



# Pharmacology of Quinolones & <sup>رسالة اليوم</sup> sulphonamides

سنبلغُ حلمنا لو  
بعد حين فنحنُ  
بحارُ عزمٍ إن أردنا

**Dr.Nashwa Abo-Rayah**

**Associate prof. (clinical & experimental  
pharmacology)**



**Mu'tah University- Faculty of Medicine**

**JORDAN 2024/2025**

# Objectives

- What are quinolones?
- Nalidixic acid
- Fluoroquinolones: generations, spectrum, advantages, mechanism of action, resistance, uses, adverse effects and contraindications
- Inhibitors of synthesis of essential metabolites: sulphonamides
- Sulphadiazine: PKs and PDs
- Co-trimixazole
- Other sulphonamides combinations
- Adverse effects of sulphonamides

→ what is the major difference between antibiotic and antimicrobe?

→ From natural source.

→ From synthetic source.

# Quinolones

- ✓ Synthetic antimicrobials = Synthetic
- ✓ Bactericidal ⇒ The Target ⇒ DNA
- ✓ Primarily gram-negative bacteria

# Nalidixic acid (& pipemidic acid)

- **First member: prototype** = <sup>الأب الرومي .</sup> First generation of Quinolones.
- **Advantages:**
- 1- **Cover G-ve bacteria** → <sup>ex,</sup> ① E-coli, ② pseudomonas.
- 2- Rapidly excreted in urine in concentrations enough for treatment of UTIs ... Rapidly excreted in urine in large amount, so it used to treat infection in Urinary tract.

# Disadvantages of nalidixic acid

- ❖ Concentration of free drug in plasma & most tissues is **non-therapeutic** for systemic infections / *due to highly excreted, it can't treat other infections in different tissue.*
- ❖ **Narrow spectrum**
- ❖ Rapid development of bacterial resistance. ⇒ *Limited therapeutic use.*
- ❖ So:
- ❖ **Limited therapeutic use**

# Fluoroquinolones

• Quinolones are molecules structurally derived from the heterobicyclic aromatic compound quinoline.

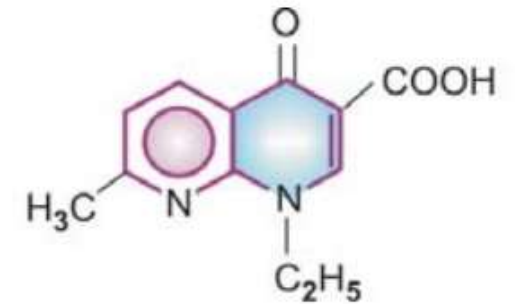
• **Fluorination** of quinolone structure at position 6 resulted in derivatives called **fluoroquinolones**

⇒ To go over the disadvantage of first generation

They add F atom to ring ⇒ so it become

and have good advantages

2 - aromatic ring.



