

# PHARMACODYNAMICS

- In Greek

Pharmacon = Drug

Dynamics = Action/Power

It covers all the aspects relating to  
**“What a drug does to the body”**

**Mechanism of action**

- **Action:** **How** and **Where** the **effect** is produced is called as Action.
- **Effect:** The type of response producing by drug.

# Site of Drug Action

- Where:
  1. Extra cellular
  2. Cellular
  3. Intracellular

# Types of Drug Action

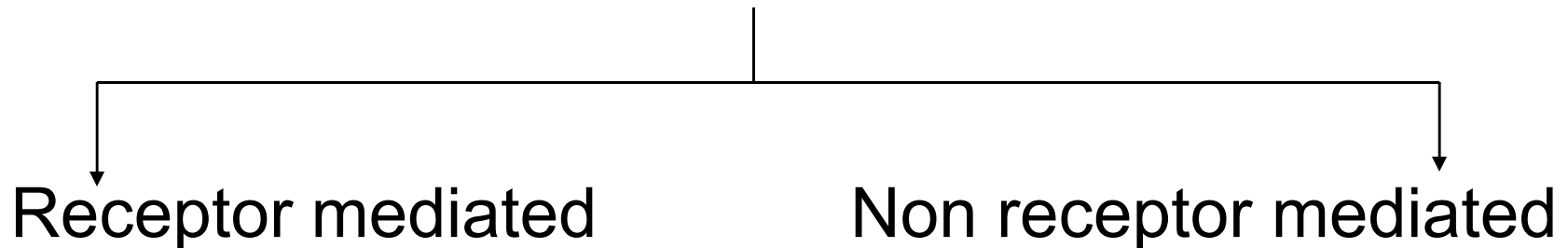
EFFECT (Type of responses):-

1. Stimulation
2. Inhibition/Depression
3. Replacement
4. Irritation
5. Cytotoxic

# Mechanism of Action of Drugs

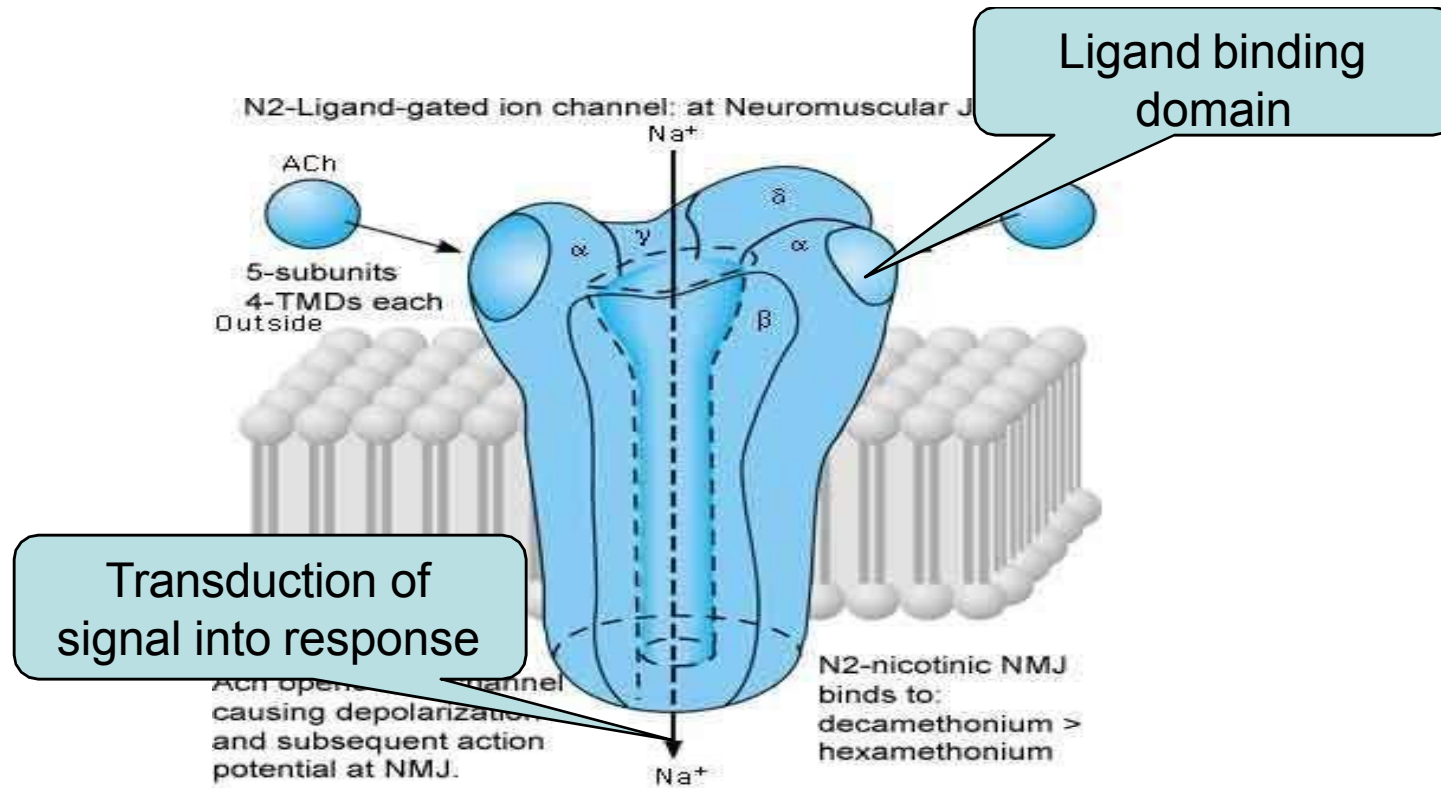
- Drug act either by receptor or by non receptor or by targeting specific genetic changes.

Majority of drugs acts by (HOW)



# Receptor Mediated action

- Drug produce their effect through interacting with some chemical compartment of living organism c/s Receptor.
- Receptors are macromolecules
- Most are proteins
- Present either on the cell surface, cytoplasm or in the nucleus



## Receptor Functions : Two essential functions

- 1. Recognition of specific ligand molecule (Ligand binding domain)
- 2. Transduction of signal into response (Effector domain)



Drug(D) + Receptor®  $\longleftrightarrow$  Drug receptor complex  $\longrightarrow$  Response

Drug receptor interaction:-

1. **Selectivity**:- Degree of complimentary co relation between drug and receptor.

Ex:- Adrenaline Selectivity for  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  Receptor

2. **Affinity**:- Ability of drug to get bound to the receptor.
3. **Intrinsic activity (IA) or Efficacy**:- Ability of drug to produce a pharmacological response after making the drug receptor complex.

