

Inhaled Anesthetics

Jason Ryan, MD, MPH



Boards&Beyond

Anesthetics

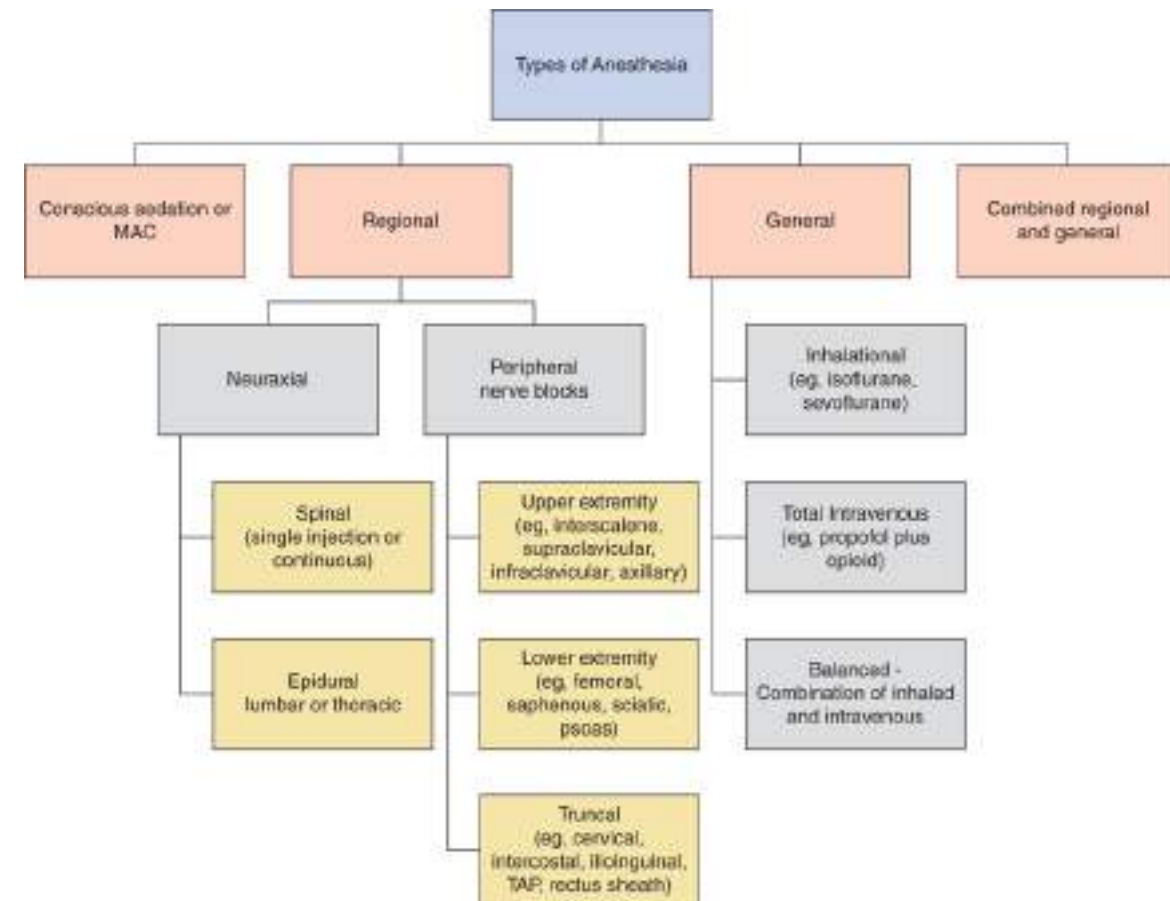
- Drugs that produce:
 - Analgesia
 - Loss of consciousness
 - Amnesia
 - Muscle relaxation



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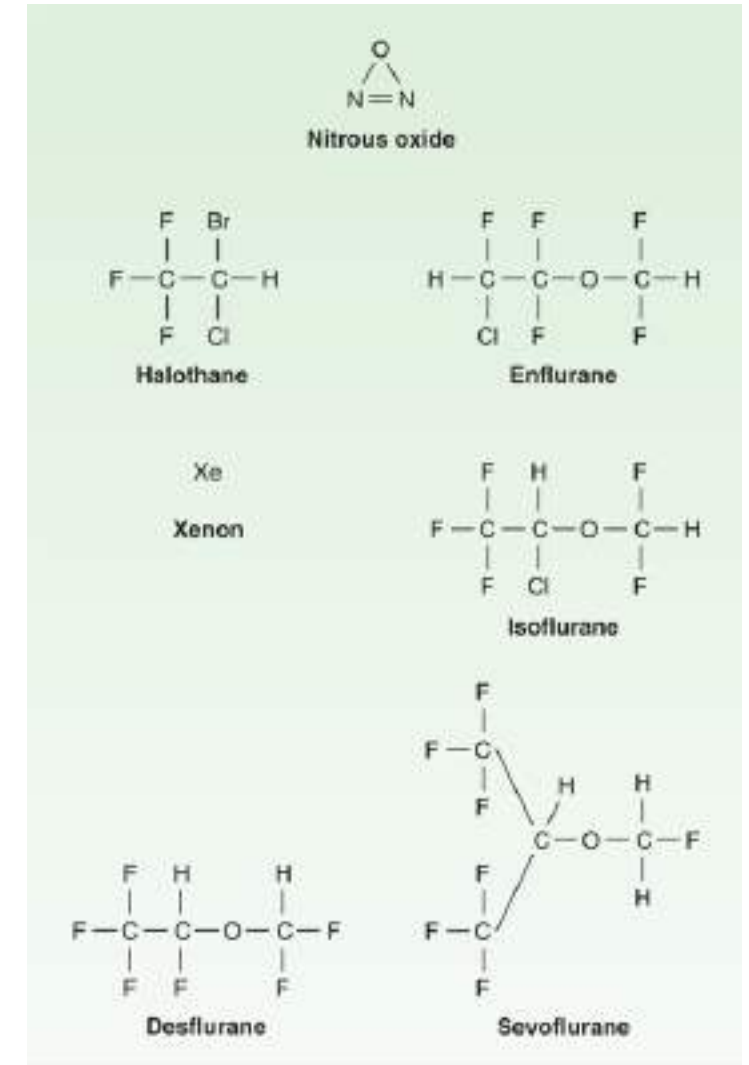
Types of Anesthesia Drugs