✓ Quinolones = NALIDIXIC ACID

we can't

call it  
fluoroquinolones



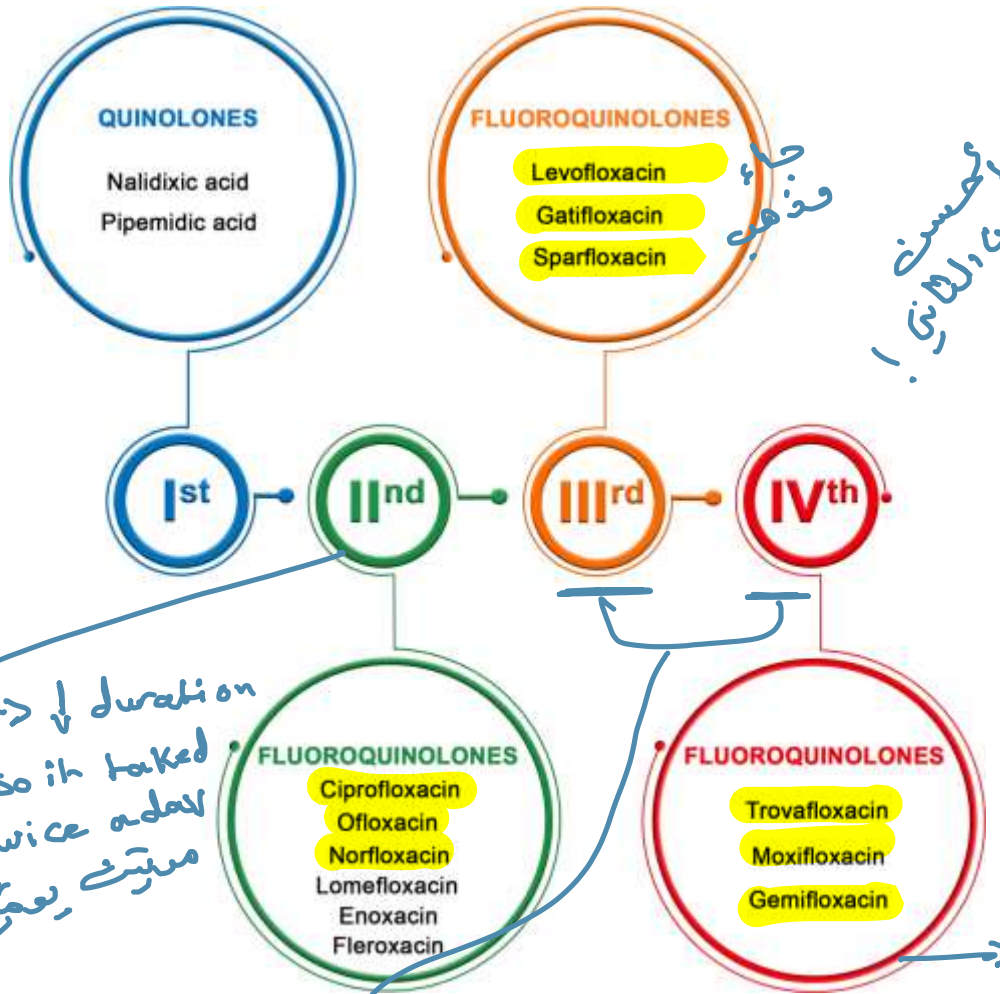
CIPROFLOXACIN

# Generations & Spectrum

During the releasing of new generation these standards are get better:  
 ① ↑ spectrum ② ↑ potency ③ ↑ duration.



كل جيل يكون احسن!  
 طيبه فذهبه



↓ duration  
 - so it taken twice a day  
 مرتين يومياً

↑ duration →, so it taken once a day.

mutalikpharmacology		Gram negative aerobes			
Anerobes	+	++	+++	++++	
Gram +ve	+	++	+++	++++	
Atypical	+	++	+++	++++	
Long (bd)		Longer + (qd)	Longer ++ (qd)	Longer ++ (qd)	
UTI, Gonorrhea, Typhoid fever, Respiratory, CAP, Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, Tuberculosis, Post-op/Hospital infections, Gynecological infections					

This man is gene

# Advantages of fluoroquinolones

- 1- High potency
- 2- Broad antimicrobial spectrum
- 3- Slow development of resistance
- 4- Better tissue penetration
- 5- Prolonged duration of action

❖ Used for wide variety of infectious diseases



# Pharmacokinetics of quinolones

→ High absorption.

The presence of it ( - ) ⇒ repeating the drug.

- **Key:** MW less than 500, chemical structure has no -OH groups
- **Absorption:**
- Rapid and complete oral absorption, avoid with food (or drugs) containing Al, Ca, Iron
- **Distribution:** ↑ penetration → ↑ treatment of infection.
- **High tissue penetration:** Concentration in lung, sputum, muscle, bone, cartilage (minerals), prostate, and phagocytes & neutrophils (IC) exceeds that in plasma
- **Can pass BBB:** reaching concentrations to treat CNS infections
- **Pass placental barrier:** teratogenic [adverse effect]
- **Excreted** in breast milk / can't be given to pregnant woman.
- **Metabolism:** liver
- **Excretion:** in urine unchanged : Urinary are 10-50-fold higher than in plasma: UTIs
- **Moxifloxacin** excreted by non-renal routes: not used in UTIs ⇒ NOT effective

→ decreased absorption.

with food (or drugs) containing Al, Ca, Iron

muscle, bone, cartilage

→ minerals loving [Affinity to minerals]

→ First quinolones :- يستخدم لعلاج المسالك البولية.