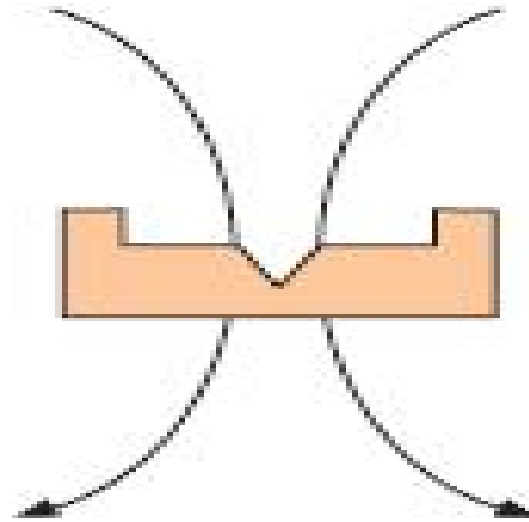
## Drug classification

(on the basis of affinity & efficacy)

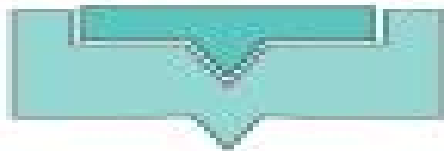
Agonist



Antagonist

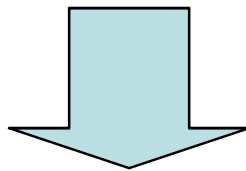


Receptor

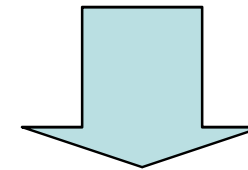


Agonist induces active conformation of receptor protein

Antagonist occupies receptor without conformational change

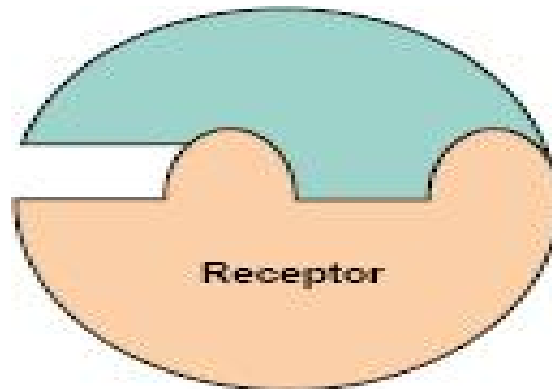


Response



No response

- **Partial agonist** :These drug have full affinity to receptor but with low intrinsic activity (IA=0 to 1).
- These are only partly as effective as agonist



C. Some drug-receptor fit.  
Slight therapeutic response possible.

(Affinity is lesser when comparison to agonist)

Ex: Pindolol, Pentazocine

- **Inverse agonist:** These have full affinity towards the receptor but intrinsic activity is zero to -1 i.e., produces effect is just opposite to that of agonist.

Ex:-  $\beta$ -Carboline is inverse agonist for Benzodiazepines receptors.

# Receptor families

## Four types of receptors families

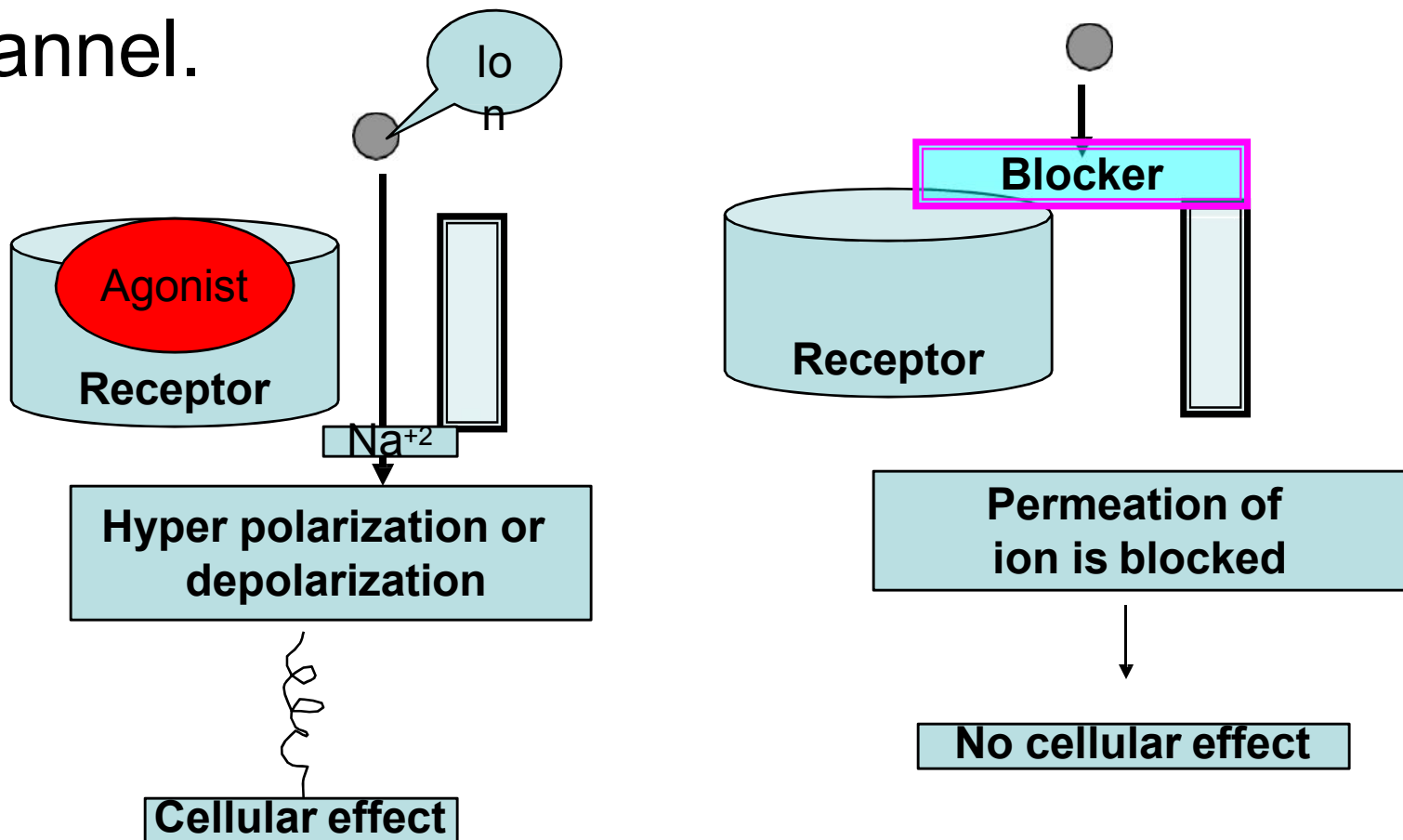
1. Ligand-gated ion channels (inotropic receptors)
2. G-protein coupled receptor (Metabotropic receptors)
3. Enzymatic receptors (tyrosinekinase)
4. Receptor regulating gene expression (transcription factors/ Steroid )

# Characteristics of receptor families

	Ligand gated	G-protein coupled	Enzymatic	Nuclear
Location	Membrane	Membrane	Membrane	Intracellular
Effector	Ion channel	Ion Channel or enzyme	Enzyme	Gene
coupling	Direct	G-protein	Direct	Via DNA
Example	Nicotinic	Muscarinic	Insulin	Steroid , hormone

