ANTIFUNGAL DRUGS

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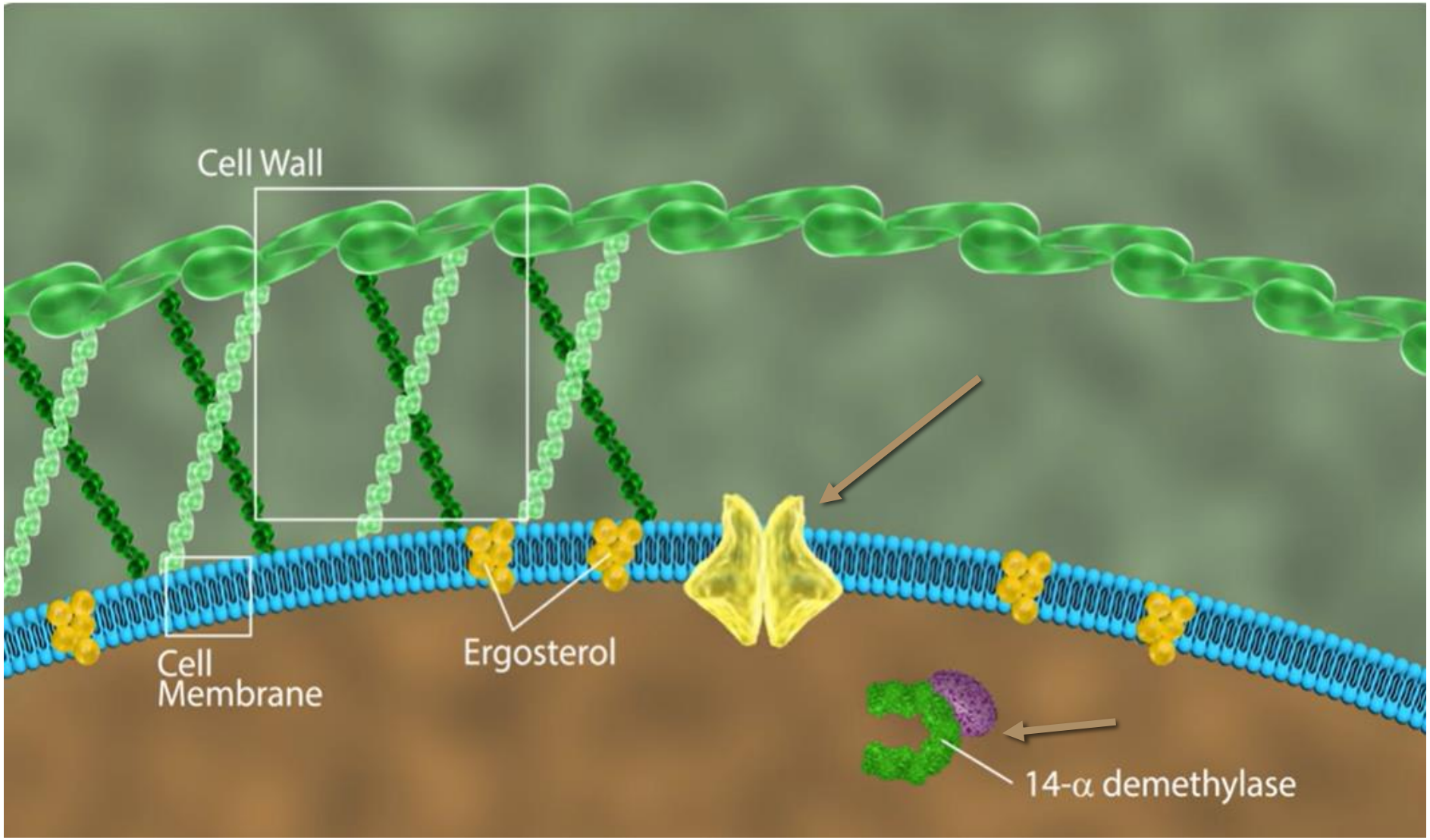
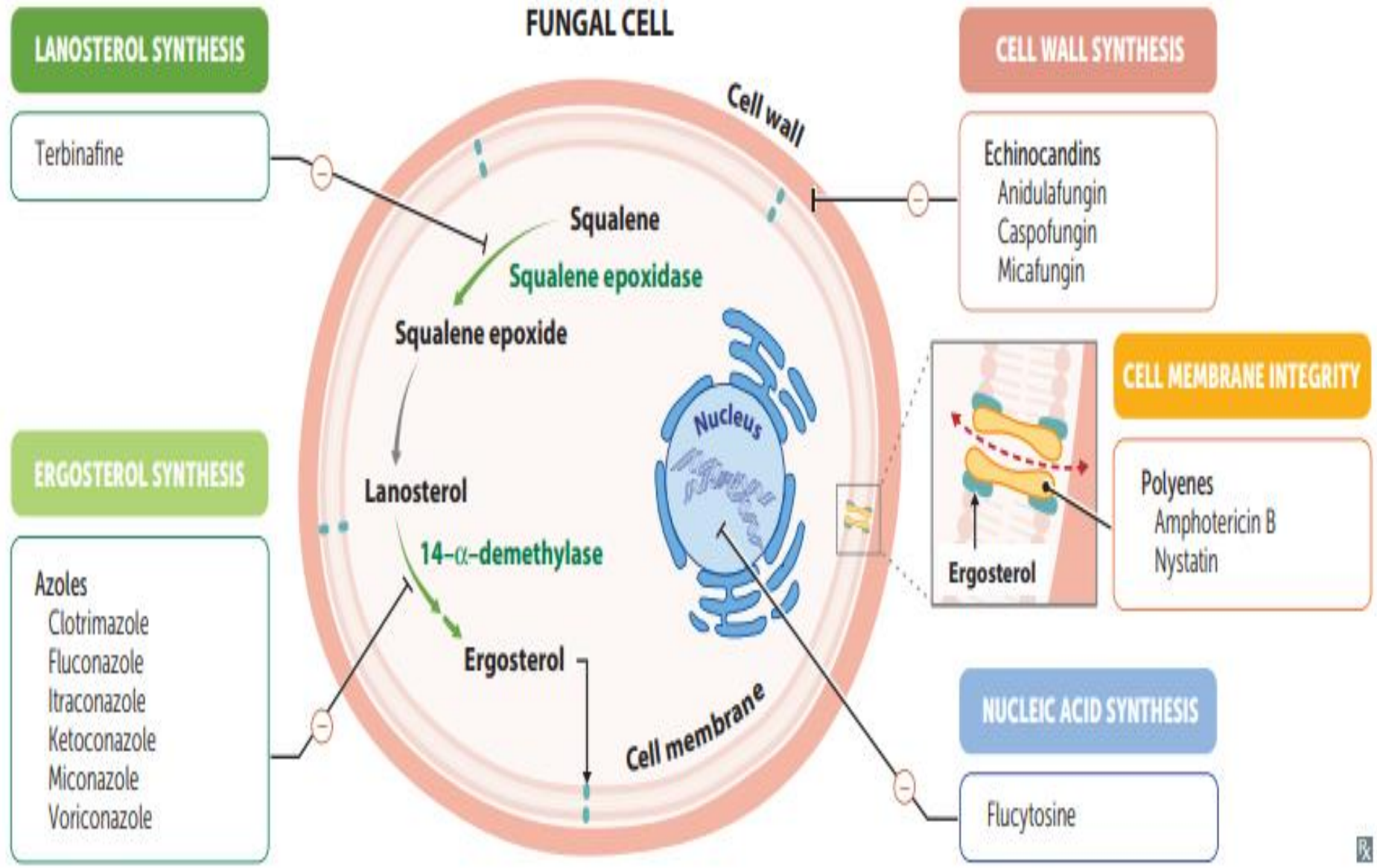