- Inhaled anesthetics
- Intravenous anesthetics
- Local anesthetics
- Neuromuscular blocking agents



Inhaled Anesthetic Principles

- Special properties determine effectiveness
- Solubility of gas for blood determines onset/offset
- Solubility of gas for lipids determines potency

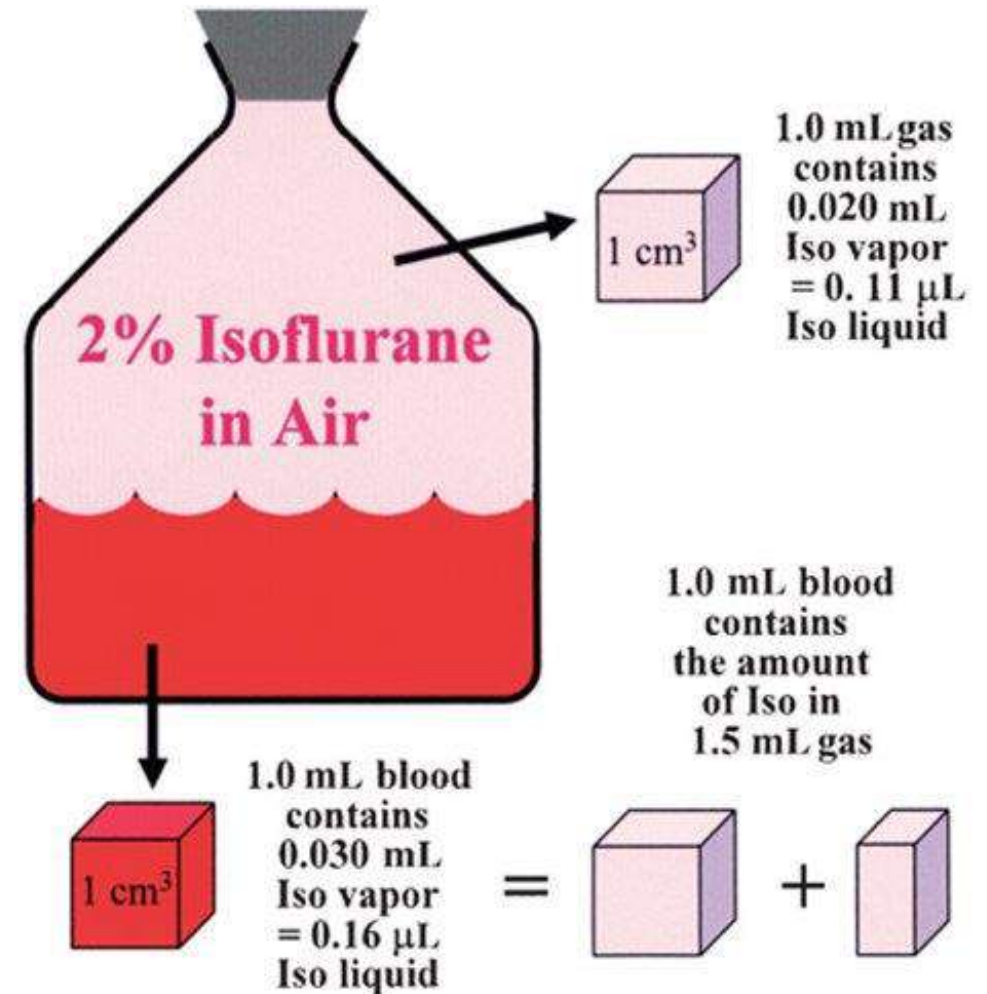


Source: Todd W. Vanderah:
Basic & Clinical Pharmacology, Sixteenth Edition
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Inhaled Anesthetics

Drug Uptake from Lungs

- Must enter blood of alveolar capillaries
- Must move from blood into CNS
- Speed of uptake depends on:
 - Inspired concentration of drug
 - Minute ventilation
 - Pulmonary blood flow
 - **Blood:gas partition coefficient**



Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

Blood:Gas Partition Coefficient

- Ratio solubility in blood to solubility in gas/alveoli
 - Example: Isoflurane: 1.4
 - [blood]1.4 > [alveoli]
- Proportional to the solubility of inhaled drug in blood
- More soluble drug = higher blood:gas PC
- More soluble = slower onset/offset

Gas	PC
Halothane	2.3
Isoflurane	1.4
Sevoflurane	0.69
Nitrous Oxide	0.47
Desflurane	0.42

Example 1: Desflurane

- 35yo healthy male undergoing elective surgery
- Desflurane
- Blood-gas partition coefficient: low (rapid uptake)
- Cardiac output: normal
- 2-4 min to reach desired level of anesthesia



Example 2: Halothane

- 60yo female with heart failure undergoing elective procedure
- Halothane
- Blood-gas partition coefficient: high (slower uptake)
- Cardiac output: reduced
- 10-20 min to reach desired level of anesthesia