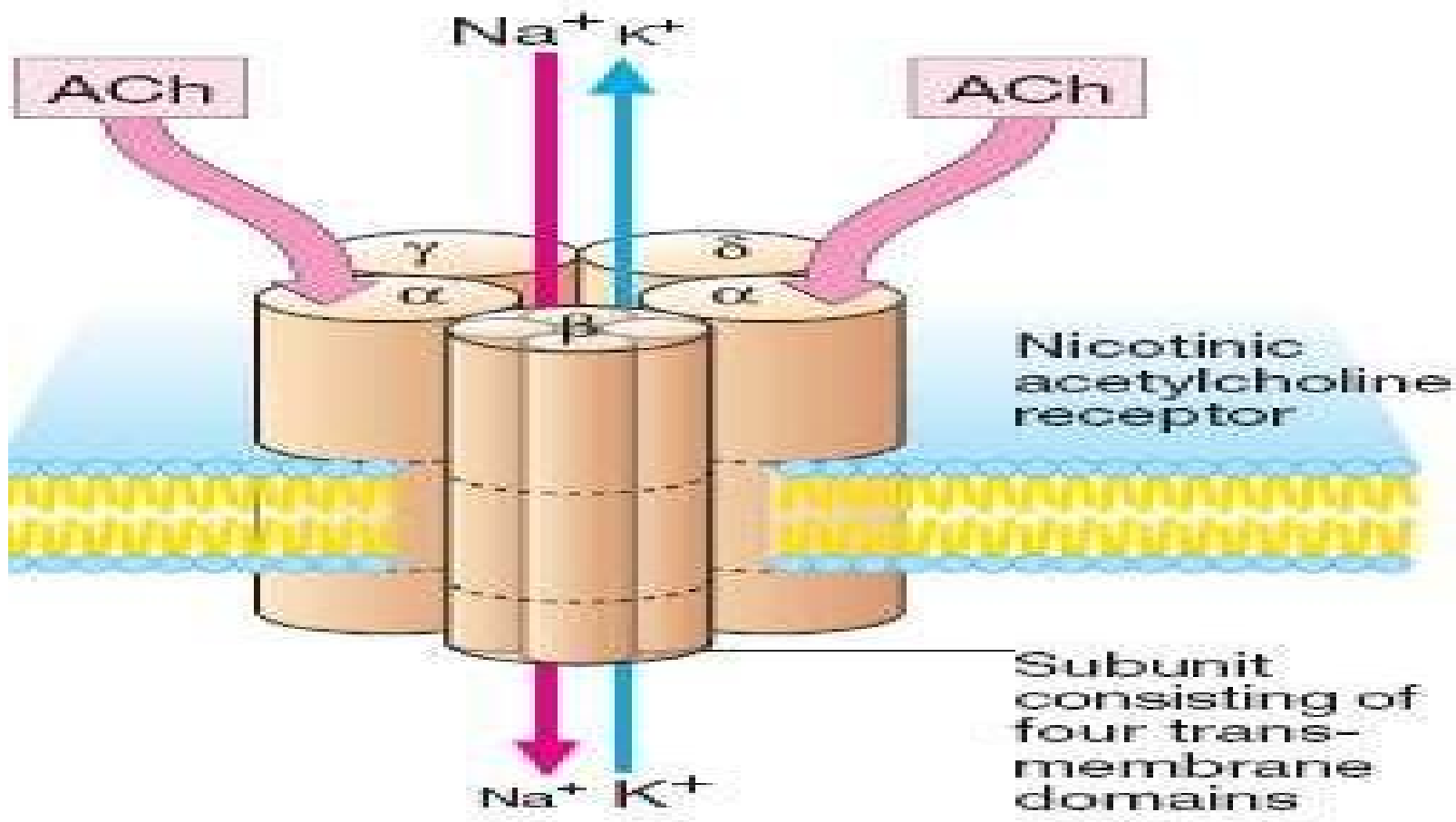
# Signal transduction mechanism

- **Ion gated receptors**:- Localized on cell membrane and coupled directly to an ion channel.



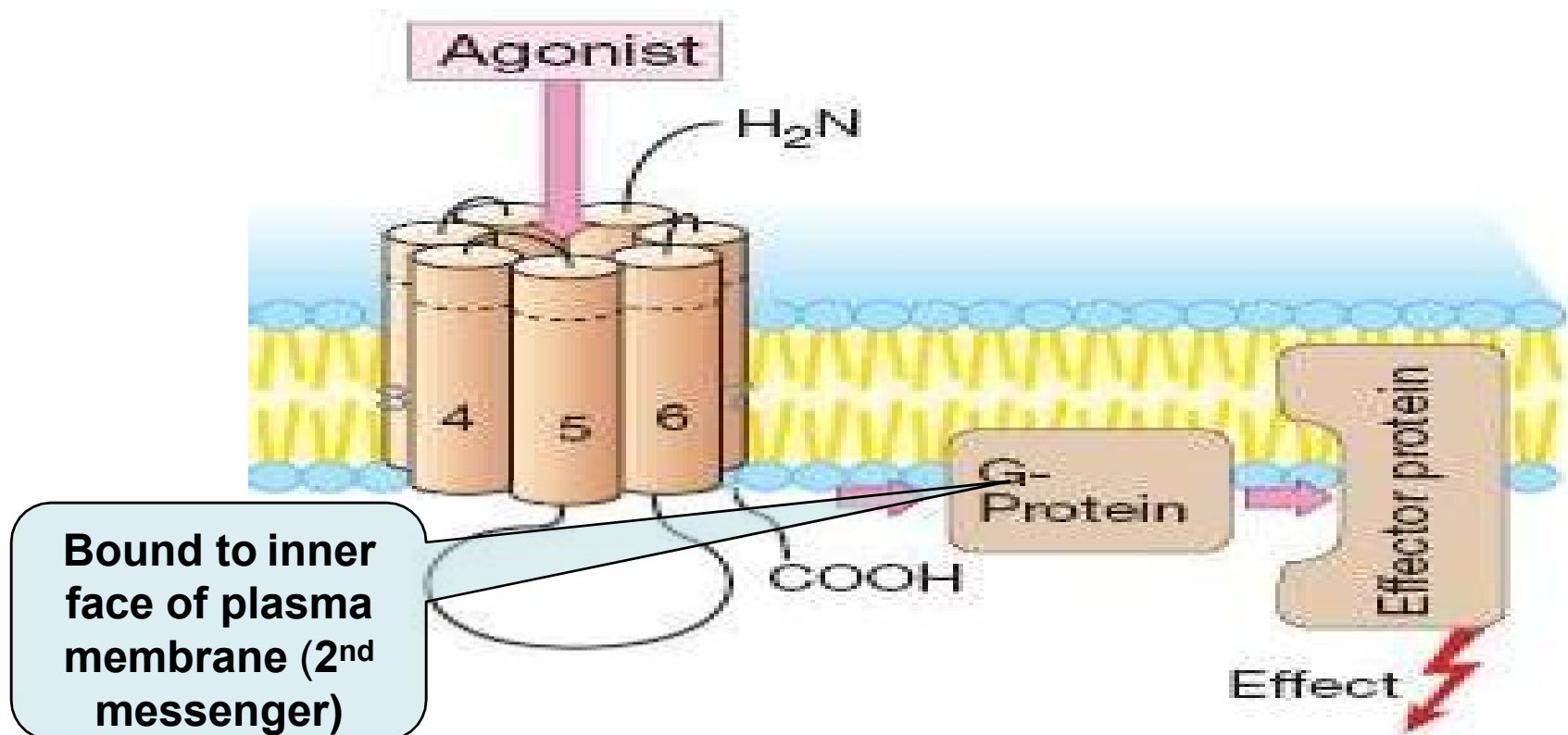


- Ex: Nicotinic cholinergic receptor



# G-protein coupled receptors

- Membrane bound, which are coupled to effector system through GTP binding proteins called as G-proteins



