

# DIURETICS

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# DEFINITION

- Diuretics are drugs that act on kidney to increase urine flow.
- Most work by decreasing reabsorption of  $\text{Na}^+$  at different sites in nephron.
- $\text{Na}^+$  and other ions, such as  $\text{Cl}^-$ , enter the urine in greater than normal amounts along with water, which is carried passively to maintain osmotic equilibrium.
- Diuretics result in:
  1. Increase volume of urine
  2. Change urine pH
  3. Change ionic composition of the urine and blood

# CLASSIFICATION

## THIAZIDE DIURETICS

Chlorothiazide **DIURIL, SODIUM DIURIL**

Chlorthalidone **HYGROTON**

Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) **MICROZIDE**  
Indapamide **LOZOL**  
Metolazone **ZAROXOLYN**

combination drug  
12.5mg / 25mg

## LOOP DIURETICS

→ most effective [Na<sup>+</sup> abs most @ loop]

Bumetanide **BUMEX**

Ethacrynic acid **EDECIN**

Furosemide **LASIX** → emergency  
Torseamide **DEMADEX**

most used!

## POTASSIUM-SPARING DIURETICS

↪ w/ hypokalemic patients

Amiloride **AMILORIDE HCL**

Eplerenone **INSPRA**

! Spironolactone **ALDACTONE**

Triamterene **DYRENIUM**

## CARBONIC ANHYDRASE INHIBITORS

Acetazolamide **DIAMOX**

not used as diuretics [weak]

## OSMOTIC DIURETICS

Mannitol **OSMITROLL**

Urea **CARMOL,**

osmotic

ما یسری و ایمنی  
کدوا بی عشان  
آطلاخ ازیم تهره  
بوه بی عتیر

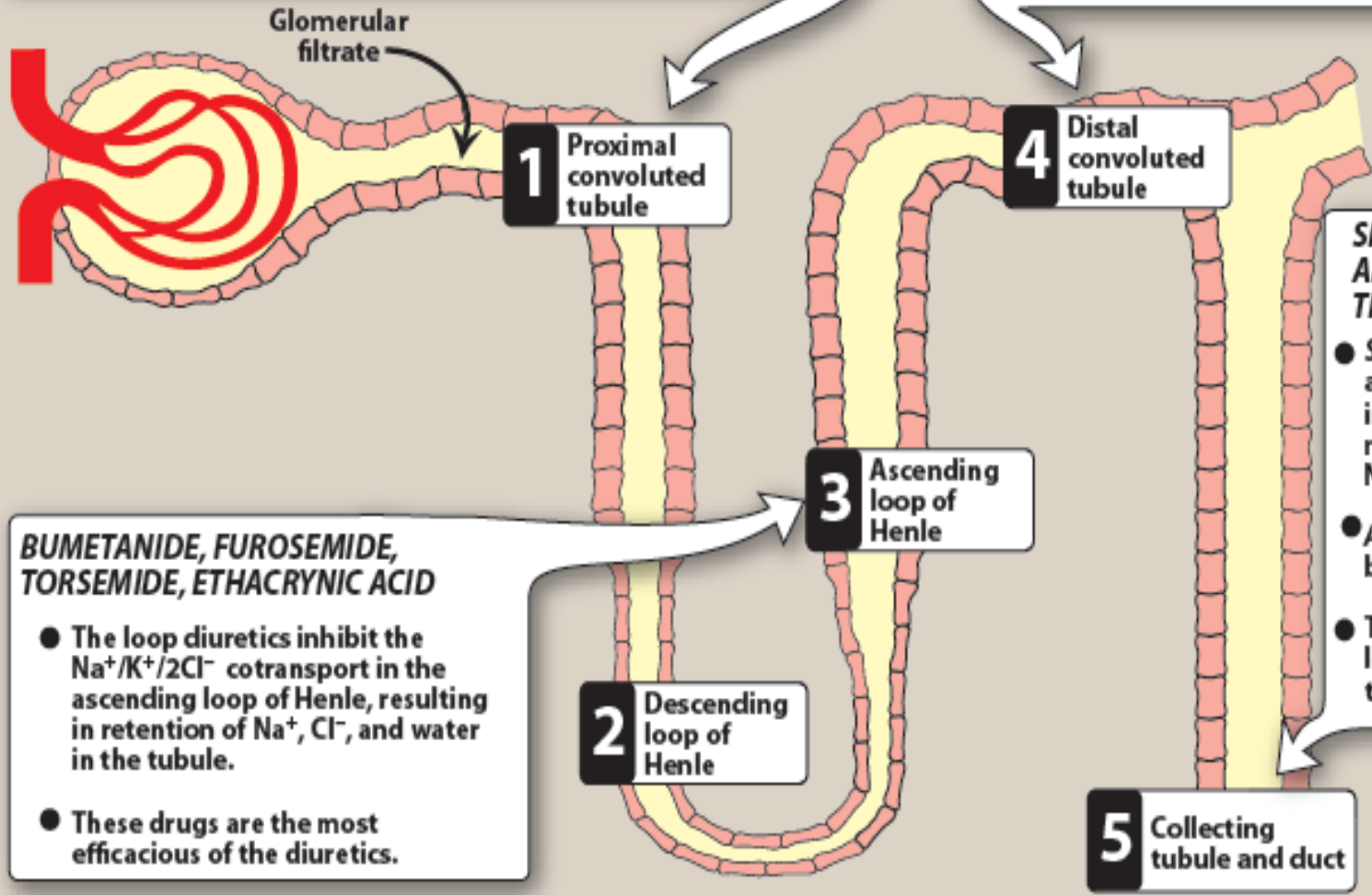
Physical activity drug [inert]