# Mechanism of action

Quinolones target bacterial DNA gyrase & Topoisomerase IV

Same enzymes but with different names due to main types of bacteria (-, +)

• Gram negative bacteria - DNA Gyrase

→ related to surface of DNA

• Gram positive bacteria - Topoisomerase IV

They're the same, related to morphological of DNA.  
DNA → d 5'

• In mammalian cells (human cells) Topoisomerase II

1- Low affinity for fluoroquinolones

↑ doses

2- Inhibited by quinolones only at much higher concentrations.

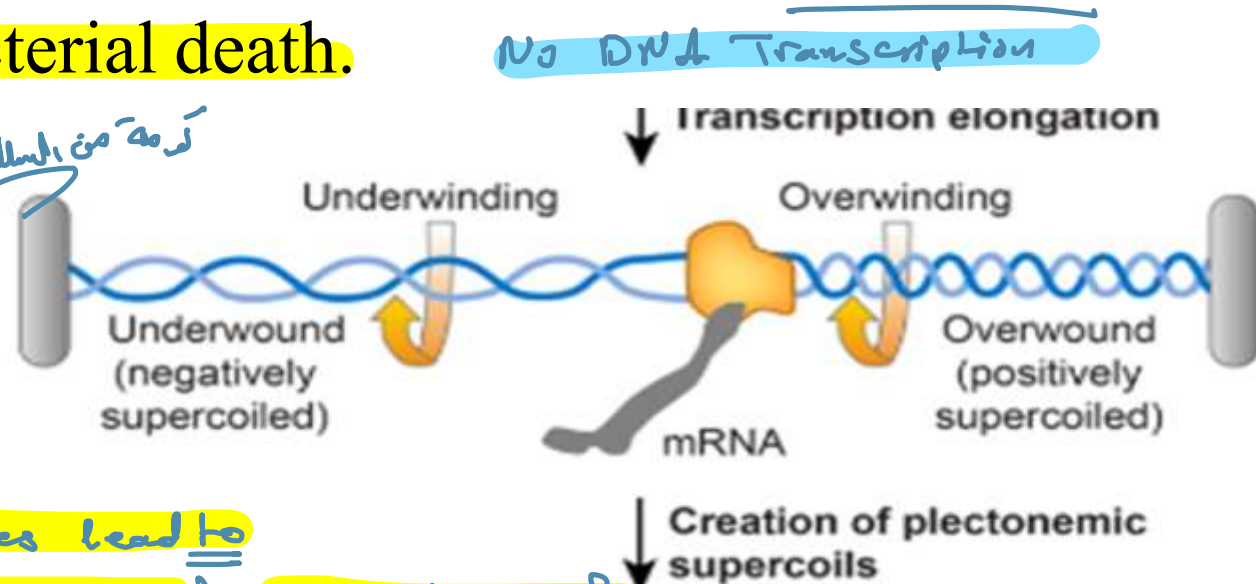
Low toxicity to host cells

# Mechanism of action

Result in bacteria death and misfolded protein.

- Two strands of double helical DNA must separate to permit DNA replication / transcription
- “over winding” / excessive positive supercoiling of DNA leads to faulty protein synthesis and bacterial death.

→ To go under DNA replication and transcription, the 2 strand have to denatured → DNA gyrase and Topo II responsible about this



→ Any inhibition in these 2 enzymes lead to inhibition of (replication and transcription) or release of misfolded protein.

# Mechanism of resistance

→ slow developed in quinolones.  
and take a time

- **1- Chromosomal mutation:**

bacteria produce DNA Gyrase/ Topoisomerase IV with reduced affinity for quinolones. / Difficult to happen.

- **2- Drug efflux:** across bacterial membranes

→ develop a pump to remove the drug.