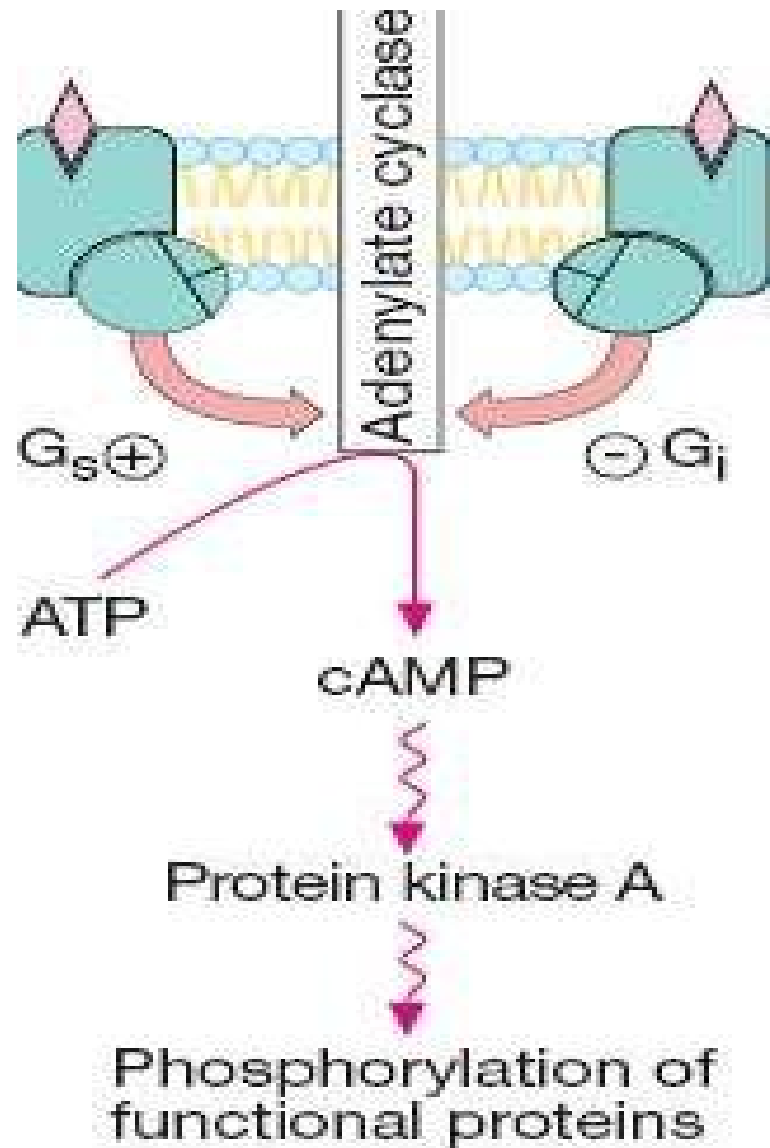
# Varieties of G-protein

G-protein	Receptor for	Signaling pathway/ Effector
G <sub>s</sub>	β adrenergic, H,5HT,Glucagon	↑AC— ↑cAMP
G <sub>i1,2,3</sub>	α <sub>2</sub> adrenergic, Ach,	↓AC— ↓ cAMP, Open K <sup>+</sup>
G <sub>q</sub>	Ach	Phospholipase-C, IP <sub>3</sub> ,cytoplasmic Ca <sup>+2</sup>
G <sub>o</sub>	Neurotransmitter s in brain	Not yet clear

# G-protein effector systems

- 1. Adenylate cyclase : cAMP system
- 2. Phospholipase –C: Inositol phosphate system
- 3. Ion channels

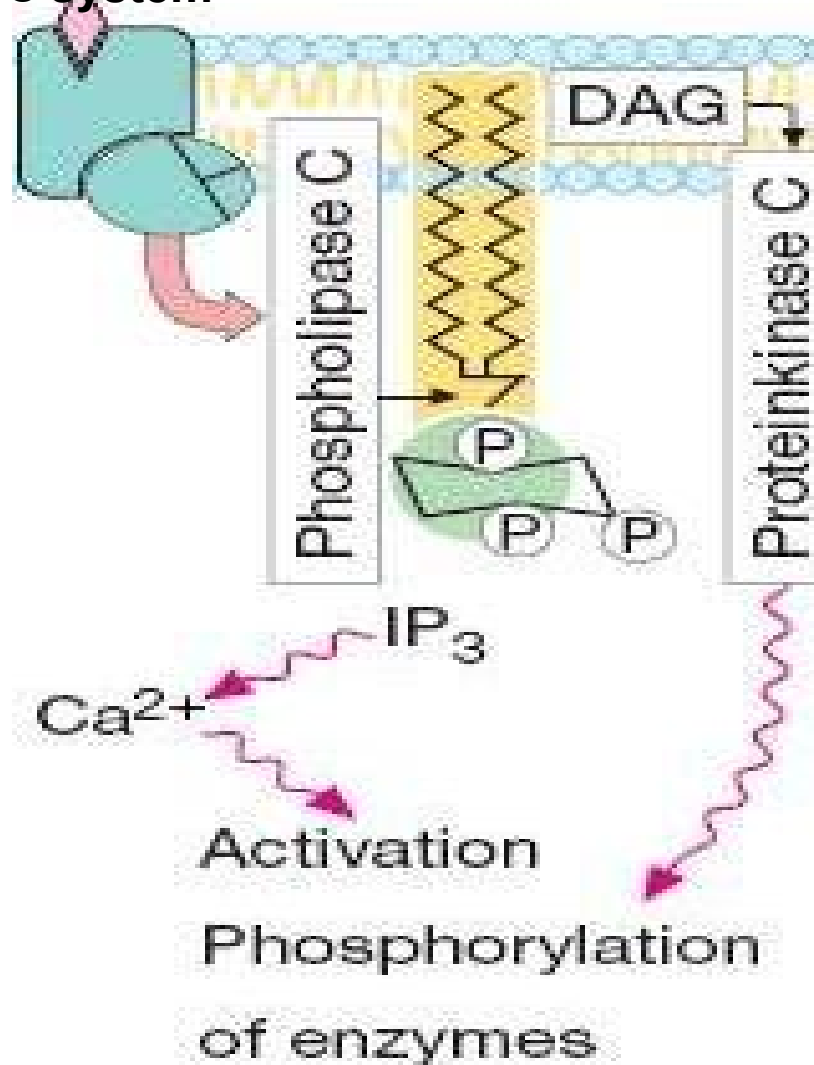
# cAMP system



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e. g., Glycogenolysis  
lipolysis  
Ca-channel  
activation

## Phospholipase-C system



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e. g., Contraction  
of smooth muscle,  
glandular  
secretion

# Ion channel regulation

- G-protein coupled receptors can control the functioning of ion channel by don't involving any second messenger
- Ex:- In cardiac muscle

