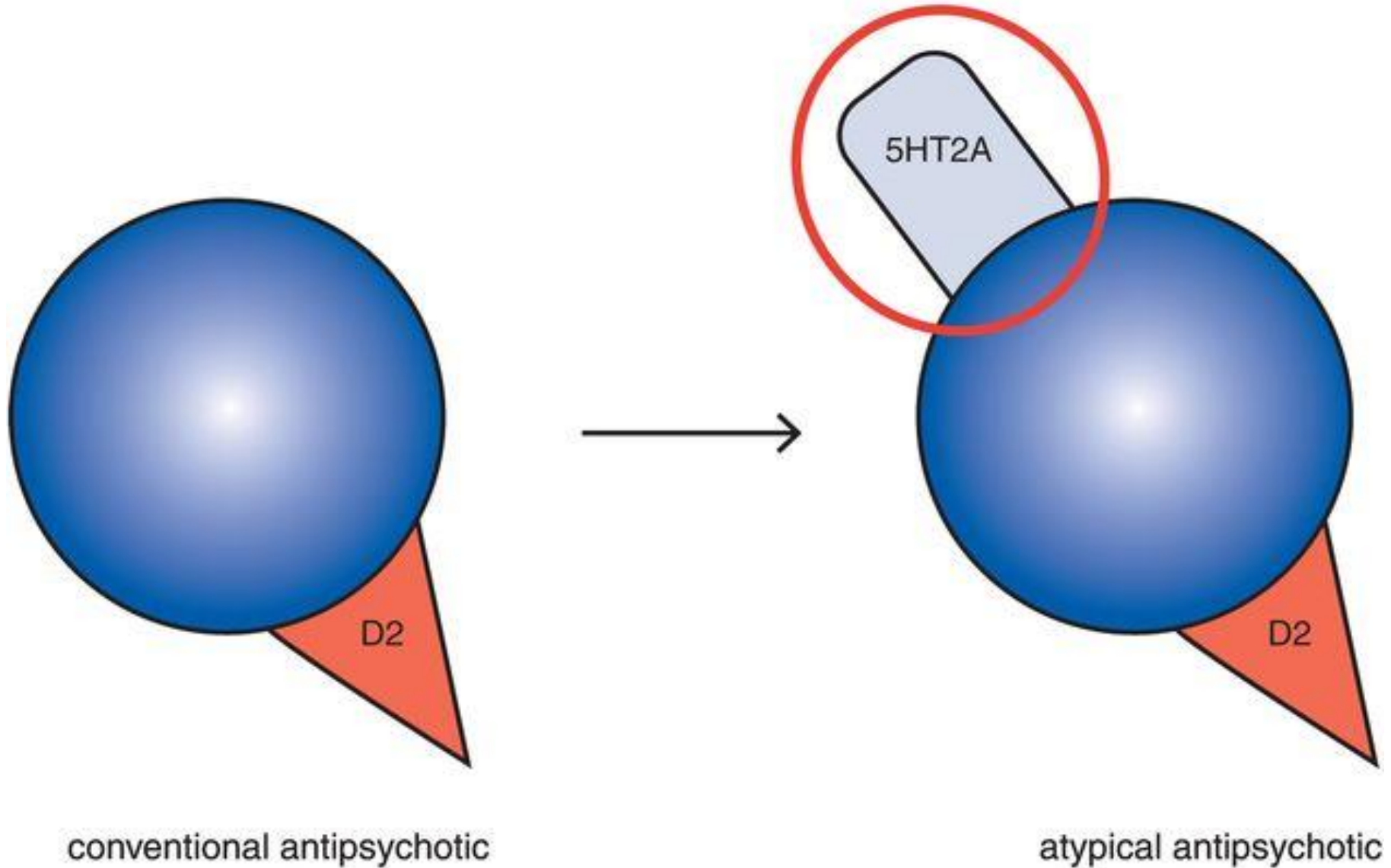
- Aripiprazole
- Brexpiprazole

- **Rip**

- Cariprazine

# What Makes an Antipsychotic Atypical?

Adding 5HT<sub>2A</sub> Antagonist / Inverse Agonist Actions





# Atypical antipsychotics

- Inhibits D2 receptors
  - D2 receptor block in the mesolimbic pathway results in reduction of positive symptoms
- By means of inhibiting 5HT 2A receptors increases DA in other pathways

## **Thus results in “Less incidence of”**

- Neuroleptic induced deficient syndrome
- Extra pyramidal side effects-Effective against negative symptoms
- Hyperprolactinaemia
- Effective against resistant patients
- H1,M1, Alfa 1 antagonism are present

# Cardio metabolic action

- Obesity, dyslipidemia, diabetes, cardiovascular disease & premature death

	High risk	Moderate risk	Low risk
Typical antipsychotics	Phenothiazine Chlorpromazine		Butyrophenone Haloperidol
Atypical antipsychotics	Clozapine Olanzapine	Risperidone Paliperidone Quetiapine	Ziprasidone Lurasidone Iloperidone(low for dyslipidemia) Aripiprazole Asenapine ?brexpiprazole ?cariprazine