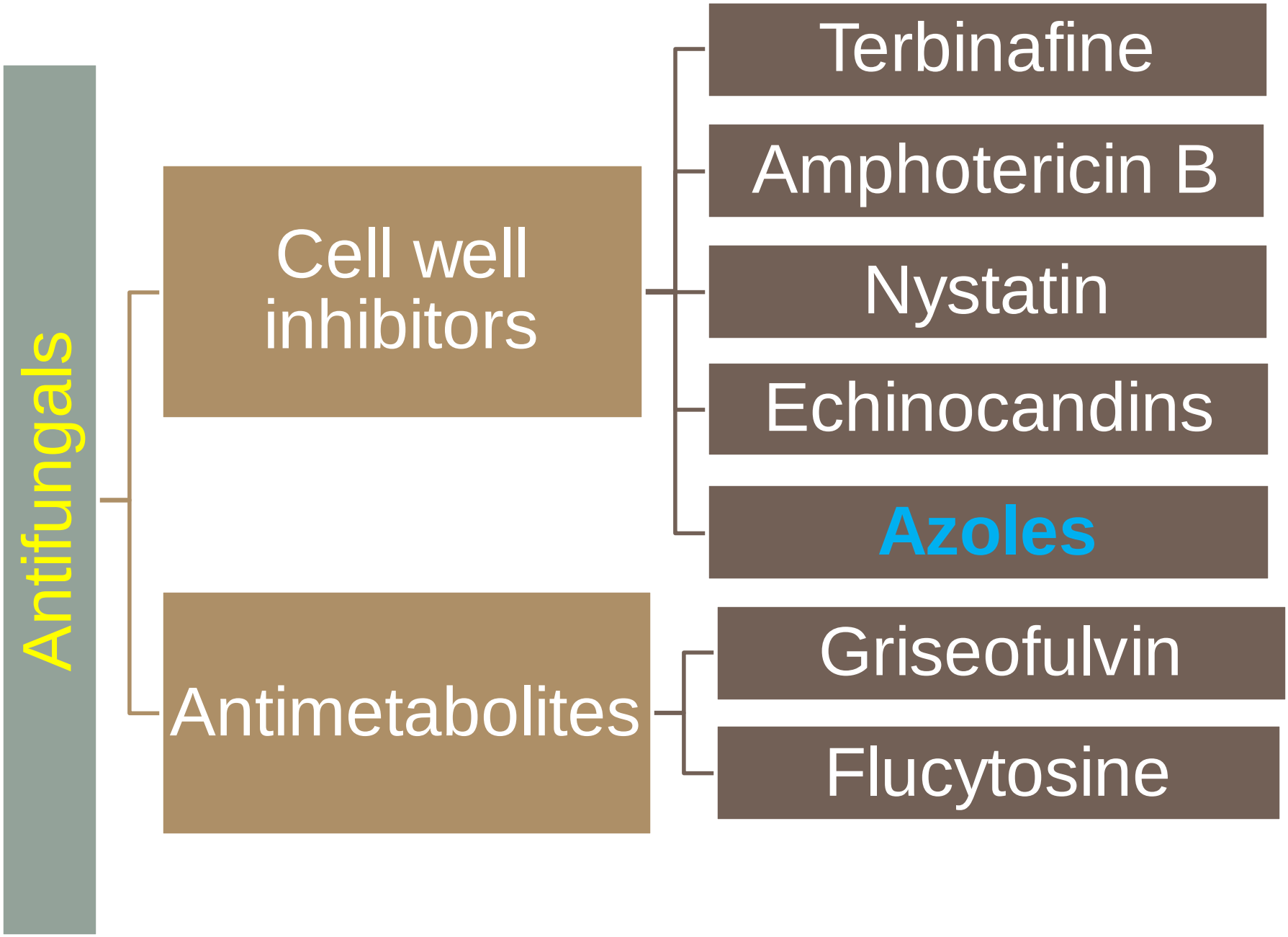
FUNGAL CELL WALL STRUCTURE