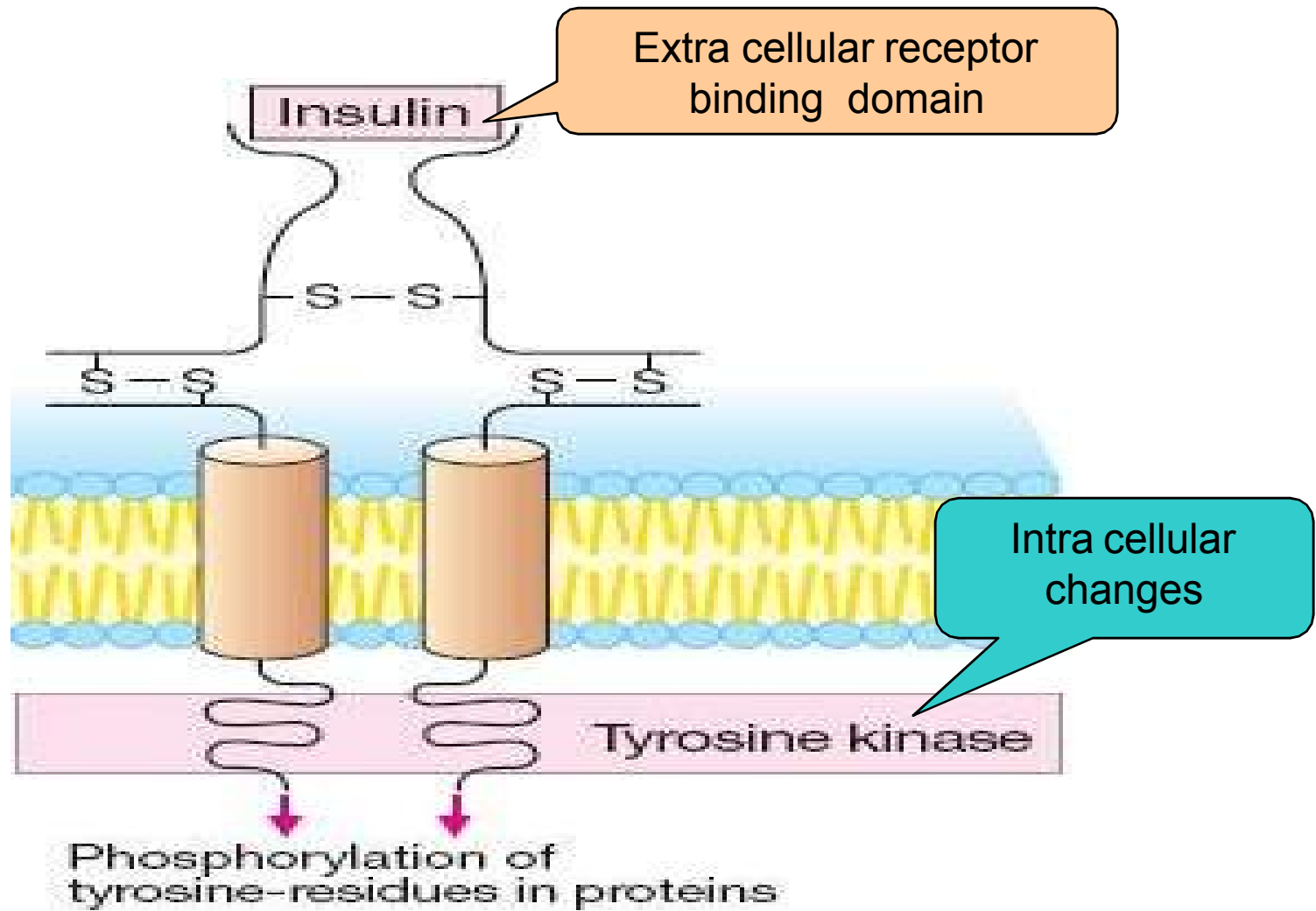
# Enzymatic receptors

- These receptors are directly linked tyrosine kinase.
- Receptor binding domain present in extra cellular site.
- Produce conformational changes in intracellular