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Blood Solubility

Inhaled Anesthetics

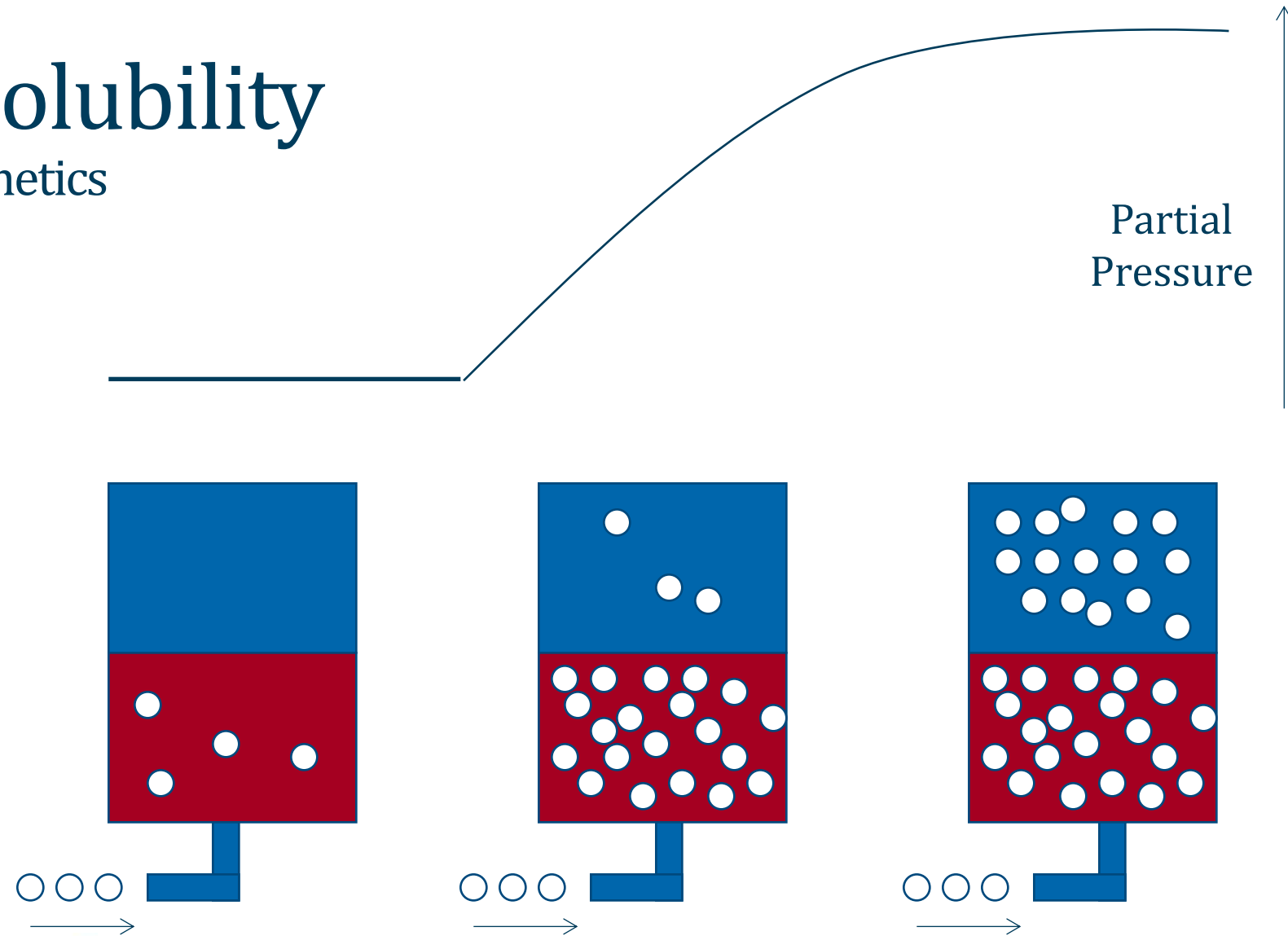
- Molecules dissolved in blood: little/no anesthetic effect
- Molecules NOT dissolved: anesthetic effect
- Need to saturate blood to generate partial pressure
- MORE solubility in blood = LONGER to take effect