Antifungal therapy




Antifungals
Cell well inhibitors
Terbinafine
Amphotericin B
Nystatin
Echinocandins
Azoles
Antimetabolites
Griseofulvin
Flucytosine

Terbinefine

Mechanism: ***fungicidal***

- Inhibition of squalene epoxidase enzyme which is essential for ergosterol synthesis of cell membrane.

Indications:

Systemic (oral) & topical for dermatophytcs (more effective than griseofulvin).

Side effects:

GIT and taste disturbances, hepatotoxicity, headache.

Advantages over Azoles:

1. Squalene epoxidase enzyme is not present in human (more selective toxicity).

2. No inhibition of cytochrome P_{450} (no serious adverse effect of azoles).

Azoles

Mechanism of action: fungicidal

inhibit ergosterol synthesis of cell membrane by inhibiting fungal cytochrome P_{450} leading to membrane dysfunction.

Members :

1- Ketoconazole

2- Itraconazole

3- Fluconazole

4- **Posaconazole**

Ketoconazole:

1st oral broad spectrum antifungal.

It is used for:

- Deep fungal infections (mild - non meningeal). 2nd line to amphotericin
- Candida infection.
- Dermatophyles resistant to grisofulvin & terbinafine (oral and topical).

Avoid combination with:

- Antacids or H_2 blockers → decrease gastric acidity → decrease ketoconazole absorption.
- Amphotericin B: ketoconazole → decrease amphotericin effect by decreasing ergosterol

Adverse effects:

1. Nausea - vomiting - rash (common).
2. Hepatotoxic (serious).
3. **Inhibition of human cytochrome P_{450}**

Inhibition of human cytochrome P_{450}:

it inhibits:

Steroid synthesis which depends on cytochrome P450:

- Corticosteroids → adrenal suppression (used in Cushing's disease).
- Testesterone → gynecomastia & impotence (used in cancer prostate).
- Female sex hormones → menstrual irregularities & infertility

Metabolism of drugs → drug interactions:

- Increased level of astemizole & terfenadine → arrhythmia.
- Increased level of oral anticoagulants & antiepileptics.

Itraconazole and fluconazole

- These drugs are azoles that are more specific to fungal cylochrome P_{450} than to human cytochme P_{450} compared to ketoconazole.
- Less toxic (less effect on human cytochrome P_{450}): less hepatotoxic, less adrenal suppression & less drug interactions.
- More effective.

Fluconazole:

Drug of choice in esophageal and oropharyngeal candidiasis.

- Drug of choice in treatment and secondary prophylaxis against cryptococcal meningitis.
- Equivalent to amphotericin B in systemic candidiasis

Posaconazole

- The broadest-spectrum azole.
- The only azole with activity against mucormycosis.
- It is used for prophylaxis of fungal infections during cancer chemotherapy.
- Inhibitor of CYP3A4 → increasing the levels of cyclosporine and tacrolimus