- Resistance is **slow** to develop

# Therapeutic indications

## 1- Urinary tract infections:

- Most commonly used antimicrobials for UTI
- Very effective against Gram negative bacilli like

E.coli

Proteus

Enterobacter

Psuedomonas

**Ciprofloxacin 500 mg bd** / 2nd generation → **Twice a day.**

## 2- Salmonella typhi infection (typhoid fever):

- **Ciprofloxacin 500 mg bd x 10 days** / Twice a day.
- **Prevents carrier state also**

→ if the Typhoid doesn't treat well → The diagnosis will decreased, but the

بفقد صالمة للمرض ← عدوى

→ patient still carry the disease →, So this is will lead to pass disease to others

→ why they are respiratory quinolones. } ll  
① They have ability to enter intracellular, also  
② They have a ↑ spectrum, also  
③ They can treat infections caused by Gram ⊕

### 3- Respiratory infections:

- Pneumonia
- Acute sinusitis التهاب الجيوب الأنفية
- Chr. Bronchitis
- **Respiratory quinolones: levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, Gemifloxacin.** why?
- They are distributed IC in macrophages and polymorphs
- Cover G+ve and atypical bacteria

My Great Lung

### 4- Bone and joint infections: Osteomyelitis & joint infections

### 5- Meningitis

### 6- - Atypical infections

↳ Mycoplasma

# Adverse effects

## 1- Musculoskeletal:

• **Tendonitis & tendon rupture**: ciprofloxacin: tendinopathy of Tendo Achillis

→ Last for 6 months / Difficult case.

Take care when you give it to athlete.  
- خطر

• **Arthropathy (Joint disease)** in **immature animals**

**Contraindication**: children less than 6-12 years, pregnancy and during breast feeding contraindicated

• **2- CNS**: excitation due to **blocking of GABA receptors**: seizures have occurred predominantly in patients receiving theophylline or a NSAIDs and epilepsy patients (contraindications)

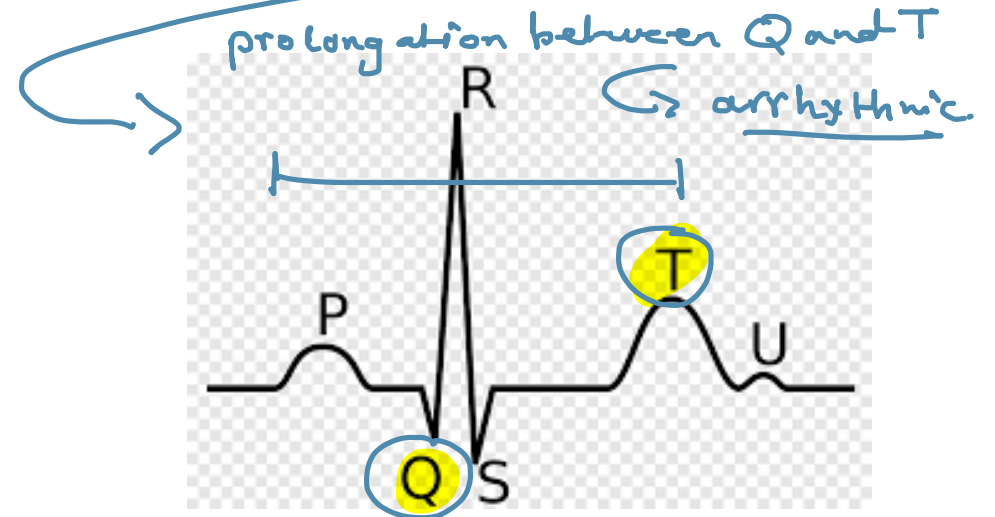
→ main inhibitor neurotransmitter  
- تثبيط

مضاد

waves تبعت ريم القلب، كذا  
 المسافة بين Q and T زادت عن  
 الطبيعي، يتعمل arrhythmia ممكن تكون  
 قاتله

# Adverse effects

- **3- QT interval prolongation:** trovafloxacin withdrawn in 2016.
- **Cautious use in patients who are taking drugs that are known to prolong the QT interval:** tricyclic antidepressants, Phenothiazine and class I anti-arrhythmics
- **4- Drug interactions:**
  - **NSAIDs & theophylline may enhance CNS toxicity of fluoroquinolones**
    - Seizures reported
  - Antacids, Sucralfate, Iron salts reduce absorption of quinolones
  - Quinolones are cytochrome p450 inhibitors



inhibition to liver enzyme  
 ↓ metabolism  
 So ↓ doses is given.