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Blood Solubility

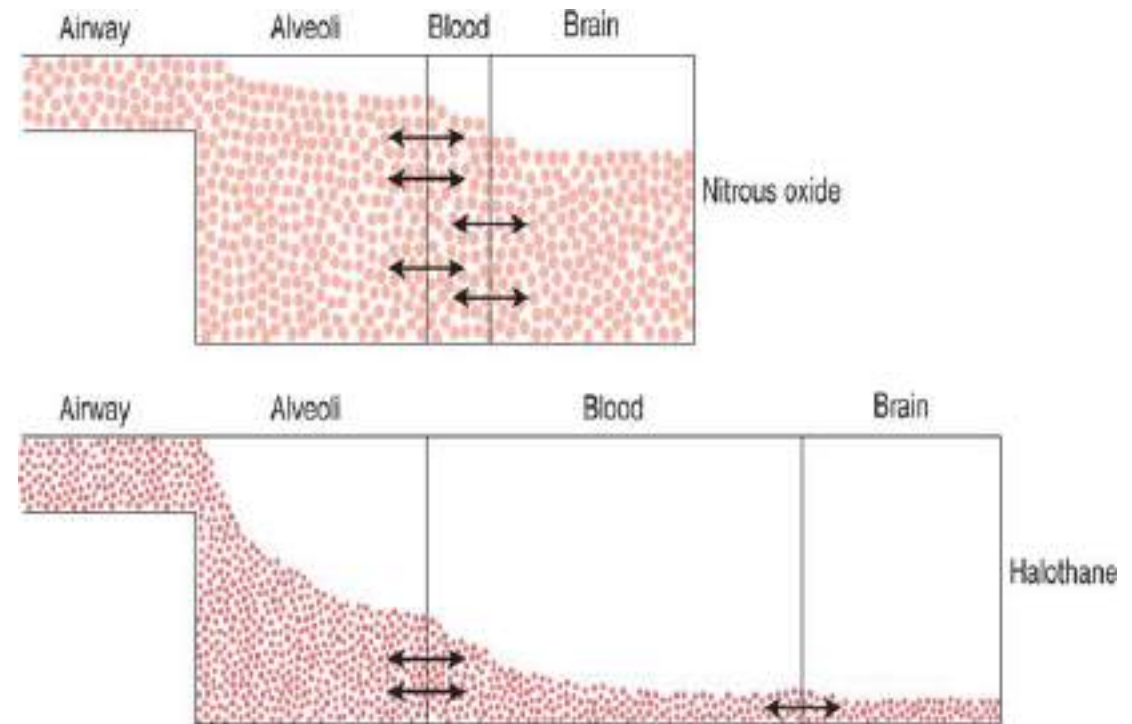
Inhaled Anesthetics



Blood Solubility

Inhaled Anesthetics

- Higher solubility
 - Longer time to saturate blood
 - SLOWER induction time (also washout time)
 - Example: Halothane (PC = 2.3)
- Low solubility
 - Quickly saturates blood
 - Quickly exert effects on brain
 - SHORTER induction time (also washout time)
 - Example: Nitrous oxide (PC = 0.47)



Source: E.E. Jobst, R.C. Penus, M. Krudering-Hall
Pharmacology for the Physical Therapist, Second Edition
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Blood:Gas Partition Coefficient

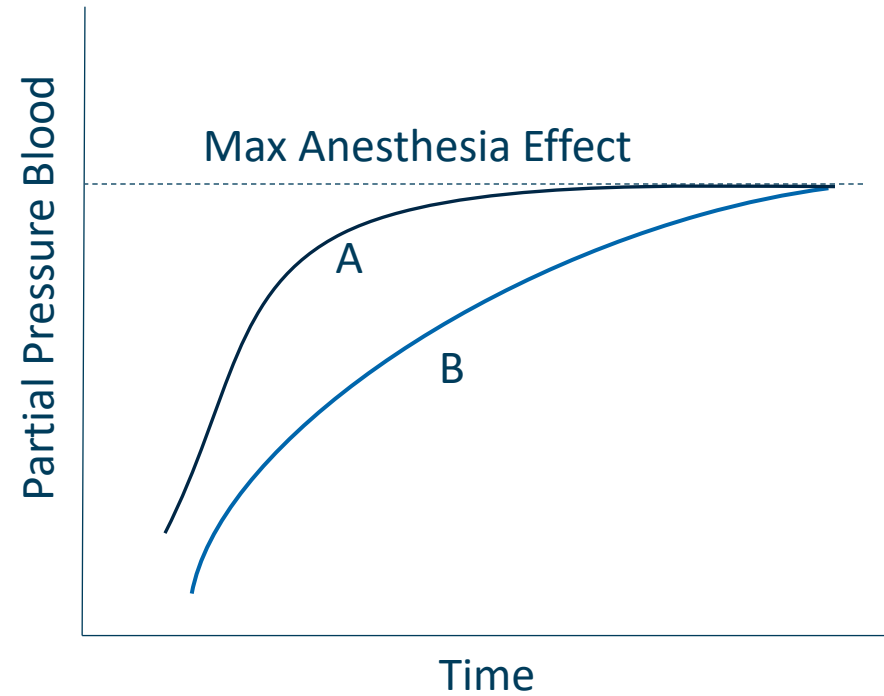
- **High blood:gas PC**
 - Drug relatively soluble in blood
 - More drug required to saturate the blood
 - **Slower** induction and emergence
- **Low blood:gas PC**
 - Drug relatively insoluble in blood
 - Less drug required to saturate the blood
 - **More rapid** induction and emergence

Gas	PC
Halothane	2.3
Isoflurane	1.4
Sevoflurane	0.69
Nitrous Oxide	0.47
Desflurane	0.42

Halothane → SLOW induction (slow saturation of blood)
Nitrous Oxide → FAST induction (rapid saturation of blood)