## ACETAZOLAMIDE

- A carbonic anhydrase inhibitor that inhibits the reabsorption of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  in the proximal convoluted tubule.
- Weak diuretic properties.

## THIAZIDES

- Inhibit reabsorption of  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  in the distal convoluted tubule, resulting in retention of water in the tubule.
- Most commonly used diuretic for the treatment of hypertension.



## BUMETANIDE, FUROSEMIDE, TORSEMIDE, ETHACRYNIC ACID

- The loop diuretics inhibit the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+/\text{2Cl}^-$  cotransport in the ascending loop of Henle, resulting in retention of  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ , and water in the tubule.
- These drugs are the most efficacious of the diuretics.

## SPIRONOLACTONE, AMILORIDE, TRIAMTERENE

- *Spironolactone*, an aldosterone antagonist, inhibits the aldosterone-mediated reabsorption of  $\text{Na}^+$  and secretion of  $\text{K}^+$ .
- *Amiloride* and *triamterene* block  $\text{Na}^+$  channels.
- These agents can prevent loss of  $\text{K}^+$  that occurs with thiazide or loop diuretics.

# 1. THIAZIDES AND RELATED AGENTS

- They are sulfonamide derivatives and their mechanism of action is similar
- They are the most widely used of the diuretic drugs

## Mechanism of action

They act mainly in the cortical region of the ascending loop of Henle and the distal tubule to decrease the reabsorption of Na<sup>+</sup>, apparently by inhibition of Na<sup>+</sup>/Cl<sup>-</sup> cotransporter on the luminal membrane of the tubules resulting in