# Inhibitors of synthesis of essential metabolites

= Bacteriostatics



# PKs

- **Example:** sulphadiazine
- **Absorption:** good oral absorption, not affected by food
- **Distribution:**
- **BBB:** pass: used with penicillin for treatment of bacterial meningitis in 1930s-1940s
- **Good tissue penetration:** prostate ⇒ effective in treat prostate infection and UTI
- **Placenta:** pass and excreted in breast milk / contraindicated  
كثير
- **Metabolism:** liver
- **Excretion:** renal: acylated but active metabolite (UTIs, alkalinization of urine)  
↳ because it deposited in acid urine  
← بدل حموضة
- **Uses:** treatment of CNS toxoplasmosis and plasmodium falciparum  
← هون وقفنا

# PDs

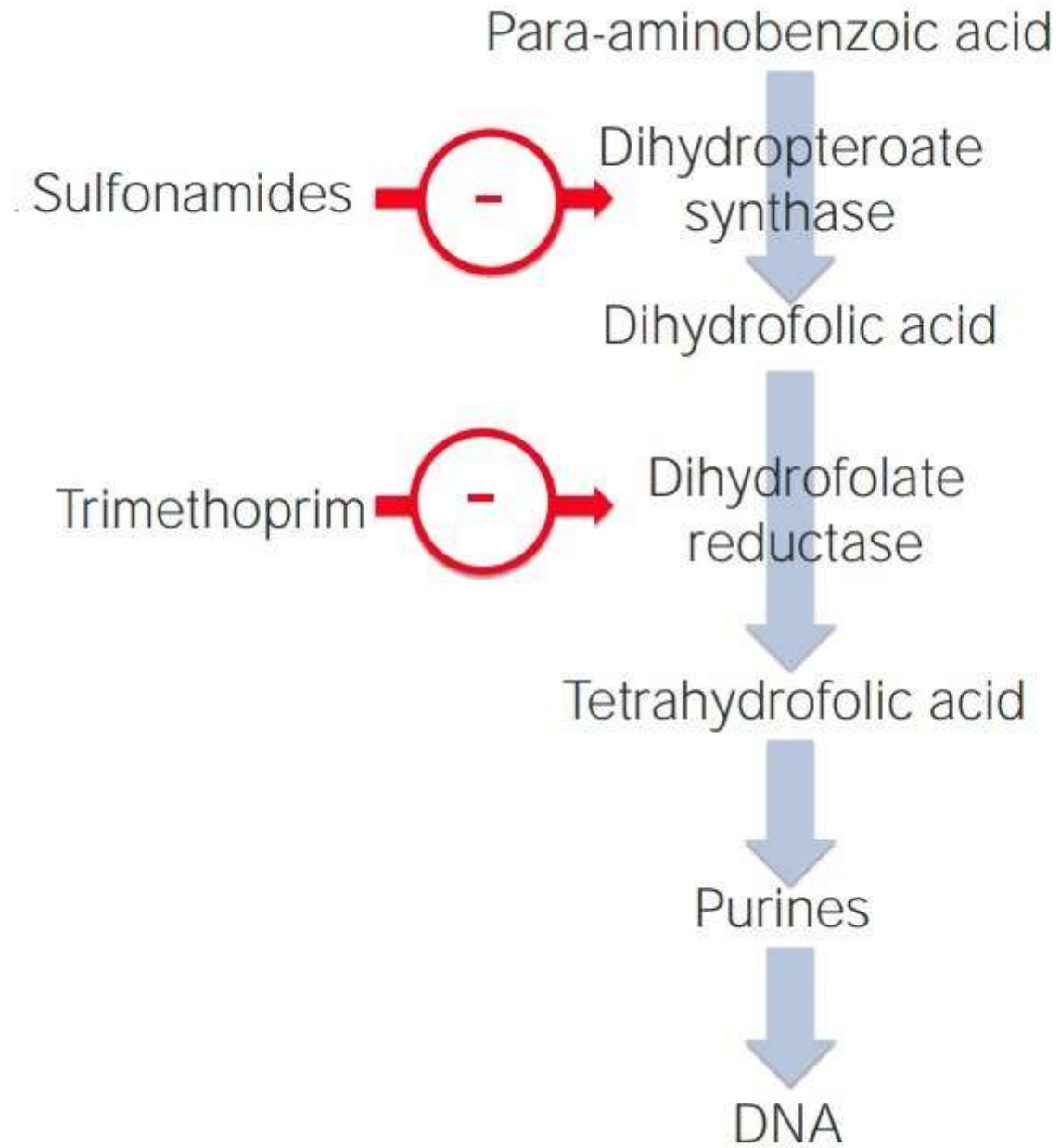
- Competitive inhibitors of **dihydrofolate synthase** bacterial enzyme responsible for the incorporation of **PABA** into **dihydrofolic acid** (immediate precursor of folic acid).
- Folic acid required for synthesis of purines and nucleic acid
- Sulfonamides are structural analogue of P-aminobenzoic acid (PABA)