Blood Solubility

Inhaled Anesthetics

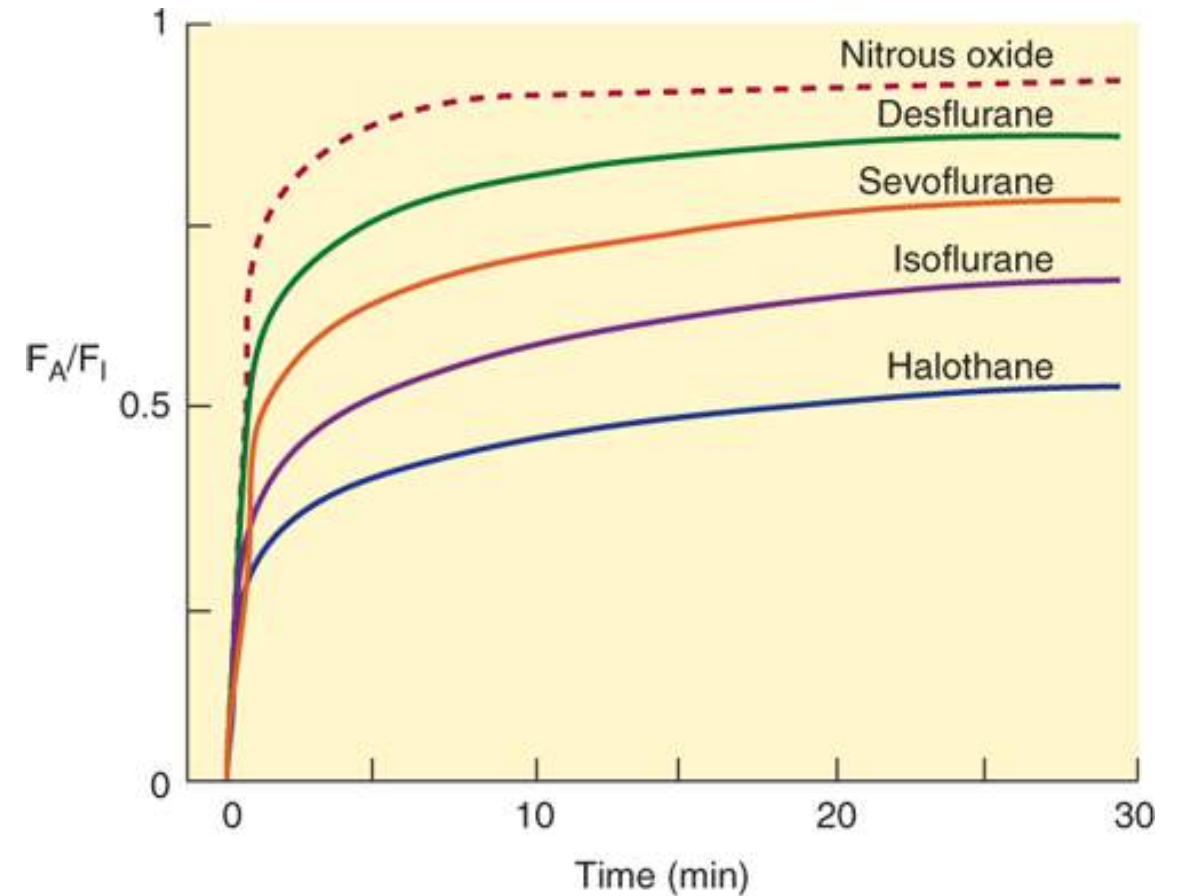


Drug A: Less soluble in blood, faster rise in pressure, fast anesthetic effect

Drug B: More soluble in blood, slower rise in pressure, slower effect

$$F_A/F_i$$

- F_A = alveolar concentration of drug
- F_i = inhaled concentration of drug
- F_A/F_i
 - Rate of rise of concentration in alveoli
 - Related to gas solubility in blood
 - More soluble = slower rise F_A/F_i



Source: Todd W. Vanderah:
Basic & Clinical Pharmacology, Sixteenth Edition
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Lipid Solubility

Inhaled Anesthetics

- Affinity of gas for lipids
- Oil/gas partition coefficient
- ↑ lipid affinity = more potent (Meyer-Overton rule)
 - Less drug required to induce anesthesia

Gas	PC
Halothane	224
Enflurane	99
Isoflurane	98
Sevoflurane	47
Desflurane	28
Nitrous Oxide	<10

Inhaled Anesthetic Principles

- Minimum alveolar concentration
 - Concentration of anesthetic gas in alveoli
 - Prevents movement 50% of subjects
 - In response to pain
- Related to lipid solubility
- Low MAC = high potency
- MAC changes with age
- Lower in elderly

$$\text{Lipid Solubility} = \frac{1}{\text{MAC}}$$

Gas	MAC (%)	Oil:gas PC
Halothane	0.8	224
Enflurane	1.8	99
Isoflurane	1.3	98
Sevoflurane	2.5	47
Desflurane	7.2	28
Nitrous Oxide	>100	<10

