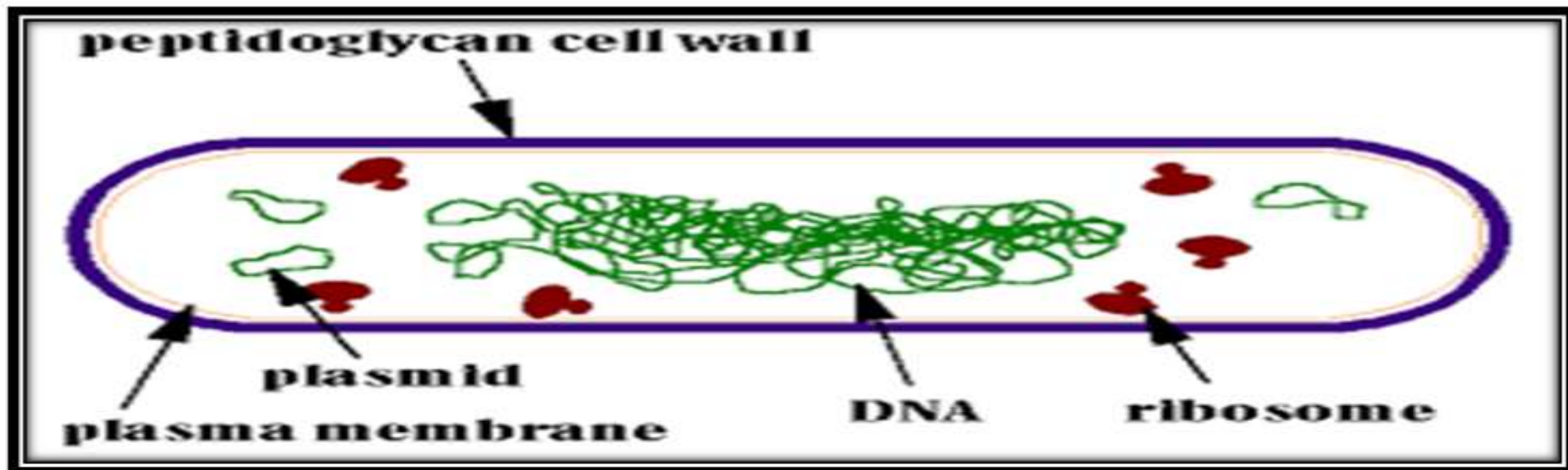


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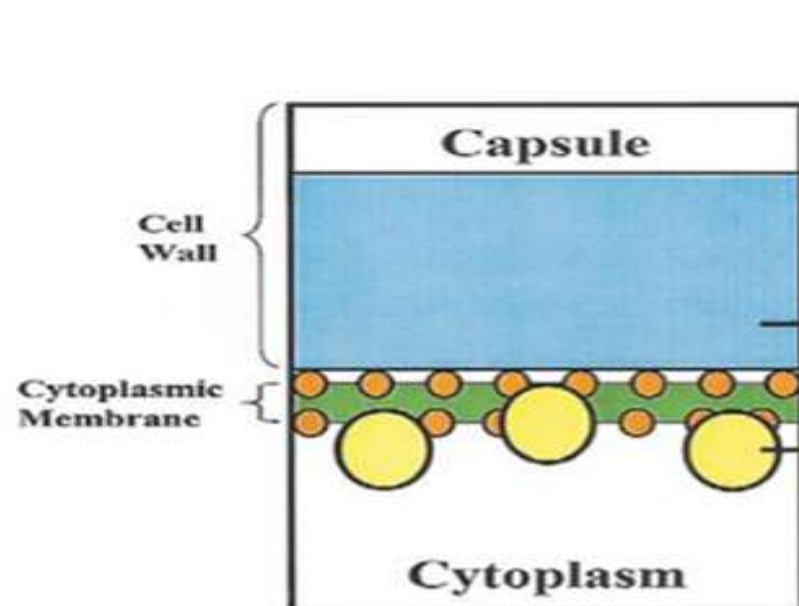
# Pharmacology of antibacterial drugs