**Pines and dones can result in  QT<sub>c</sub>**

# Chlorpromazine & Haloperidol

Side effects	Chlorpromazine	Haloperidol
Sedation	++	+
Anticholinergic S/Es	++	+
Hypotension	++	+
Extra pyramidal S/Es	+	+++
Hyperprolactinaemia	+++	+
Sexual dysfunction	++	+
DM/Dyslipidaemia	++	+
	Side effects on eye	QT <sub>c</sub> prolongation
	Antiemetic properties	Elevation of TSH
	T <sub>1/2</sub> 35 hours substantial hepatic first pass metabolism	Skin-Photosensitivity

**Same  
efficacy**

# Clozapine

- Weak D2 antagonism
- Effective in resistant schizophrenia
- Can reduce suicidal risk
- S/Es
  - Agranulocytosis 0.8% (Neutropenia 3%)
  - Seizures
  - Myocarditis



# Olanzapine

- Used as first line treatment
- More potent than clozapine
- S/Es
  - Weight gain
  - Seizure risk
  - EPSEs and hyperprolactinaemia are seen more than in clozapine and quetiapine

# Quetiapine

- Can function as a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor
- Metabolic effects less
- EPSEs and Hyperprolactinemia are less

*Papa Bear*



**800 mg**

***antipsychotic***

*Mama Bear*



**300 mg**

***antidepressant***

*Baby Bear*



**50 mg**

***hypnotic***



# Risperidone

- EPSEs
- Hyperprolactinaemia

# Aripiprazole

- Pips and rip are

**D2 partial agonists > 5HT1A partial agonists > 5HT2A antagonists**

- Aripiprazole S/Es
  - No weight gain
  - No sexual effects
  - Very low parkinsonism, hyperprolactinaemia
  - Very low H1, M1, Alfa 1 antagonism

# Injectable preparations

- 40% of schizophrenics do not take regular medications
- Can be given at 3-4 week intervals
- Ex:
  - ✓ Haloperidol
  - ✓ Fluphenazine
  - ✓ Flupentixol
  - ✓ Clopixol
  - ✓ Risperidone
  - ✓ Paliperidone
  - ✓ Olanzapine



# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

Young/M/Naive/High dose/IM/

Typical antipsychotic-Haloperidol, Chlorpromazine, Flupenthixol

Atypical antipsychotics- Clozapine, Olanzapine, Risperidone, Quetiapine

Antidepressants-clomipramine, venlafaxine

Withdrawal of antiparkinson drugs- amantadine, L-dopa, anticholinergics

Metoclopramide, OCP, Methylphenidate, FeSO<sub>4</sub>, Lithium, Carbamazepine

Dehydration, Organic brain disorders, Alcoholism



**D<sub>2</sub> receptor blockade**  
**Reduced Dopamine**  
**availability**

**Neuroleptic malignant Xn (0.5% prevalence)**

# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

## Symptoms and signs

- Fever  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Hypothalamus-thermoregulation)
- Rigidity (Striatum/Low  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobility in muscles)
- Autonomic instability- (High PR/Labile BP/Sweating) (High sympathetic activity)
- Fluctuations in the level of consciousness

# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

## Differential diagnosis

- Serotonin Syndrome
- Malignant hyperthermia
- Catatonia
- Parkinsonism
- Delirium
- Encephalitis

# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

## Investigations

- FBC- Neutrophil leukocytosis with left shift blood picture
- SGPT/OT – to decide on treatment
- CPK - >1000 (serial)
- RFT- Rhabdomyolysis can result in renal failure

# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

## Management

General Measures	Specific Measures
<b>Fever – Antipyretics cooling</b>	Antidote/Dopamine agonist Bromocriptine 2.5mg tds Oral 2-3days (max 45mg/day)
<b>Rehydration – Normal saline</b>	To reduce muscle rigidity- Calcium channel blockers-Dantrolene Benzodiazepam (IM Lorazepam)
<b>Renal Failure – Maintain IP/output chart</b> <b>Do RFT</b> <b>Look for AKI due to rhabdomyolysis</b>	To reduce autonomic instability- $\beta$ blockers
	Monitoring (BP/PR/RR/Temp)
	NM Xn + psychotic symptoms (ECT)

# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

## Prognosis

- Mortality 5 – 20%
- Cardiac arrhythmia- CV collapse
- Respiratory failure (aspiration pneumonia due to rigidity causing dysphagia, rigidity causing dyspnoea)
- Rhabdomyolysis – Myoglobinuria & renal failure
- DIC

# Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

## 2ry prevention

- 2/52 after symptom settlement resume anti-psychotic (Not the one which provoked NM Xn , usually an atypical in a low dose/low potent  $\pm$  prophylaxis – bromocriptine)
- Documentation
- Begin with lower dose, increase slowly while monitor PR/BP/Temperature/(CPK – monitoring is controversial)





**Thank you**