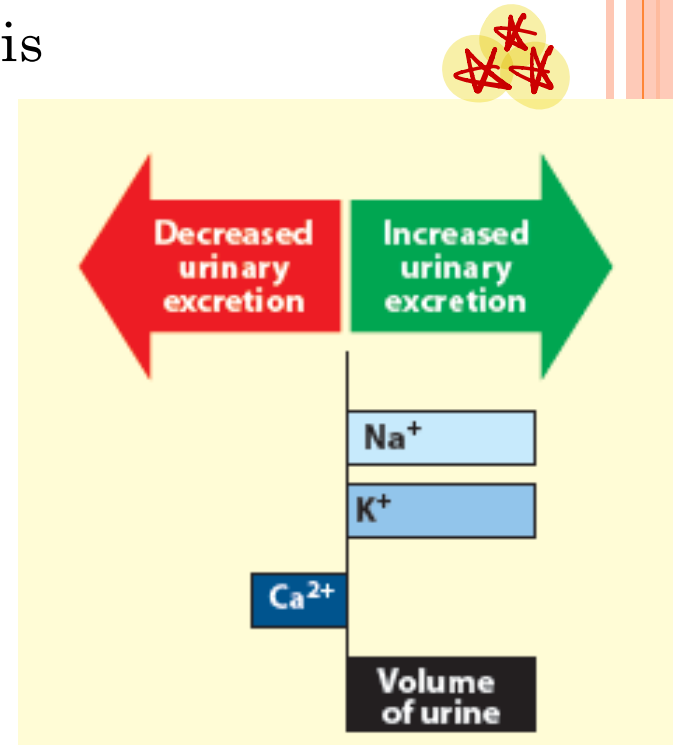
A. Increased excretion of  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$

B. Loss of  $\text{K}^+$ : thiazides increase the  $\text{Na}^+$  in the filtrate arriving at the distal tubule, more  $\text{K}^+$  is also exchanged for  $\text{Na}^+$ , resulting in a continual loss of  $\text{K}^+$  from the body with prolonged use of these drugs.

C. Loss of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$

D. Decreased urinary calcium excretion: They promote the reabsorption of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .

E. Reduced peripheral vascular resistance: caused by relaxation of arteriolar smooth muscle.



## Therapeutic uses:

### Chlorothiazide and hydrochlorothiazide

→ used more often

- 1. Hypertension:** effective in reducing systolic and diastolic blood pressure for extended periods in the majority of patients with mild to moderate essential hypertension
  - 2. Heart failure:** reduce extracellular volume in mild to moderate heart failure.
  - 3. Hypercalciuria:** thiazide treat Ca oxalate stones, and loop cause it treating idiopathic hypercalciuria, because they inhibit urinary  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  excretion. This is particularly beneficial for patients with calcium oxalate stones in the urinary tract.
  - 4. Diabetes insipidus:** Thiazides can substitute for antidiuretic hormone in the treatment of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus. The urine volume of such individuals may drop from 11 L/day to about 3 L/day when treated with the drug.
- A. Chlorthalidone:** It has a very long duration of action and, therefore, is often used to treat hypertension. It is given once per day.
- B. Metolazone:** unlike the thiazides, causes  $\text{Na}^+$  excretion in advanced renal failure.
- C. Indapamide:** It is less likely to accumulate in patients with renal failure and may be useful in their treatment.

## Adverse effects:

Most of the adverse effects involve problems in fluid and electrolyte balance

1. Hypokalemia
2. Hyponatremia: Limiting water intake and lowering the dose of diuretic can prevent this condition.
3. Hyperuricemia: Thiazides increase serum uric acid by decreasing the amount of acid excreted by the organic acid secretory system (risk of gout).
4. Volume depletion: This can cause **most common** orthostatic hypotension or light-headedness.
5. Hypercalcemia: The thiazides inhibit the secretion of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , sometimes leading to elevated levels of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in the blood.
6. Hyperglycemia: Patients with diabetes mellitus taking thiazides for hypertension may become hyperglycemic. This is due to impaired release of insulin and tissue uptake of glucose.