## Cell wall inhibitors (part 1)

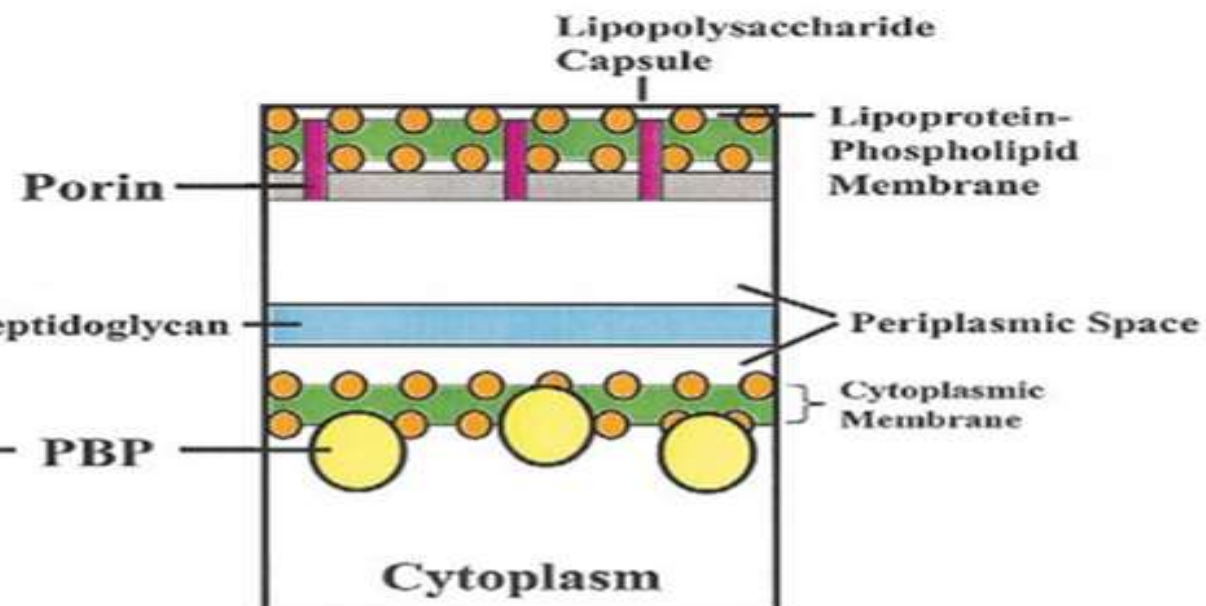
Dr. Mohammad Salem Hareedy  
2024



### Gram-Positive



### Gram-Negative



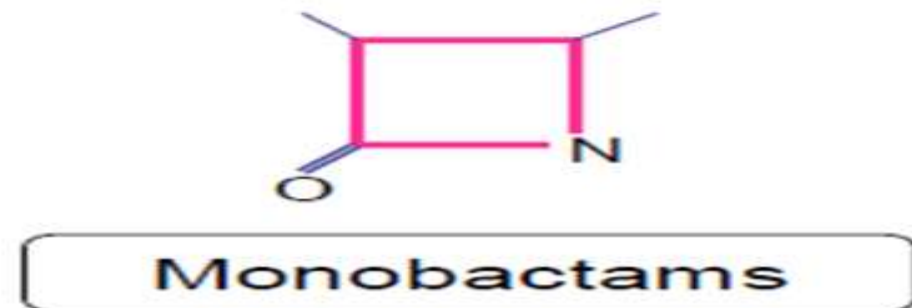
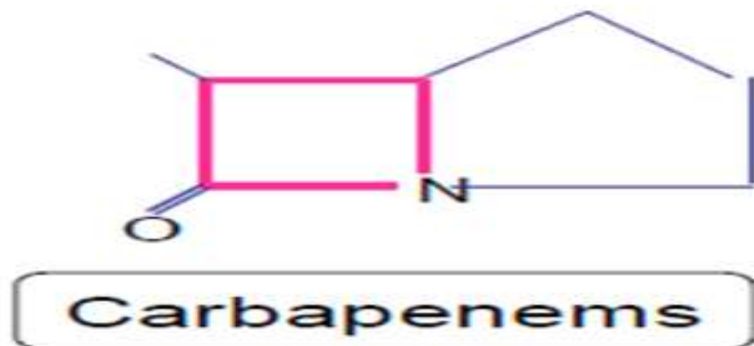
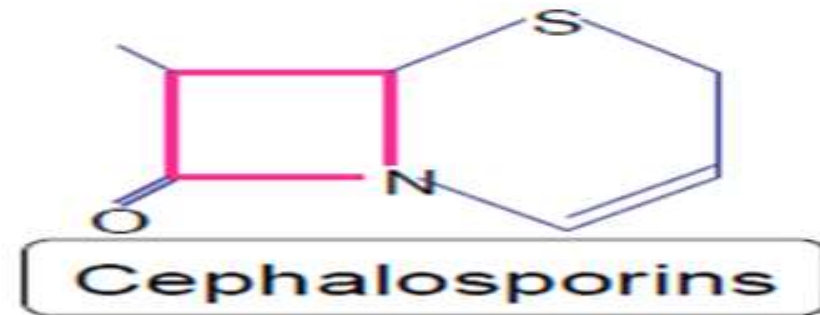
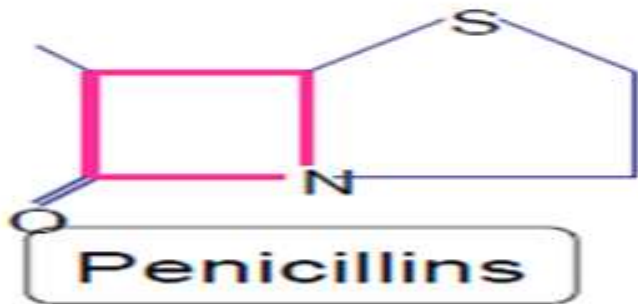
## The major cell wall synthesis inhibitors currently in use are:

- 1- The **beta-lactams** (e.g., penicillin and cephalosporins), which block the formation of the peptidoglycan layer.
- 2- The **glycopeptides** (vancomycin and teicoplanin), which disrupt assembly of the peptidoglycan precursor lipid II.

Cell wall biosynthetic stages	Antibiotics	Target
Stage I: the cytoplasmic stage	D-Cycloserine	D-Ala-D-Ala ligase, alanine racemase
	Fosfomicin	MurA
Stage II: the membrane-associated stage	Uridyl peptides (tunicamycin)	MraY
	Ramoplanin	MurG, lipid II
Stage III: the extracytoplasmic stage	$\beta$ -Lactams	PBPs
	Glycopeptides	Lipid II (D-Ala-D-Ala terminal)
	Moenomycin	Transglycosylase
	Mannopeptimycins	Lipid II
	Lantibiotics (nisin)	Lipid II
	Defensin (plectasin)	Lipid II
	Bacitracin	Undecaisoprenyl pyrophosphate

# Beta lactam antibacterial drugs

The  $\beta$ -lactams include **penicillins**, **cephalosporins**, **monobactams** and **carbapenems** and they share a common structure, and a common mechanism of action.



## Features of beta lactam antibiotics:

- They contain the **4-membered ring** (**lactam**) which is intrinsically labile to **hydrolysis** (acidic or enzymatic).
- **Target:** **cell-wall** biosynthesis
- **Action:** **bactericidal**, active only against growing cells.
- They have variable spectrum.

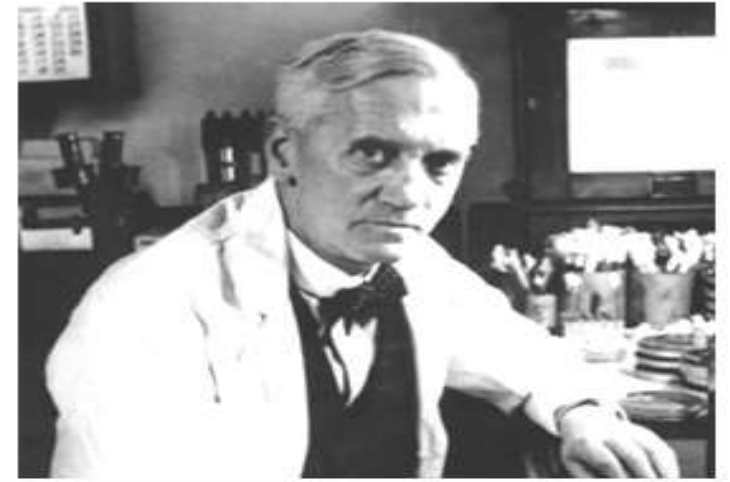




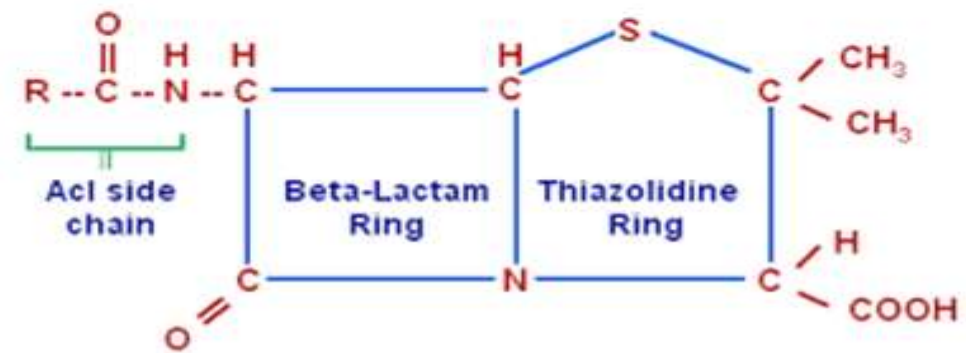
# Penicillins

## Chemistry:

- The basic structure of the penicillins consists of a **thiazolidine** ring (A) connected to a *β-lactam* ring (B) to which is attached a **side chain** (R).
- The β-lactam ring is responsible for the biological activity of penicillins, and it is targeted by organisms that produce penicillinase enzyme to destroy it.
- The **side chain** (R) can be cleaved by **amidase enzyme** producing **6-aminopenicillanic acid** to which new side chains can be added to produce new compounds of semi-synthetic penicillins.