Minimum Alveolar Concentration

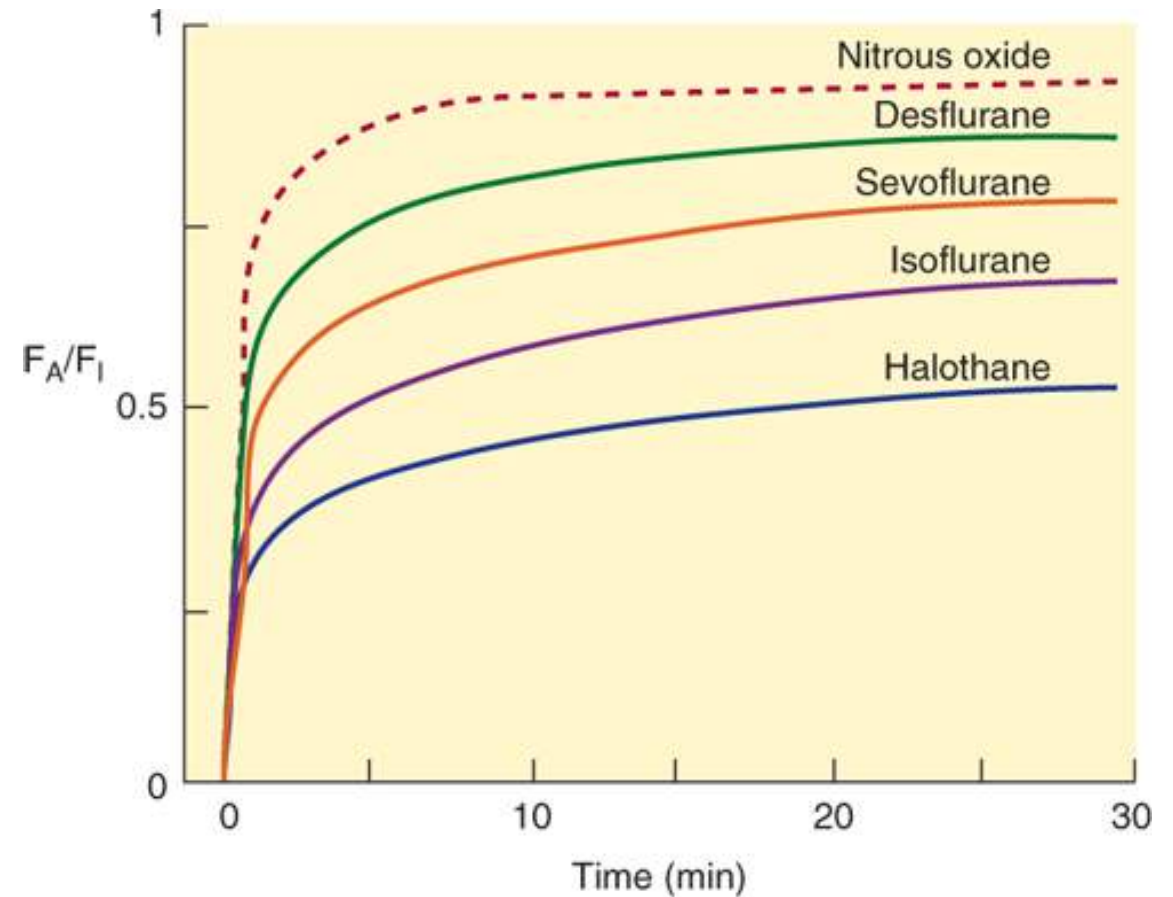
Additive Properties

- When using multiple drugs, MACs are additive
 - Allows use of lower concentration of each drug
- Example:
 - Sevoflurane $\frac{1}{2}$ MAC – 25% efficacy
 - Nitrous oxide $\frac{1}{2}$ MAC – 25% efficacy
 - Combination: 1 MAC, 50% efficacy
 - Patient exposed to less of each drug
 - Lower risk of adverse effects

Gas	MAC (%)	Oil:gas PC
Halothane	0.8	224
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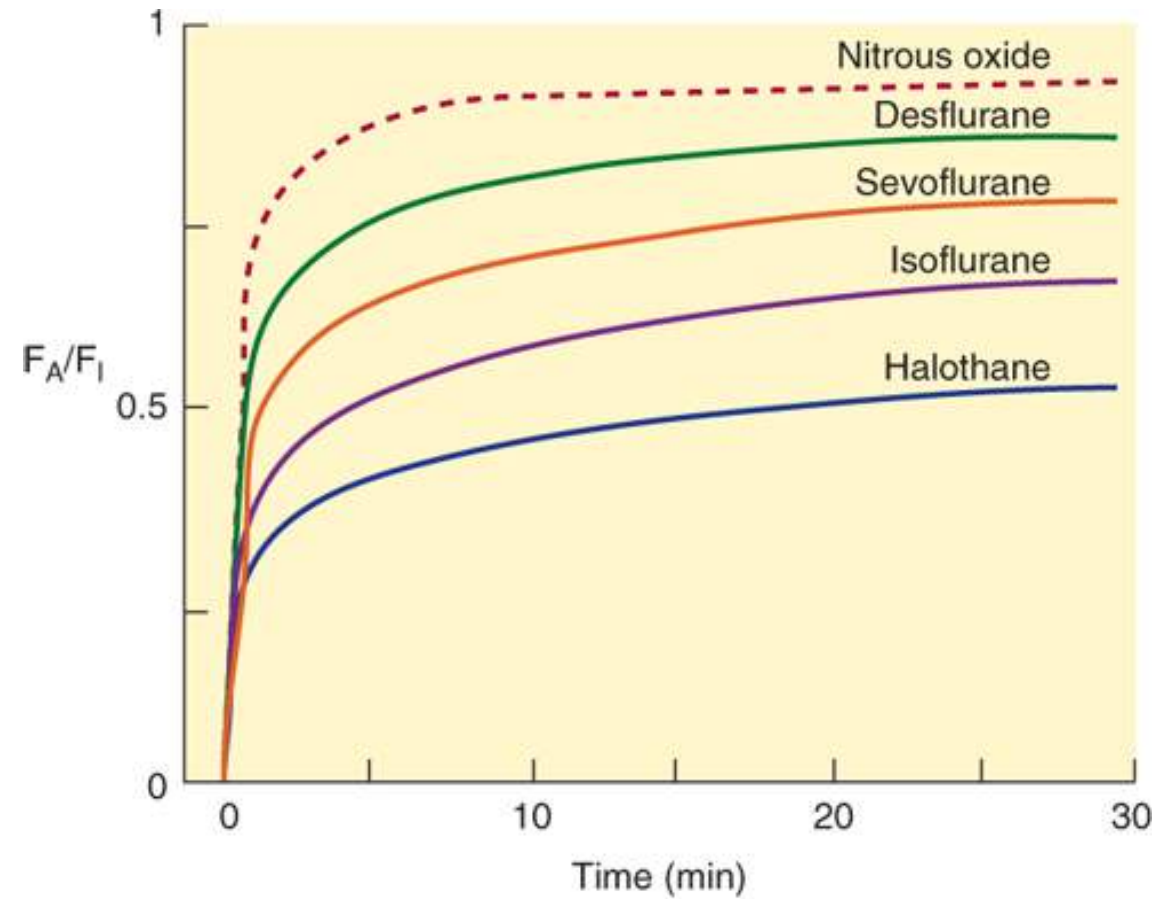
Inhaled Anesthetics Summary

- Onset of action
 - Solubility in blood (\uparrow = slower)
 - Blood:gas partition coefficient (\uparrow = slower)
- Potency
 - Oil/gas partition coefficient (\uparrow = more potent)
 - MAC (\downarrow = more potent)



Inhaled Anesthetics

- Desflurane
- Sevoflurane
- Halothane
- Enflurane
- Isoflurane
- Methoxyflurane
- Nitrous oxide