P-amino-benzoic acid (PABA)

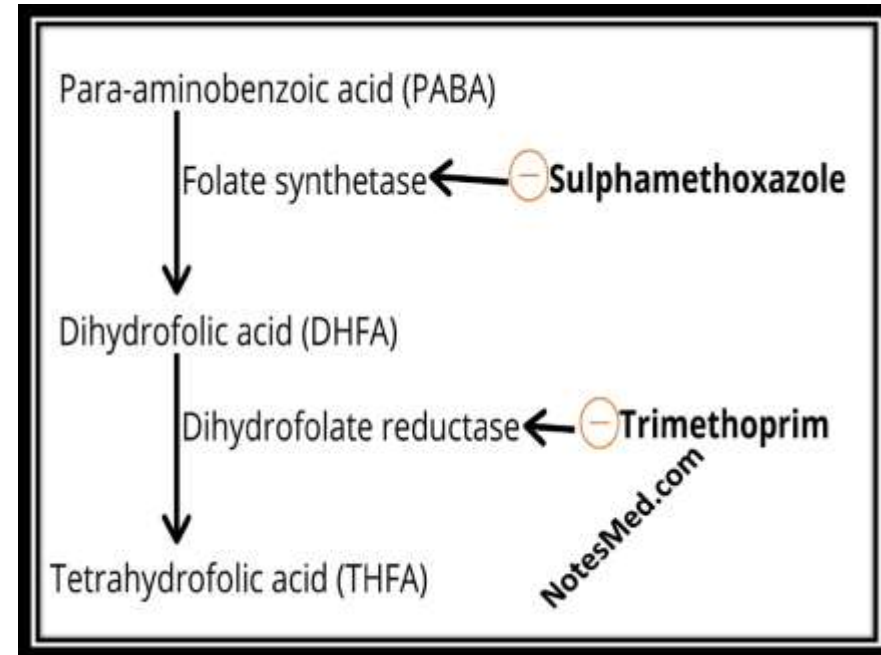


Sulfanilamide



# CO-TRIMOXAZOLE

- **Sulfamethoxazole** with **trimethoprim** in 5: 1
- **Tablets contain** 400 mg of sulfamethoxazole plus 80 mg of trimethoprim.
- **Mechanism of action:** Trimetoprim inhibits the enzyme dihydrofolic acid reductase (sequential block)
- **Bacteriostatic activity.**
- **Spectrum:**
  - **Some G+ve:** streptococcal tonsillitis, pharyngitis
  - **Some G-ve:** E.coli: UTIs
  - **Atypical bacteria:** chlamydia: eye, genital
  - **Toxoplasma**
  - **Plasmodium falciparum**
  - **Pneumocystis carinii**



# Indications of co-trimoxazole

- **1- UTIs:** excreted in high concentration in urine (alkalinization of urine)
- **2- Streptococcal infections:** pharyngitis, tonsillitis
- **3- AIDS: PCP: Pneumocystis carinii (drug of choice): oral or IV for 3 weeks**
- **4- Toxoplasmosis of CNS**