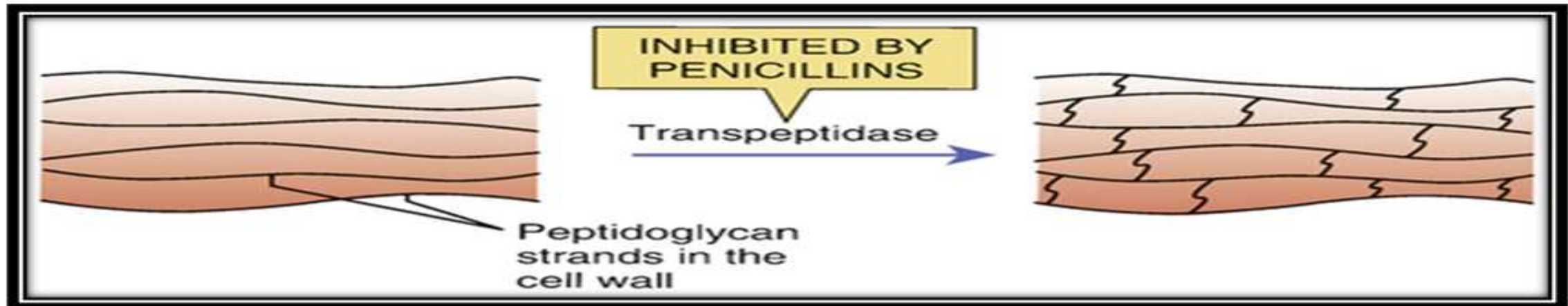
Sir Alexander Fleming



General Structure of Penicillins

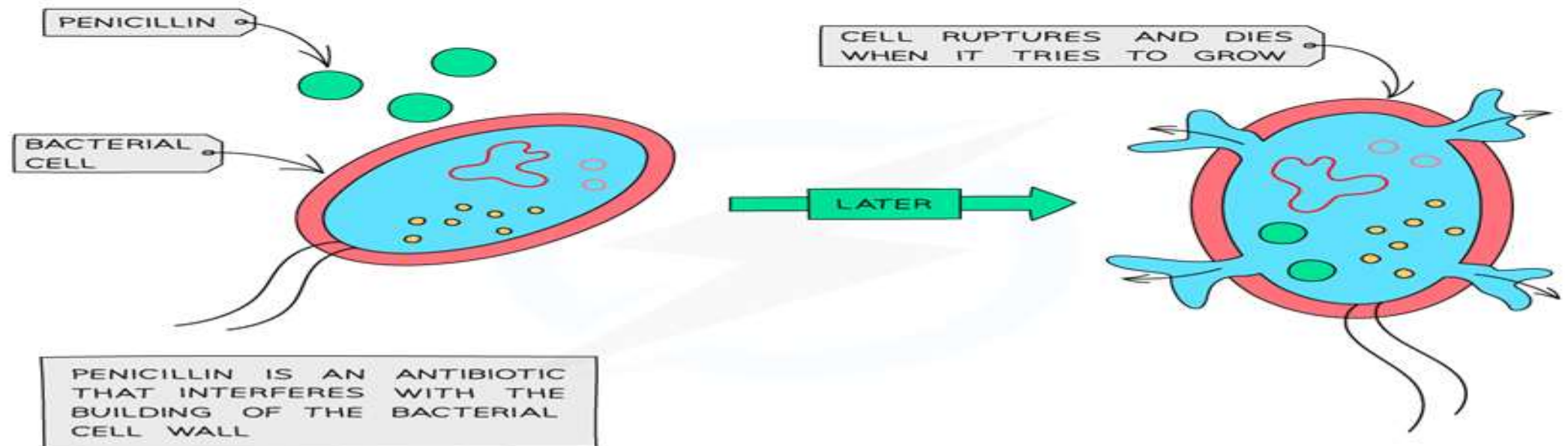
## Mechanism of action

- Penicillins are **bactericidal** through inhibition of bacterial cell wall synthesis for growing bacteria.
- The bacterial cell wall consists of **glycopeptides** linked via five peptide bridges between amino acid side chains.
- Bacterial cells with evident cell wall have penicillin binding proteins (**PBP**) to which transpeptidases are attached (in the **peri-plasmic space**).





- This **trans-peptidation reaction** gives the **rigid mechanical stability** of the cell wall and **prevent osmotic shock**.
- Binding of **Penicillins** and other beta lactam drugs to PBP causes **inhibition of these transpeptidases** and **inhibition cell wall synthesis** occur leading to bacterial cell death.