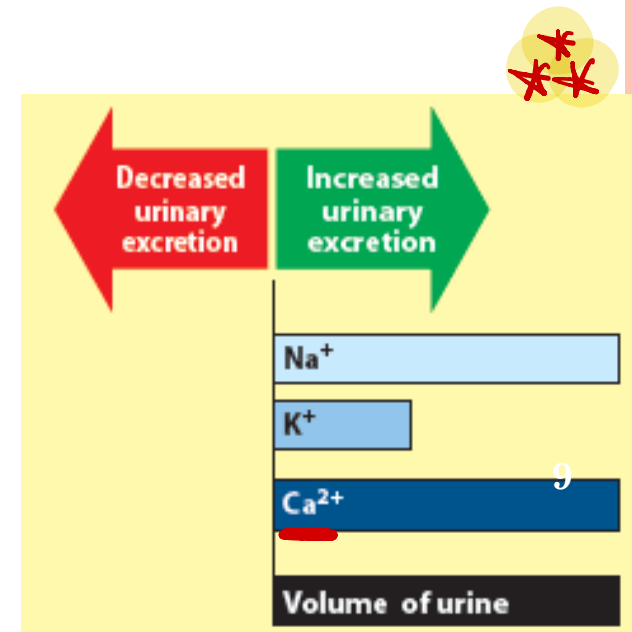
## 2. LOOP OR HIGH-CEILING DIURETICS

- Bumetanide, furosemide, torsemide, and ethacrynic acid
- their major action on the ascending limb of the loop of Henle

### Mechanism of action:

Loop diuretics inhibit the cotransport of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+/\text{Cl}^-$  in the luminal membrane in the ascending limb of the loop of Henle. Therefore, reabsorption of these ions is decreased

- The loop diuretics are the **most efficacious** of the diuretic drugs, because the ascending limb accounts for the reabsorption of 25 to 30 percent of filtered  $\text{NaCl}$  and downstream sites are not able to compensate for this increased  $\text{Na}^+$  load.



## Therapeutic uses:

1. drugs of choice for reducing the acute pulmonary edema of heart failure. Because of their rapid onset of action, particularly when given intravenously, the drugs are useful in emergency situations, such as acute pulmonary edema, which calls for a rapid, intense diuresis.
2. Loop diuretics (along with hydration) are also useful in treating hypercalcemia, because they stimulate tubular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  excretion.
3. They also are useful in the treatment of hyperkalemia.

## Pharmacokinetics:

- Loop diuretics are administered orally or parenterally.
- Their duration of action is relatively brief 2 to 4 hours.

Chronic → thiazide  
Emergency → loop

## Adverse effects:

+ cisplatin

1. Ototoxicity: Hearing can be affected adversely by the loop diuretics, particularly when used in conjunction with the aminoglycoside antibiotics.
2. Hyperuricemia: Furosemide and ethacrynic acid compete with uric acid for the renal and biliary secretory systems, thus blocking its secretion and, thereby, causing or exacerbating gouty attacks.
3. Acute hypovolemia: a severe and rapid reduction in blood volume, with the possibility of hypotension, shock, and cardiac arrhythmias.
4. Potassium depletion: leads to hypokalemic alkalosis.
5. Hypomagnesemia:

same  
as thiazid  
EXCEPT:  
Calcium

### 3. POTASSIUM-SPARING DIURETICS

- They act in the collecting tubule to inhibit  $\text{Na}^+$  reabsorption and  $\text{K}^+$  excretion .
- They are used alone primarily when aldosterone is present in excess.
- They are not very efficacious diuretics.

#### A. Aldosterone antagonists: **Spironolactone**

##### Mechanism of action:

Spironolactone is a synthetic steroid that antagonizes aldosterone at intracellular cytoplasmic receptor sites leading to inhibition of protein synthesis that stimulates the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -exchange sites of the collecting tubule and therefore prevents  $\text{Na}^+$  reabsorption and, therefore,  $\text{K}^+$  and  $\text{H}^+$  secretion.

## Therapeutic uses:

It is given orally for:

1. **Diuretic:** it is often given in conjunction with a thiazide or loop diuretic to prevent the  $K^+$  excretion. It is the diuretic of choice in patients with hepatic cirrhosis.
2. **Secondary hyperaldosteronism:**
3. **Heart failure:** It prevents the remodeling that occurs as compensation for the progressive failure of the heart.