Common Effects

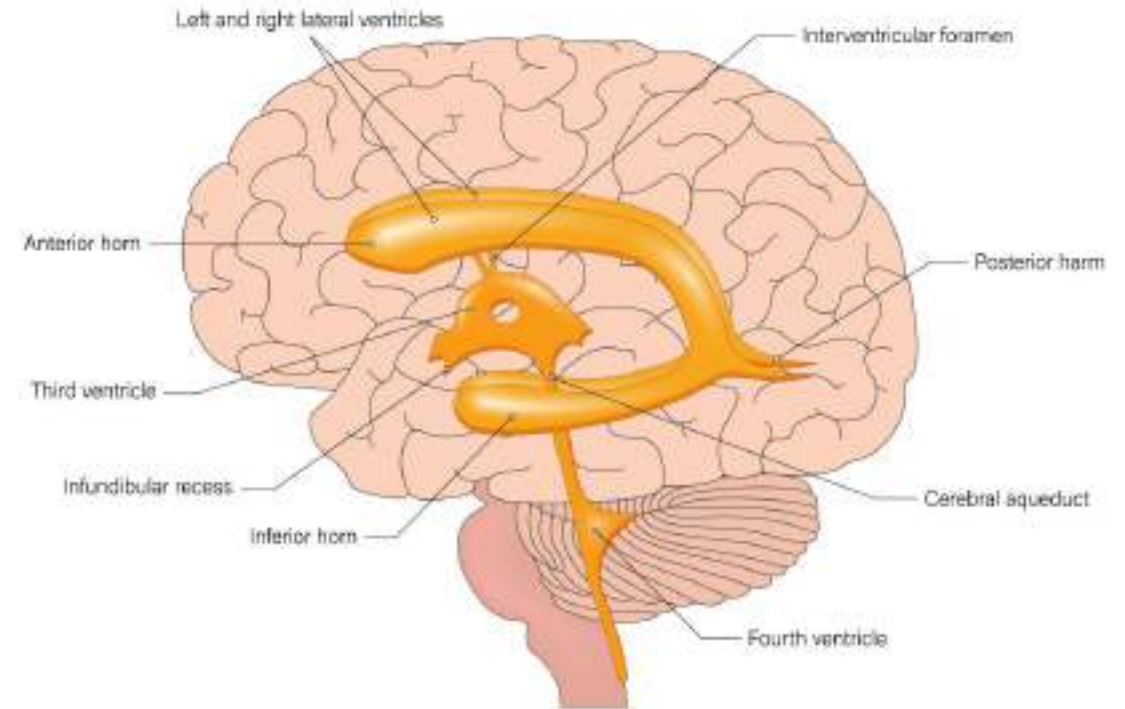
- Myocardial depression
 - ↓CO
 - ↓BP
- Respiratory depression
- Decrease cough reflex
- Nausea and vomiting



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Common Effects

- ↑ cerebral blood flow
 - Cerebral vasodilation
 - Blood flow goes up
 - ICP goes up
- Decrease metabolic rate
- Decrease skeletal/smooth muscle tone



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Special Side Effects

- Halothane – Hepatotoxicity & malignant hyperthermia
 - Liver toxicity: Rare, life-threatening
 - Massive necrosis, increased AST/ALT
- Methoxyflurane – Nephrotoxicity
 - Renal-toxic metabolite
- Enflurane – Seizures
 - Lowers seizure threshold



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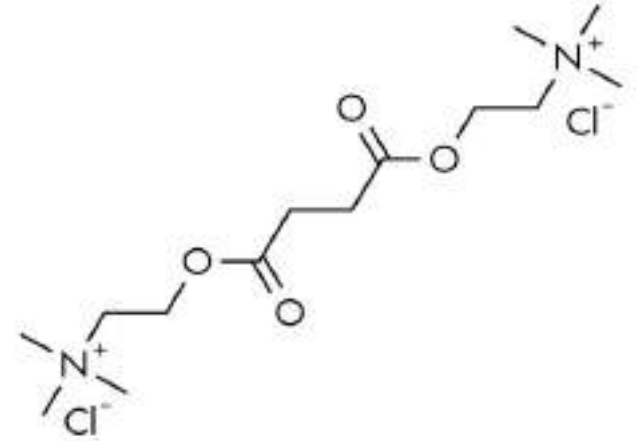
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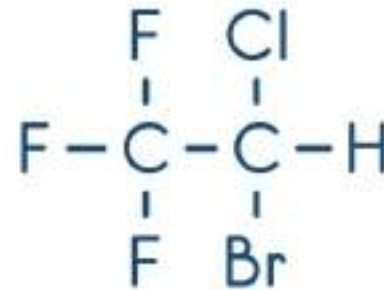
Malignant Hyperthermia

- Rare, dangerous reaction
- Inhaled anesthetics
 - Sevoflurane, desflurane, halothane
- Depolarizing muscle relaxants
 - Succinylcholine