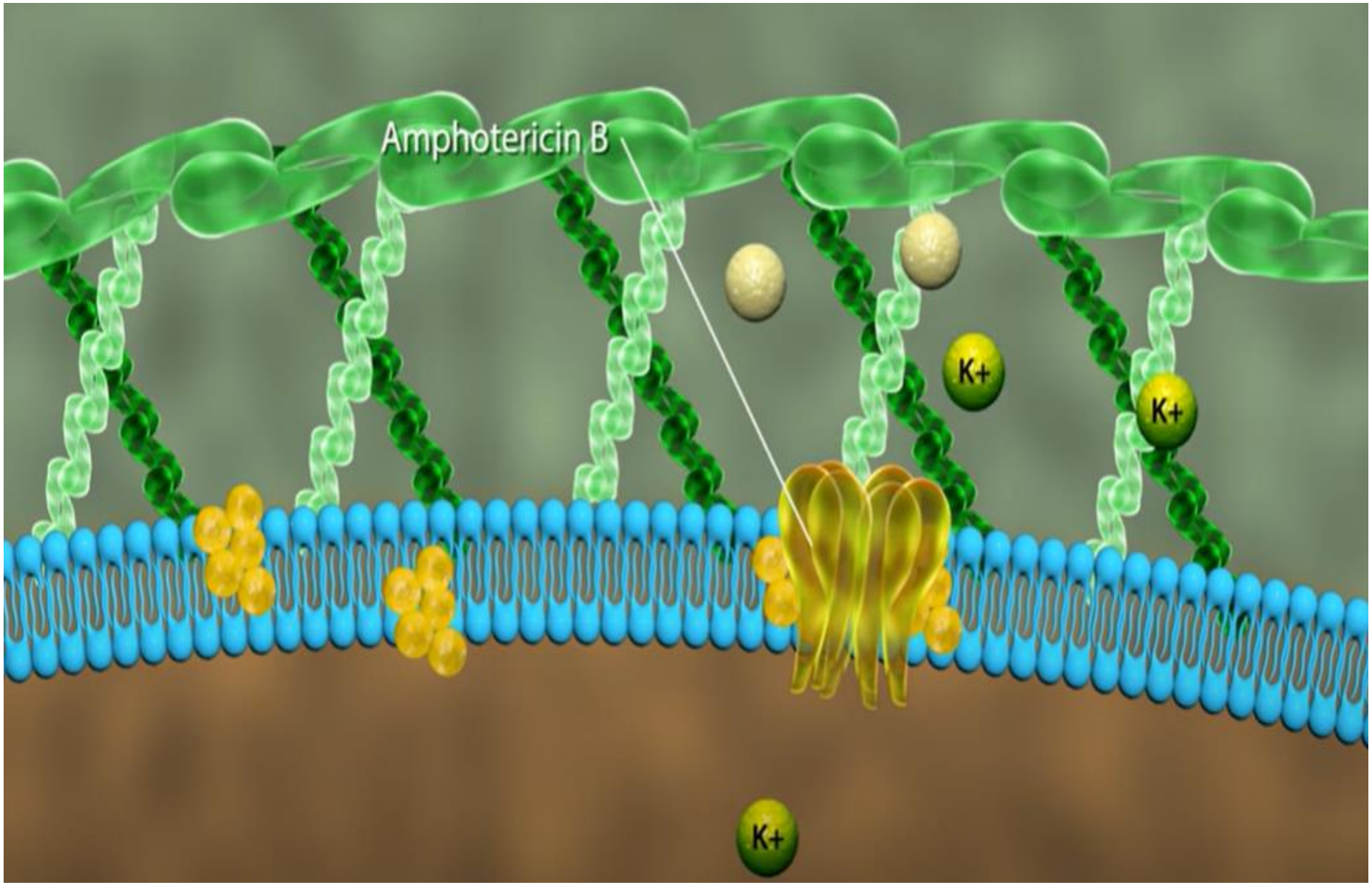
Amphotericin B

Mechanism of action: **fungicidal**

- Binds to ergosterol of cell membrane → formation of artificial pores → leakage of important cell constituents' → cell death.

Indications: deep infections **especially**:

- Severe life threatening (I.V - not absorbed orally).
- Meningitis (intrathecal- does not reach CSF after I.V.I).


Amphotericin B
K+
K+
K+

- **Side effects & toxicity:**

➢ **Infusion related:** Fever, rigors, vomiting, hypotension & shock after I.V infusion.

Can be avoided by: Slow infusion rate and pretreatment with antihistamines, antipyretics.

➢ **Dose-related:** nephrotoxicity. **Can be decreased by:** dose reduction.

➢ **Convulsion**.

Nystatin

Mechanism:

Binds to ergosterol of fungal cell membrane → formation of artificial pores—» damage of membrane → leakage of important cell constituents → cell death.

Indications: (too toxic for systemic use).

Used locally in:

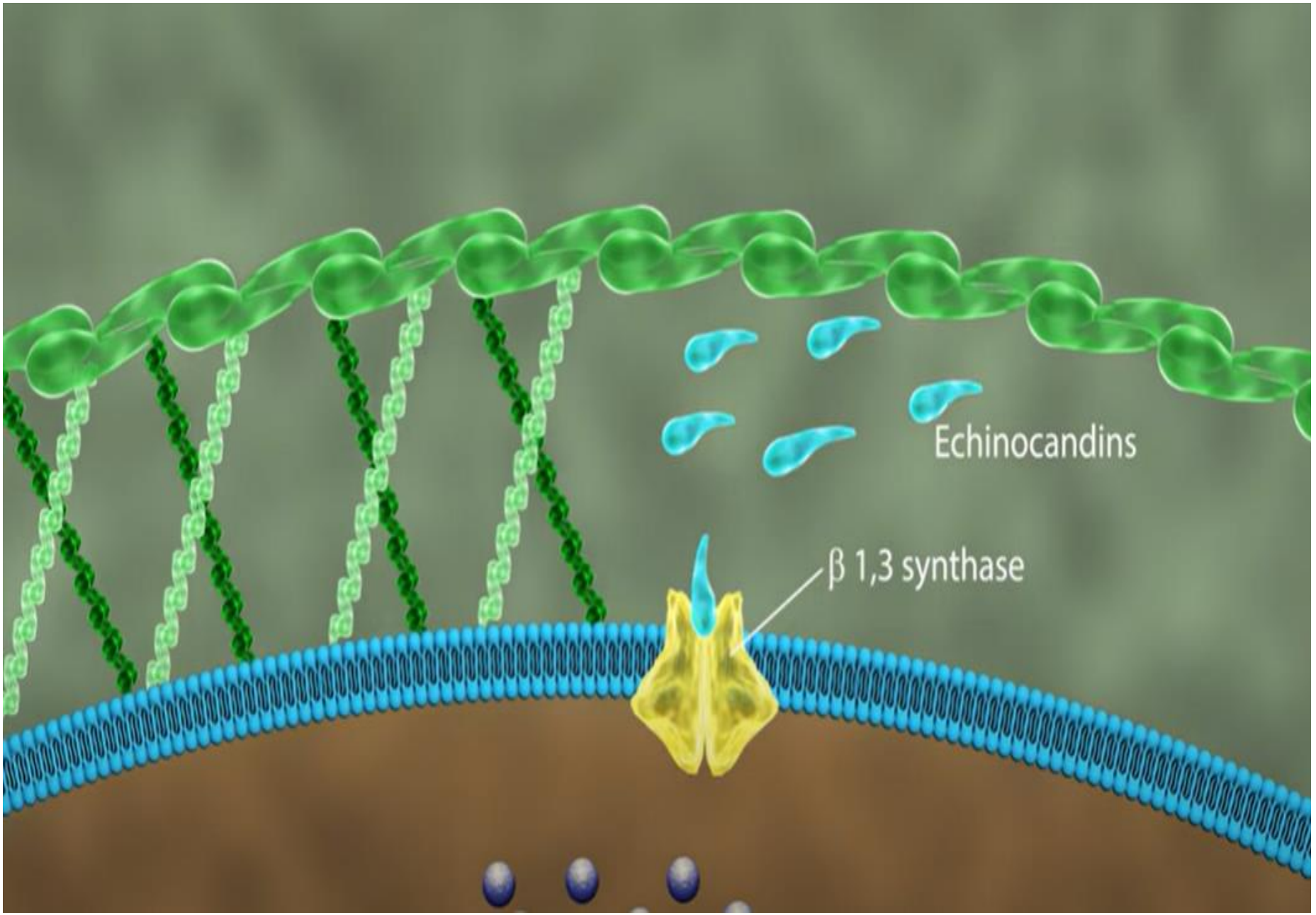
1. Oropharyngeal and Gl Candida: oral (not absorbed).
2. Cutaneous Candida: topical (non irritant- rarely causes allergy).
3. Vaginal Candida: It is given both topically and orally because quite often vaginal Candida is associated with gastrointestinal Candida which acts as a source of reinfection of vagina.

Echinocandins

Caspofungin – Micafungin

- **Mechanism**:

Inhibits synthesis of a glucose polymer that is necessary for maintaining structure of fungal cell wall → loss of cell wall integrity → lysis & death.


Echinocandins
β 1,3 synthase

- **Uses:** (IV)

Caspofungin: candidiasis & invasive aspergillosis refractory to ampholcricin.

Micafungin: mucocutaneous candidiasis and for prophylaxis of *Candida* infections in bone marrow transplant patients

- **Adverse Effects:**

Infusion-related: GIT upset, headache, fever & flushing (histamine release).

Flucytosine

Mechanism of action:

- Cytotoxic, transformed to 5-flurouracil (5-FU) → inhibits nucleic acid synthesis.
- Selective toxicity occurs because mammalian cells cannot transform flucytosine into 5-FU.
- ***Indications:***

Given orally with amphotericin or azoles in Cryptococcal infections.

Adverse effects:

1. Bone marrow depression (reversible).
2. Hair loss.
3. Hepatotoxic.

Advantages of combination of flucytosine with amphotericin B:

1. Decrease resistance to amphotericin B.
2. Decrease amphotericin nephrotoxicity (lower doses of amphotericin are used).

Griseofulvin

Mechanism: *Fungistatic*

Concentrated in newly formed keratin (e.g nails) preventing its infection by:

- Interfering with microtubular function → interfere with mitosis.
- Inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis.