## Mechanism of resistance to penicillins

1. **Enzymatic hydrolysis** where bacteria produce  $\beta$ -lactamases (penicillinases) enzymes that can destroy  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics.
2. **Inability of the drug to penetrate** to its site of action especially in gram negative bacteria.
3. Active **efflux pumps** that remove the antibiotic from its site of action.
4. **Alteration in PBP** with decreased affinity for  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics.
5. **Natural (intrinsic) resistance**: in bacteria lacking cell wall like *Mycoplasma*..

## Classification of the penicillins

### According to spectrum

# The PENICILLINS

#### **Narrow spectrum penicillins**

- Penicillin G
- Penicillin V

#### **Broad Spectrum Penicillins (aminopenicillin)**

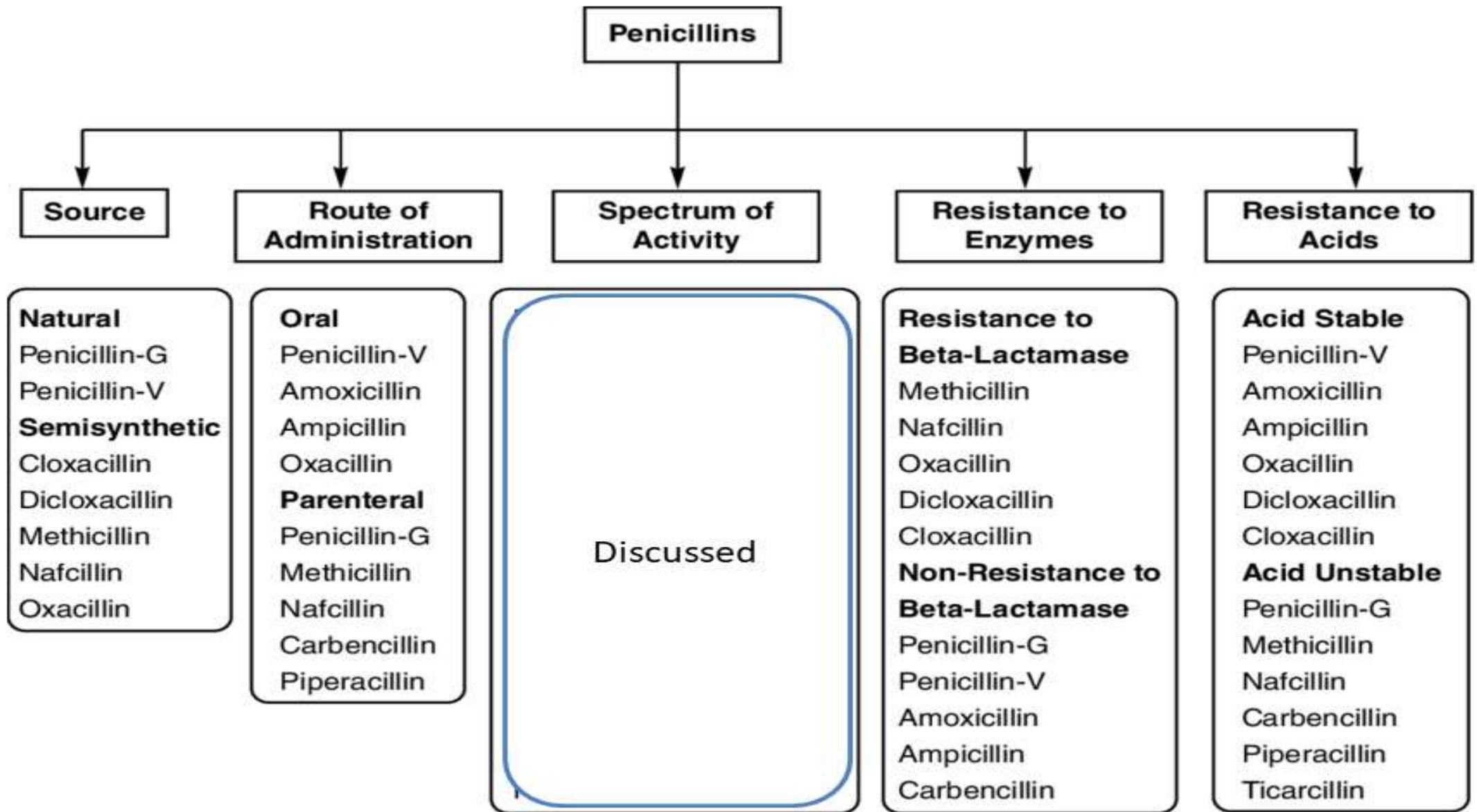
- Amoxicillin
- Ampicillin
- Bacampicillin