## Adverse effects:

1. It causes gastric upsets and peptic ulcers.
2. **Gynecomastia in males**
3. **Menstrual irregularities in females;**
4. At low doses, hyperkalemia, nausea, lethargy, and mental confusion can occur.

## B. Epithelial sodium channel blocker :

- Triamterene and amiloride block  $\text{Na}^+$  transport channels, resulting in a decrease in  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$  exchange.
- Both triamterene and amiloride are frequently used in combination with other diuretics, usually for their potassium-sparing properties.
- For example, much like spironolactone, they prevent the loss of  $\text{K}^+$  that occurs with thiazides and furosemide.

### Side effects

- Triamterene causes leg cramps and the possibility of increased blood urea nitrogen as well as uric acid and  $\text{K}^+$  retention.

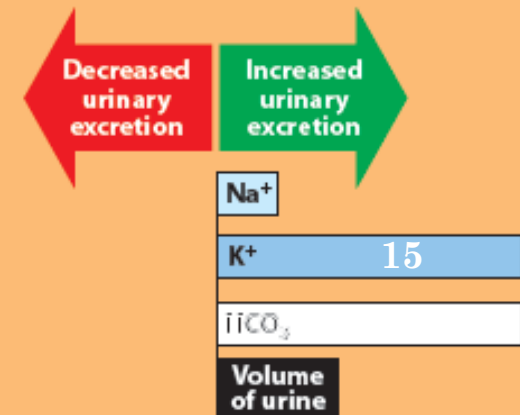
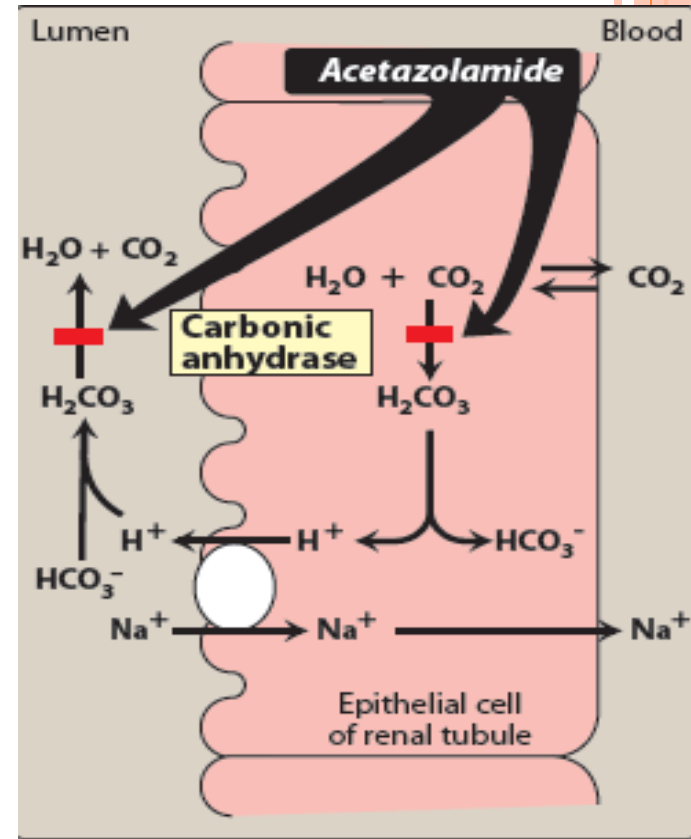
# 4. CARBONIC ANHYDRASE INHIBITORS

## ➤ Acetazolamide

➤ Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors are more often used for their other pharmacologic actions rather than for their diuretic effect, because they are **much less efficacious** than the thiazides or loop diuretics.