Indications: not active topically

- Dermatophyte infections (given orally: decreased absorption by high fat diet).
- Largely replaced by terbinafine & azoles

Adverse effects :

1. Nausea-vomiting.
2. Headache - mental confusion.
3. Hepatotoxic.
4. Enzyme inducer → decrease warfarin level.
5. Teratogenic , Carcinogenic

Systemic therapy is used in:

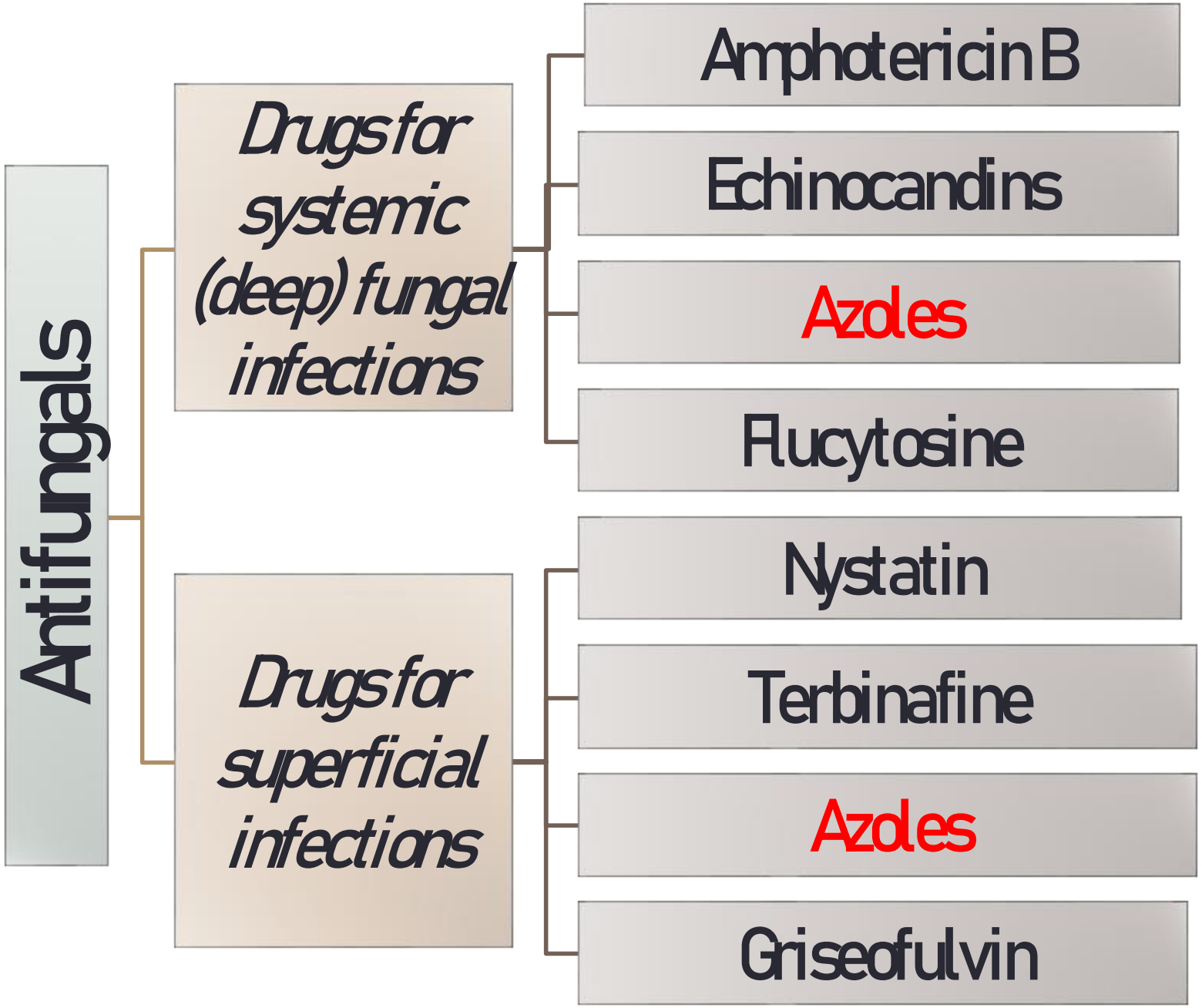
1- Resistance to topical therapy.

2- Wide or inaccessible areas.

3- Severe infections.

4- Low immunity of patient.

N.B: Superficial fungal infections are treated first with topical agents


Antifungals
Drugs for systemic (deep) fungal infections
Amphotericin B
Echinocandins
Azoles
Flucytosine
Drugs for superficial infections
Nystatin
Terbinafine
Azoles
Griseofulvin

Thank You