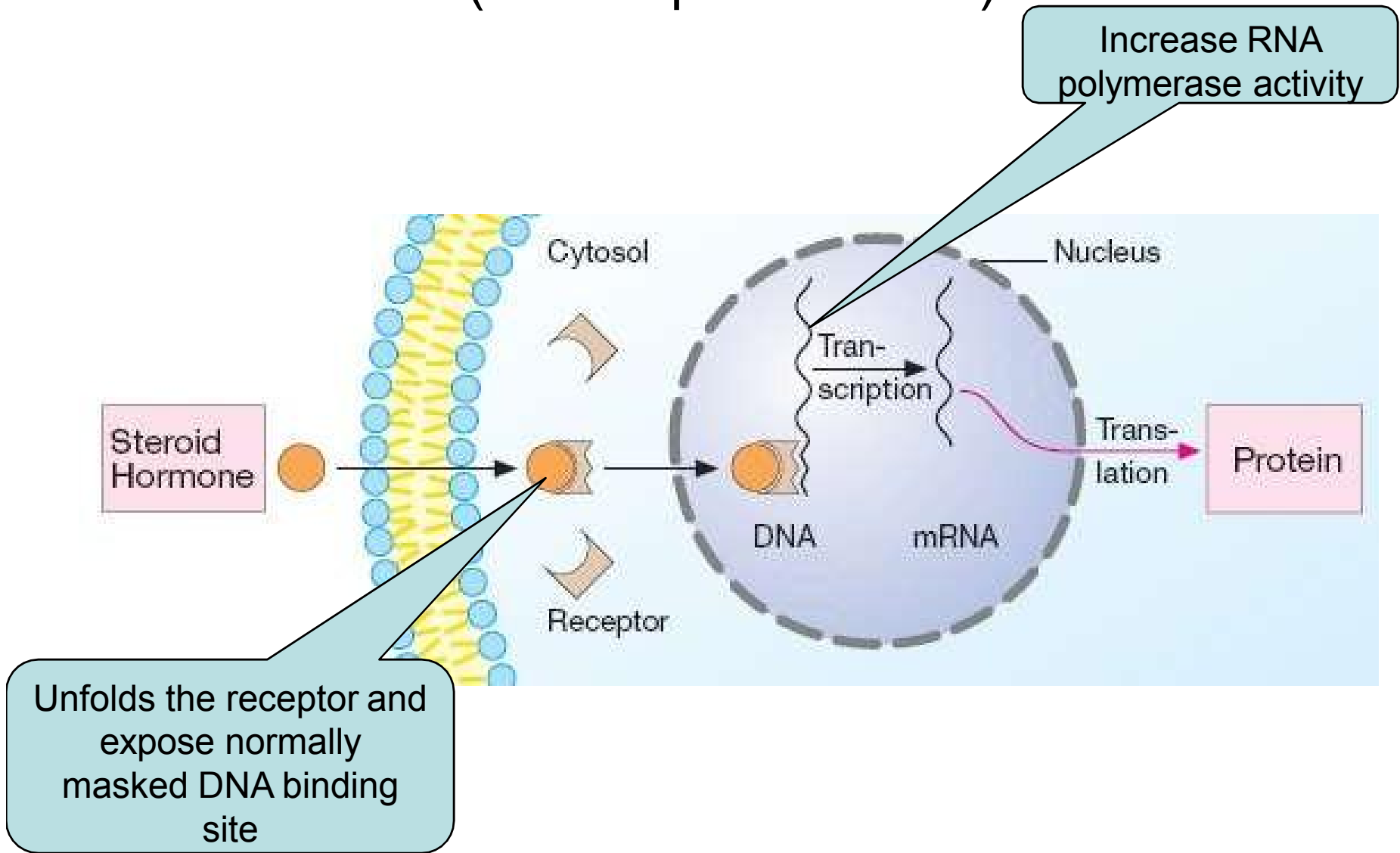
Ex:- Insulin receptors



# Enzymatic receptors

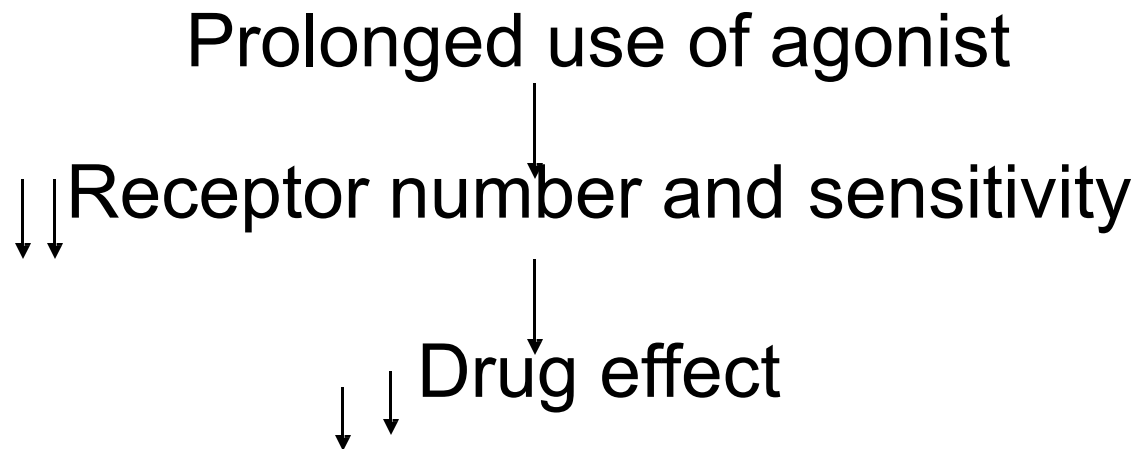


# Receptor regulating gene expression (transcription factors)



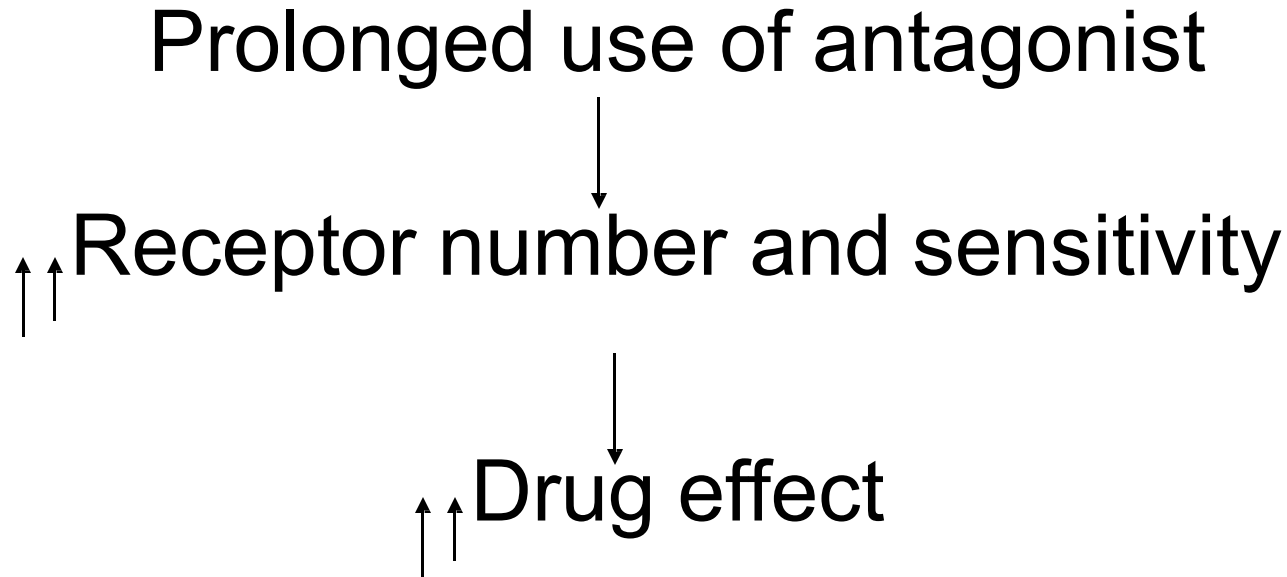
# Receptor regulation theory

- Receptors are in dynamic state.
- The affinity of the response to drugs is not fixed. It alters according to situation.
- **Receptor down regulation:**



Ex: Chronic use of salbutamol down regulates  $\beta_2$  adrenergic receptors.

- **Receptor up regulation:**

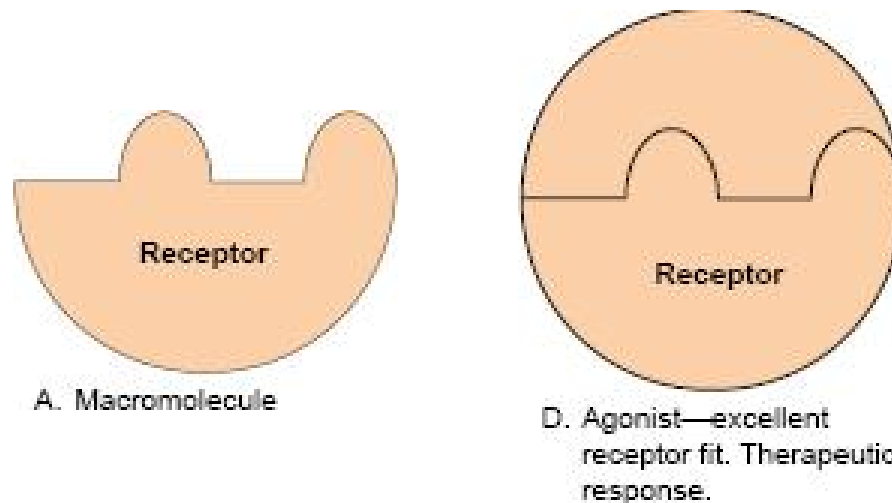


- Ex:- propranolol is stopped after prolong use, produce withdrawal symptoms. Rise BP, induce of angina.

**Agonist:** Both the high affinity as well as intrinsic activity ( $IA=1$ )

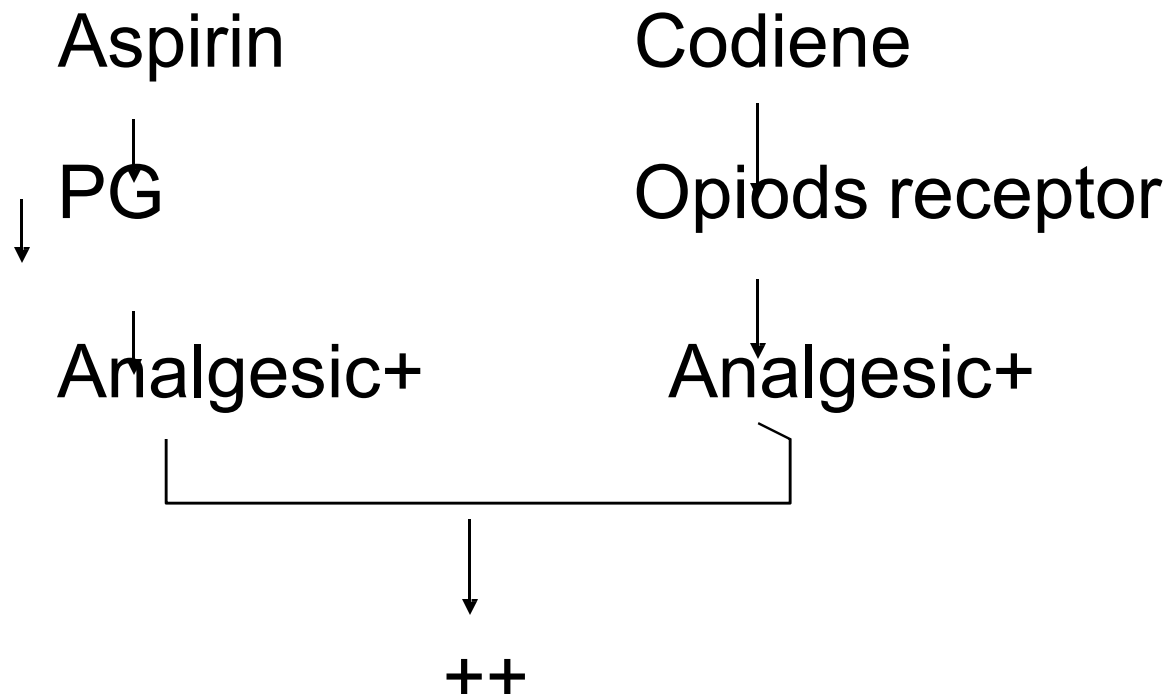
**These drug trigger the maximal biological response or mimic effect of the endogenous substance.**

Ex:- Methacholine is a cholinomimetic drug which mimics the effect of Ach on cholinergic receptors.