### Mechanism of action:

➤ Acetazolamide inhibits carbonic anhydrase located intracellularly (cytoplasm) and on the apical membrane of the proximal tubular epithelium. The decreased ability to exchange  $\text{Na}^+$  for  $\text{H}^+$  in the presence of acetazolamide results in a mild diuresis.



## Therapeutic uses:

1. Treatment of <sup>open angle</sup> glaucoma: The most common use of acetazolamide is to reduce the elevated intraocular pressure of open-angle glaucoma. It decreases the production of aqueous humor, probably by blocking carbonic anhydrase in the ciliary.

## Pharmacokinetics:

Acetazolamide is given orally/ topically (eye drops) once to four times daily. It is secreted by the proximal tubule.

## Adverse effects:

- Metabolic acidosis (mild), potassium depletion, renal stone formation, drowsiness, and paresthesia may occur.
- The drug should be avoided in patients with hepatic cirrhosis, because it could lead to a decreased excretion of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ .



## 5. OSMOTIC DIURETICS

### ➤ Mannitol

- They are agents that are freely filtered at the glomerulus, undergo limited reabsorption by the renal tubule, and are relatively inert pharmacologically.
- They are administered in large enough doses to increase significantly the osmolality of plasma and tubular fluid.
- Given i.v., filtered by glomeruli, but not reabsorbed by proximal tubule, increasing osmolarity of tubular fluid, thus retaining water with little  $\text{Na}^+$  in lumen of proximal tubule & descending limb of loop of Henle.
- The rate of flow of tubular fluid also increases (Flushing action), causing rapid powerful diuresis

➤ They also increase plasma osmolality , which can withdraw fluid from brain in cases of cerebral oedema or from anterior chamber of eye in acute glaucoma.

### Therapeutic Uses :

1. It decreases cerebral oedema.
2. It decreases intra-ocular pressure in acute narrow angle glaucoma.
3. It increases excretion of drugs & heavy metal chelates in poisoning.
4. Prevent RF in early acute tubular necrosis and in severe haemolysis

**Contraindication:** heart failure ; established RF; ( they may cause pulmonary oedema in these cases )

renal failure  
↗

## Notable interactions between diuretics and other drugs

Diuretic drug(s)	Drug(s) interacting	Consequence	Comment
Acetazolamide	Phenytoin Phenobarbital Primidone	Osteomalacia and rickets	Uncertain mechanism
Acetazolamide	Aspirin or salicylates	Lethargy, confusion and coma	Acetazolamide-induced acidosis results in more salicylate entering the central nervous system, which can lead to salicylate intoxication
* Thiazide, thiazide-like and loop diuretics	<u>Cardiac glycosides</u>	Increased cardiac glycoside-induced arrhythmias	<u>Hypokalemia potentiates action of cardiac glycosides</u>
* Thiazide, thiazide-like and loop diuretics	<u>Sulfonylureas (oral hypoglycemic drugs) and insulin</u>	Hyperglycemia	Thiazides and to a <u>lesser extent loop diuretics decrease insulin secretion</u>
* Thiazide, thiazide-like and loop diuretics	<u>Lithium</u>	Increased plasma levels of lithium with risk of toxic effects	<u>Increased tubular reabsorption of lithium</u>
* Thiazide, thiazide-like and loop diuretics	<u>Uricosuric agents</u>	Reduced effect of uricosuric agents	<u>Decreased tubular secretion of uricosuric agents</u>
* Thiazide, thiazide-like and loop diuretics	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs <i>NSAID's ↑ ↓ loop-d. action</i>	Reduced diuretic response	Interaction a result of <u>inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis</u>
* Loop diuretics	<u>Aminoglycosides</u> <u>Cisplatin</u>	Increased risk of ototoxicity	Synergism of ototoxicity
* <u>Potassium-sparing diuretics</u>	<u>ACE inhibitors and K supplements</u>	Increased risk of hyperkalemia	Additive hyperkalemic effects



Fig. 17.9. Notable interactions between diuretics and other drugs.