#### **Penicillinase-resistant Penicillin (anti-staphylococcal penicillins)**

- Cloxacillin
- Nafcillin
- Methicillin
- Dicloxacillin
- Oxacillin

#### ● **Extended-Spectrum penicillins (Anti-pseudomonal penicillins)**

- Carbenicillin
- Mezlocillin
- Piperacillin
- Ticacillin



## 1- Narrow spectrum (natural) penicillins

e.g. **Natural Penicillins** including **penicillin G** (benzyl penicillin) & **penicillin V** (phenoxymethyl penicillin):

- Highly active against sensitive strains of **gram-positive cocci**, but they are readily **hydrolyzed by penicillinase**.
- They are **ineffective against most strains of Staph. aureus**.
- Some **gram-negative cocci and anaerobic bacteria** are **susceptible** to natural penicillins.

## 2- The penicillinase resistant penicillins (Anti-staph penicillins)

e.g. **Methicillin, Nafcillin, Oxacillin, Cloxacillin, and Dicloxacillin**.

- They have very narrow spectrum (only active against sensitive strains of staphylococci), so, they are the agents of **first choice for treatment of penicillinase-producing Staph aureus and Staph epidermidis** that are not Methicillin resistant.
- **They are ineffective against bacilli and gram-negative organisms.**



**3- Broad spectrum penicillins (Aminopenicillins)** e.g. **ampicillin** and **amoxicillin** which antimicrobial activity covers not only gram-positive cocci but also the gram-negative organisms like **Hemophilus influenzae**, **E coli** and **proteus mirabilis**.

These drugs are administered frequently with a  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor such as **clavulanate or sulbactam** to prevent hydrolysis by class A  $\beta$ -lactamases.

**4- Extended spectrum penicillins (Anti-pseudomonal penicillins)**  
like **Carbenicillin, Mezlocillin, piperacillin and ticarcillin**

Their antimicrobial activity **extends** to include the ***Pseudomonas***, **Enterobacter** and **proteus** species as gram negative organisms.

**They are destroyed by beta lactamases.**

## I- Natural penicillins

### Pharmacokinetics:

- **Penicillin G** is not used orally (acid labile) and is usually given by Intravenous (IV) or intramuscular (IM) injection.
- **Penicillin V** is more stable in acidic medium and better absorbed from GIT after oral administration.
- They are short acting ( $t_{1/2}$  is 30 minutes) which need frequent administration. .
- Penicillin G penetrates readily inflamed meninges to enter the CSF compared with normal meninges.
- Excretion is mainly by the kidney (**10% via glomerular filtration & 90% by active tubular secretion**).
  
- To prolong the duration of action and reduce the frequency of penicillin G injection, probenecid may be given as it blocks renal tubular secretion of penicillin (but rarely used for this purpose).

# Long-acting penicillin

- The repository preparations of penicillin G (e.g., **penicillin G benzathine**) are frequently used in clinical practice.
- These **I.M.** preparations release penicillin G slowly from the area in which it is injected and produces relatively low but persistent concentrations of antibiotic in the blood.
- **Penicillin G benzathine** preparation is given **once per month** as a prophylaxis in rheumatic fever.
- **Penicillin procaine** is another repository form (long acting) of penicillin but given **I.M./12 hours.**



## Therapeutic uses of penicillin G

1. **Pneumococcal** infection: pneumonia and meningitis.
2. **Streptococcal** infection such as pharyngitis caused by  $\beta$ -hemolytic streptococci. This prevents development of acute rheumatic fever, but not glomerulonephritis.

Penicillin plus aminoglycoside for treatment of streptococcal endocarditis.

1. **Meningococcal** infection: in acute meningitis, but ineffective in meningococcal carrier state or prophylaxis.
2. **Gonococcal** infection, but ceftriaxone is an effective alternative.
- 5- **Anaerobic infection**: e.g. brain abscess (with metronidazole).
- 6- **Syphilis**.
- 7- **Diphtheria**: antitoxin is the only effective treatment, but penicillin G eliminates the carrier state.
- 8- **Clostridia infections**: gas gangrene.
- 9- **Anthrax**.
- 12- **Chemoprophylaxis....**



## Chemoprophylaxis using Penicillin G and its long-acting preparations

Penicillin G is used for Prophylaxis in the following conditions:

1. **Recurrence of rheumatic fever.** Benzathine penicillin G (1.2 million units) given monthly as I.M. injection. In case of hypersensitivity to penicillin, sulfisoxazole or sulfadiazine or macrolides may be alternative.
2. Contact persons to patients suffering from **syphilis**.
3. Surgical or dental procedures in cardiac patients with rheumatic valve disease to guard against **sub-acute bacterial endocarditis infection** (penicillin plus aminoglycoside).