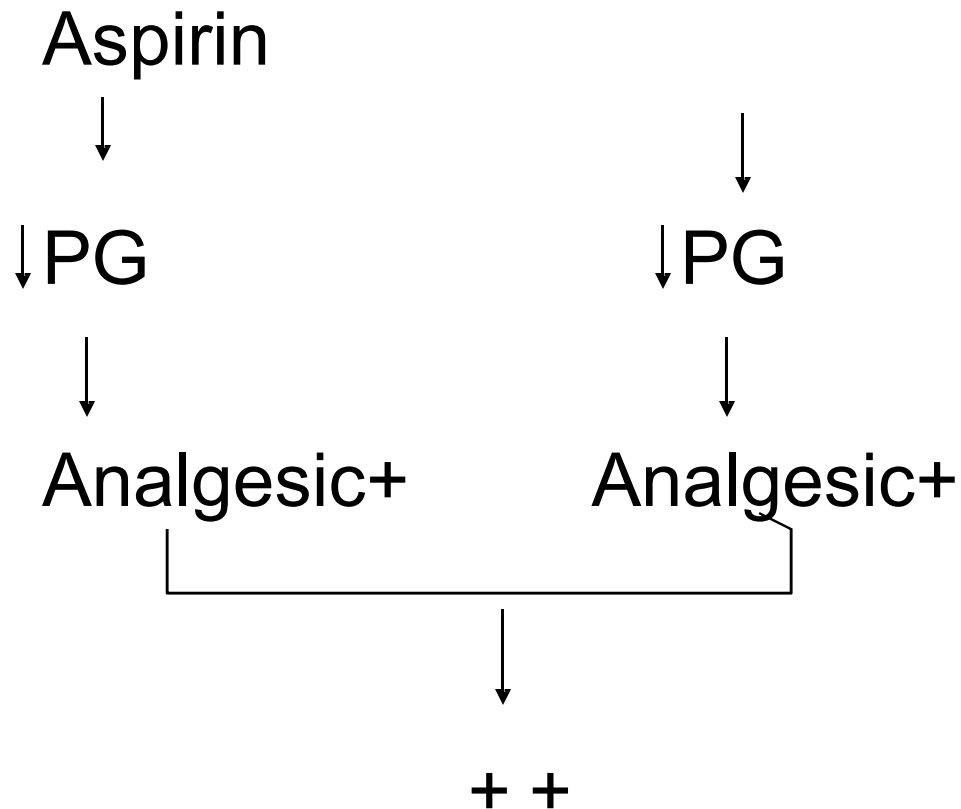
# Types of agonism

- **Summation** :- Two drugs eliciting same response, but with different mechanism and their combined effect is equal to their summation. (1+1=2)



# Types of agonism

- **Additive:** combined effect of two drugs acting by same mechanism



- Synergism (Supra additive):- (1+1=3)

The combined effect of two drug effect is higher than either individual effect.

Ex:-

1. Sulfamethaxazole+ Trimethoprim
2. Levodopa + Carbidopa.



# Types of antagonism

**Antagonism:** Effect of two drugs is less than sum of the effects of the individual drugs.

1. Chemical antagonism

Ex: -heparin(-ve) protamine +ve, Chelating agents

1. Physiological /Functional antagonism

2. Pharmacokinetic antagonism

3. Pharmacological antagonism

- I. Competitive ( Reversible)

- II. Non competitive (Irreversible)

# Pharmacokinetic antagonism

- One drug affects the absorption, metabolism or excretion of other drug and reduce their effect.

Ex:-Warfarin in presence of phenobarbitone, warfarin metabolism is increased, its effect is reduced.

# Pharmacological antagonism

- Pharmacodynamic antagonism between two drugs acting at same receptors.
- Two important mechanism according to which these antagonists

» 1. Reversible (Competitive)

» 2. Irreversible (Non)

# Reversible antagonism (Competitive antagonism)

- These inhibition is commonly observed with antagonists that bind reversibly to the same receptor site as that of an agonist.
- These type inhibition can be overcome increasing the concentration of agonist
- Ex:- Atropine is a competitive antagonist of Ach.

# Irreversible Antagonism

- It occurs when the antagonist dissociates very slow or not at all from the receptors result that no change when the agonist applied.
- Antagonist effect cannot be overcome even after increasing the concentration of agonist

# Non receptor mediated action

- All drugs action are not mediated by receptors. Some of drugs may act through chemical action or physical action or other modes.
  - » Chemical action
  - » Physical action (Astringents, sucralfate)
  - » False incorporation (PABA)
  - » Being protoplasmic action (antiseptics)
  - » Formation of antibody (Vaccines)
  - » Targeting specific genetic changes.

# Dose

- It is the required amount of drug in weight, volumes, moles or IU to provide a desired effect.
- In clinical it is called as Therapeutic dose
- In experimental purpose it is called as effective dose.
- The therapeutic dose varies from person to person

## Single dose:

1. Piperazine (4-5g) is sufficient to eradicate round worm.
2. Single IM dose of 250mg of ceftriaxone to treat gonorrhoea.

## Daily dose:

It is the quantity of a drug to be administered in 24hr, all at once or equally divided dose.

1. 10mg of cetirizine (all at once) is sufficient to relieve allergic reactions.
2. Erythromycin is 1g per day to be given in 4 equally divided dose (i.e., 250mg every 6 hr)



- **Total dose:** It is the maximum quantity of the drug that is needed the complete course of the therapy.

Ex:- procaine penicillin → early syphilis is 6 million unit → given as 0.6 million units per day for 10 days.

**Loading dose:-** It is the large dose of drug to be given initially to provide the effective plasma concentration rapidly. The drugs having high  $V_d$  of distribution.

Chloroquine in Malaria – 600 mg Stat  
300mg after 8 hours  
300 mg after 2 days.

**Maintenance dose:-** Loading dose normally followed by maintenance dose.

- Needed to maintain the steady state plasma concentration attained after giving the loading dose.

## Therapeutic index:

- Margin of safety
- Depend upon factor of dose producing desirable effect → dose eliciting toxic effect.