# Other sulphonamides combinations

- **Silver Sulfadiazine (cream)**
- Inhibits growth of nearly all pathogenic **bacteria (psudomonus) & fungi**
- Used topically to reduce incidence of infections of wounds from burns
  - Slowly releases silver ions -antimicrobial action
  - **Sulphadoxine & pyrimethamine**: malignant malaria (plasmodium falciparum): sequential block
  - **Sulphasalazine**: sulphapyridine & **5-aminosalicylic acid**: **ulcerative colitis**: will not cure the disease but reduce number of attacks



# Adverse effects

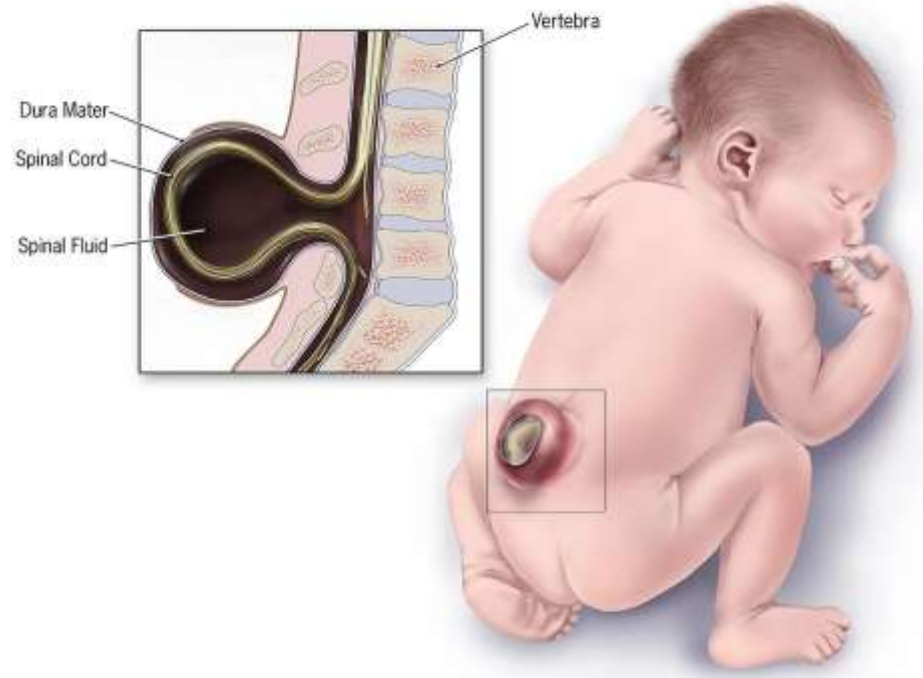
- **1- Allergy**: skin rash: common
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) (TEN: toxic epidermal necrolysis): rare
- **2- Crystalluria**
- Insoluble in acidic urine
- Precipitate, forming crystalline deposits that can cause urinary obstruction
- Fluid intake sufficient to ensure a daily urine volume of at least 1200ml
- Alkalinization of the urine

### **3- kernicterus**

- Administration to **newborn infants esp. premature**
  - Sulfonamides displace **bilirubin (jaundice)** from plasma albumin.
  - Free bilirubin is deposited in **basal ganglia & sub-thalamic nuclei** of the brain causing an encephalopathy & permanent brain damage called **kernicterus**.

- **4- anemia:**
- Hemolytic anemia: G6PD deficiency
- Megaloblastic anemia: treated by folic acid tab. 5 mg once daily
- **5- during pregnancy:**
- 1<sup>st</sup> trimester: neural tube defect (spina bifida): teratogenic
- 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester: kernicterus
- **Contraindications:** pregnancy, children less than 2 y, allergy to sulpha, favism, renal stones

### Spina Bifida (Open Defect)



## **References**

***Lippincott's Illustrated Review***

*Pharmacology, 8<sup>th</sup> edition*

***Lippincott Williams & Wilkins***

***Katzung*** by Anthony Trevor, Bertram Katzung, and Susan Masters . 16<sup>th</sup>  
edition McGraw Hill,

***Rang & Dale's Pharmacology:*** by Humphrey P. Rang ; James M.  
Ritter ; Rod Flower Churchill Livingstone; 10<sup>th</sup> edition