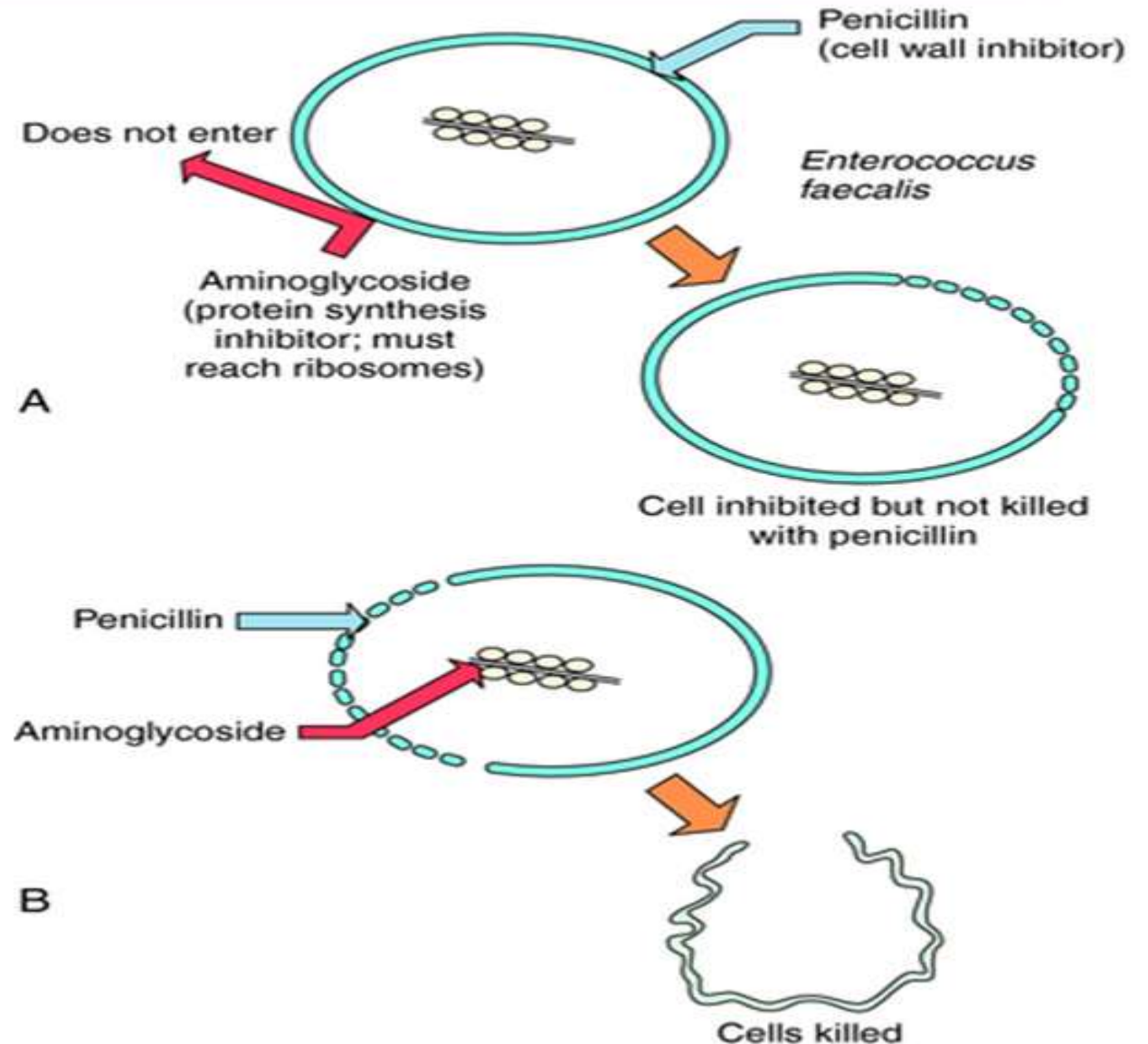
# Doses of penicillin G

- The dose of penicillin G (4-24 million IU per day) given IV divided into 5 to 6 doses. **Each 1 million IU = 0.6 gram of penicillin G.**
- Benzathine penicillin G (1.2 million IU) IM (once every 3-4 weeks) is used to prevent recurrence of beta hemolytic streptococcal Infection among patients with rheumatic heart diseases to avoid recurrence of rheumatic fever.
- Benzathine penicillin G (2.4 million IU) IM (once every week for 3-4 weeks) can eradicate syphilis



# The combination of penicillin and aminoglycoside

**Penicillins** and other cell wall inhibitors **facilitate the entry** of **aminoglycoside** into bacterial cells (**Synergism**)





## II- The penicillinase resistant (anti-staphylococcal) penicillins

**Flucloxacillin, Nafcillin, Oxacillin, Cloxacillin, Dicloxacillin, and Methicillin**

➤ They are resistant to hydrolysis by staphylococcal penicillinases; therefore, their use should be restricted to the treatment of infection caused by **staphylococci**.