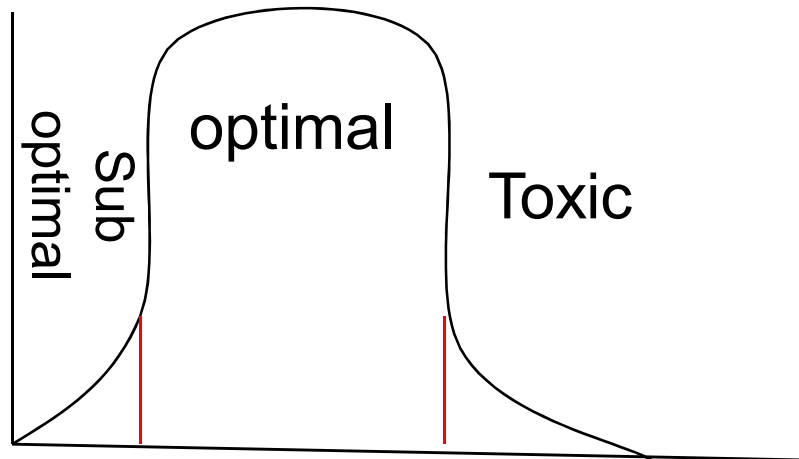
$$\text{Therapeutic index} = \frac{\text{LD}_{50}}{\text{ED}_{50}}$$

- TI → should be more than one

## Therapeutic window:

Optimal therapeutic range of plasma concentrations at which most of the patients experience the desired effect.

Therapeutic range → Therapeutic window



- Cyclosporine – 100-400ng/ml
- Carbamazepine- 4-10µg/ml
- Digoxin- 0.8-2ng/ml
- Lithium- 0.8-1.4 mEq/L
- Phenytoin – 10-20µg/ml
- Quinidine- 2-6µg/ml

- **Tolerance:** Increased amount of drug required to produce initial pharmacological response.
- Usually seen with alcohol, morphine, barbiturates, CNS active drugs
- **Reverse tolerance:-** Same amount drug produces inc pharmacological response.
- Cocaine, amphetamine → rats- inc. motor activity

# Types of tolerances

- **Innate tolerance:** Genetically lack of sensitivity to a drug.

Ex:

- Rabbits tolerate to atropine large doses
- Chinese → Castor oil
- Negros → Mydriatic action of sympathomimetics
- Eskimos → high fatty diets

- **Acquired tolerances:**
- Occurs due to repeated use of drug
  - Pharmacokinetic tolerances
  - Pharmacodynamic tolerance
  - Acute tolerance

**Pharmacokinetic tolerances:-** Repetitive administration causes decrease their absorption or inc. its own metabolism

Ex: Alcohol → dec. absorption

Barbiturates → Inc. own metabolism



- **Pharmacodynamic tolerance**
  - Down regulation of receptors
  - Impairment in signal transduction
  - Ex: Morphine, caffeine, nicotine.
- **Acute tolerance: Tachyphylaxis** Acute development of tolerance after a rapid and repeated administration of a drug in shorter intervals
- Ex; Ephedrine, tyramine

- Ex: Monday disease.
- Nitroglycerine – Monday , Tuesday workers get headache, after they get tolerances.
- After holiday (Sunday) they get again headache .
- **Cross tolerances**: Cross tolerance among drugs belonging to same category.
- MORPHIN → HEROIN → NARCOTIC



# **FACTORS MODIFYING THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS**

- Individuals differ both in the degree and the character of the response that a drug may elicit
- Variation in response to the same dose of a drug between different patients and even in the same patient on different occasions.



- One or more of the following categories of differences among individuals are responsible for the variations in drug response:

Individuals differ in pharmacokinetic handling of drugs

Variation in number or state of receptors, coupling proteins or other components of response

Variation in neurogenic/ hormonal tone or concentrations of specific constituents



- These factors modify drug action either:
  - a) Quantitatively
    - The plasma concentration and / or the drug action is increased or decreased
  - b) Qualitatively
    - The type of response is altered, eg: drug allergy and idiosyncrasy



○ The various factors are:

1. **Body weight/size:**

It influences the concentration of drug attained at the site of action

The average adult dose refers to individuals of medium built



- For exceptionally obese or lean individuals and for children dose may be calculated on body weight basis

$$\text{Individual dose} = \frac{\text{BW(kg)}}{70} \times \text{Average adult dose}$$

$$\text{Individual dose} = \frac{\text{BSA(m}^2\text{)}}{1.7} \times \text{Average adult dose}$$

- $\text{BSA} = \text{BW(Kg)}^{0.425} \times \text{Height(cm)}^{0.725} \times 0.007184$





## 2. Age:

### Infants and Children:

The dose of drug for children often calculated from the adult dose

$$\text{Child dose} = \frac{\text{Age}}{\text{Age} + 12} \times \text{adult dose} \dots\dots Y(\text{ Young's formula})$$

$$\text{Child dose} = \frac{\text{Age}}{20} \times \text{adult dose} \dots\dots (\text{Dilling's formula})$$



- However, infants and children are have important physiological differences
- Higher proportion of water
- Lower plasma protein levels
  - More available drug
- Immature liver/kidneys
  - Liver often metabolizes more slowly
  - Kidneys may excrete more slowly



## Elders:

- In elderly, renal function progressively declines (intact nephron loss) and drug doses have to be reduced
- Chronic disease states
- Decreased plasma protein binding
- Slower metabolism
- Slower excretion
- Dietary deficiencies
- Use of multiple medications
- Lack of compliance



### 3. **Sex:**

- Females have smaller body size, and so require doses of drugs on the lower side of the dose range
- They should not be given uterine stimulants during *menstruation*, quinine during *pregnancy* and sedatives during *lactation*



#### 4. **Pregnancy:**

- Profound physiological changes which may affect drug responses:

GI motility reduced –delayed absorption of orally administered drugs

Plasma and ECF volume expands

Albumin level falls

Renal blood flow increases markedly

Hepatic microsomal enzyme induction



## 5. **Food:**

- Delays gastric emptying, delays absorption (ampicillin)
- Calcium in milk –interferes with absorption of tetracyclines and iron by chelation
- Protein malnutrition
  - Loss of BW
  - Reduced hepatic metabolizing capacity
  - Hypoproteinemia



## 6. **Species and race:**

- Rabbits resistant to atropine
- Rat & mice are resistant to digitalis
- In humans: blacks require higher Mongols require lower concentrations of atropine and ephedrine to dilate their pupil



## 7. **Route of drug administration:**

- I.V route dose smaller than oral route
- Magnesium sulfate:

Orally –purgative

Parenterally –sedative

Locally –reduces inflammation





## 8. **Biorhythm: (Chronopharmacology)**

- Hypnotics –taken at night
- Corticosteroid –taken at a single morning dose

## 9. **Psychological state:**

- Efficacy of drugs can be effected by patients beliefs, attitudes and expectations
- Particularly applicable to centrally acting drugs
- In some patients inert drugs (placebo) may produce beneficial effects equivalent to the drug, and may induce sleep in insomnia



**10. Presence of diseases/pathological states:**

- Drug may aggravate underlying pathology
- Hepatic disease may slow drug metabolism
- Renal disease may slow drug elimination
- Acid/base abnormalities may change drug absorption or elimination
- Severe shock with vasoconstriction delays absorption of drugs from s.c. or i.m
- Drug metabolism in:
  - Hyperthyroidism –enhanced
  - Hypothyroidism -diminished



## 11. **Cumulation:**

- Any drug will cumulate in the body if rate of administration is more than the rate of elimination

Eg: digitalis, heavy metals etc.



## 12. Genetic factors:

- Lack of specific enzymes
- Lower metabolic rate

Acetylation

Plasma cholinesterase (Atypical pseudo cholinesterase)

G-6PD

Glucuronide conjugation



### 13. Tolerance:

- It means requirement of a higher dose of the drug to produce an effect, which is ordinarily produced by normal therapeutic dose of the drug
- Drug tolerance may be:
  - Natural
  - Acquired
  - Cross tolerance
  - Tachyphylaxis (ephedrine, tyramine, nicotine)
  - Drug resistance



## 14. Other drugs:

- By interactions in many ways



**THANK YOU**