➤ They are less effective against microorganisms susceptible to penicillin G .

➤ They have no effect on gram negative bacteria producing penicillinase.

➤ **Methicillin** was withdrawn because of causing **interstitial nephritis**.

➤ **Combination of flucloxacillin and amoxicillin** are available as oral or injectable preparations.

➤ Also, combinations of **dicloxacillin and ampicillin** are available.



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# Methicillin resistant microorganisms

➤Methicillin resistant microorganisms like **Methicillin-resistant Staph. aureus (MRSA)** is a term applied now to all bacteria which are resistant to all penicillinase resistant penicillins like Methicillin.

➤MRSA is resistant to most  $\beta$ -lactams because of the presence of **mecA**, a gene that produces a penicillin binding protein (**PBP2a**) with **low affinity for  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics**

➤**Vancomycin**, **linezolid** and other drugs is indicated in these conditions although intermediate level of resistance is emerging.





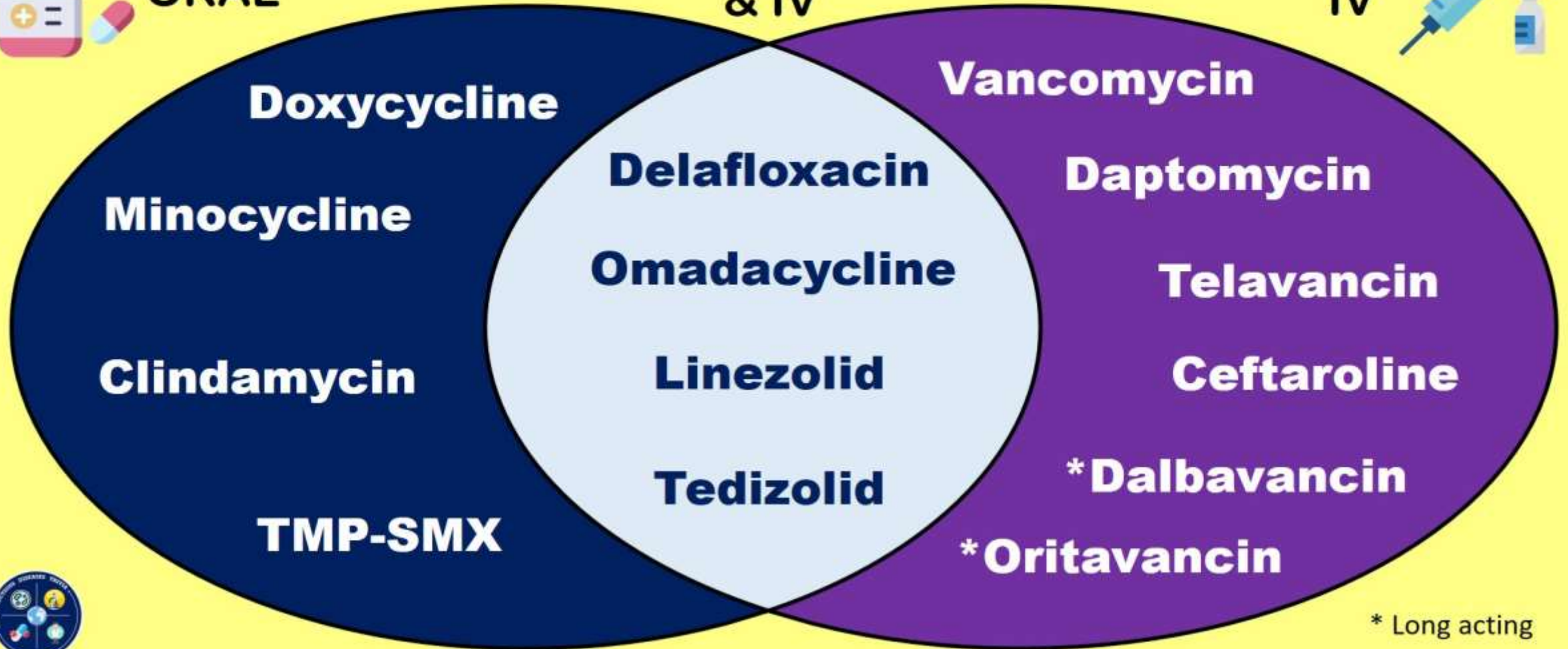
# ANTIBIOTICS WITH MRSA COVERAGE



ORAL

ORAL  
& IV

IV



\* Long acting



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