succinylcholine

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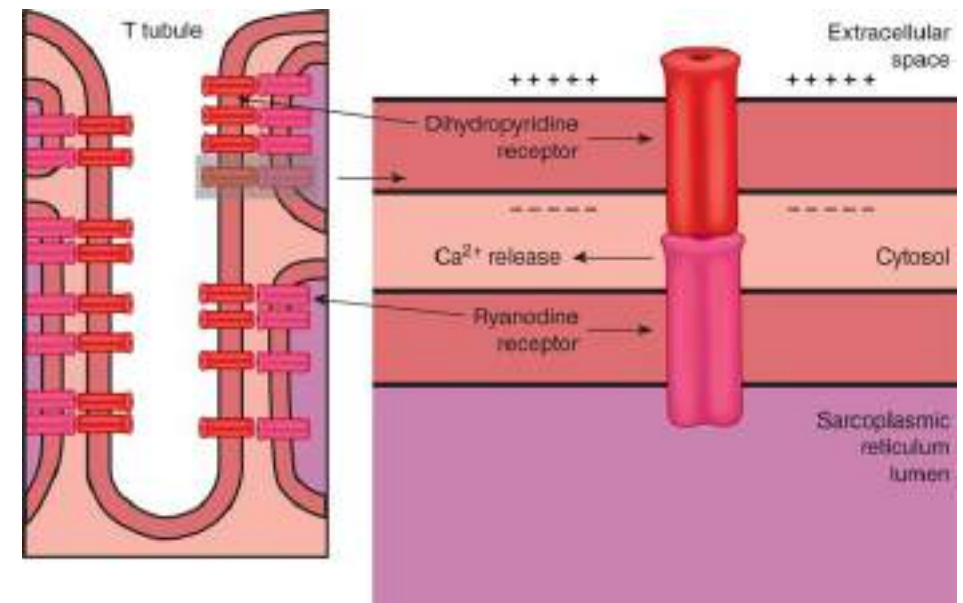


halothane

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Malignant Hyperthermia

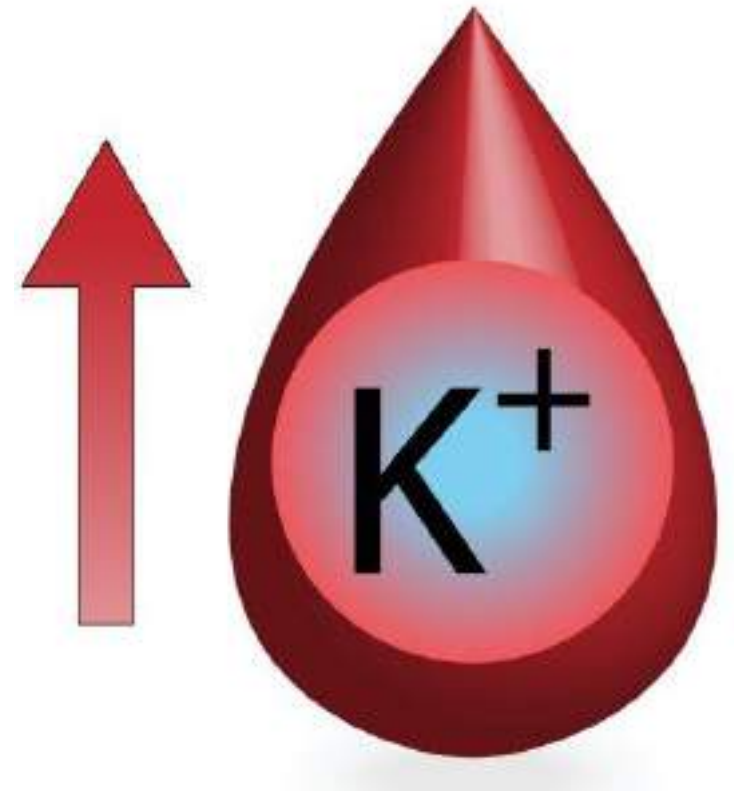
- Cause: ryanodine receptor (RyR) in the sarcoplasmic reticulum
 - Abnormal in patients who get MH (autosomal dominant)
 - Triggers excessive calcium release through the RyR
 - Ca overload causes continuous & uncontrolled muscle contractions
 - Hypermetabolic state
 - Increases heat production
 - Depletes ATP
 - Produces lactic acid, metabolic acidosis
 - Muscle breakdown



Source: K.E. Barrett, S.H. Barman, H.L. Brooks, Jason X.J. Yuan:
Ganong's Review of Medical Physiology, Twenty-Sixth Edition
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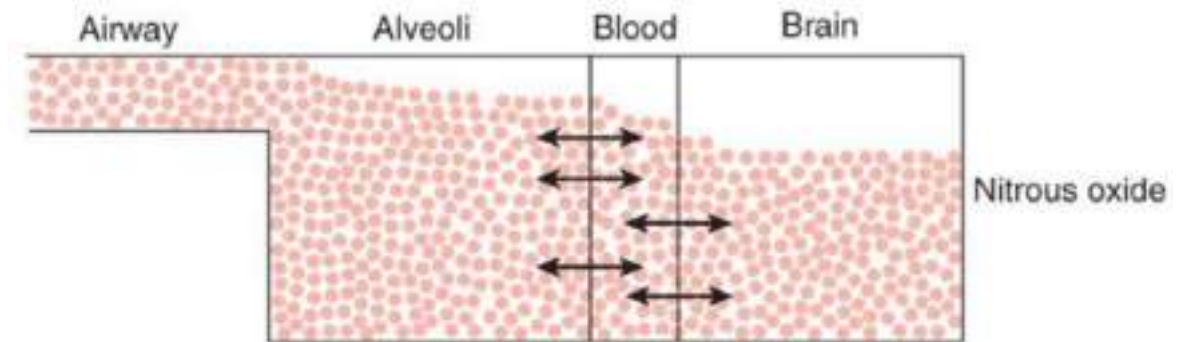
Malignant Hyperthermia

- Fever, muscle rigidity after surgery
- Tachycardia, hypertension
- Muscle damage: $\uparrow K$, CK
- Treat with dantrolene (muscle relaxant)



Nitrous Oxide

- Diffuses rapidly into air spaces
- Can increase volume
- Cannot use:
 - Pneumothorax
 - Abdominal distention



Source: E.E. Jobst, P.C. Panus, M. Kruidering-Hall
Pharmacology for the Physical Therapist, Second Edition
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Intravenous Anesthetics

Jason Ryan, MD, MPH

Intravenous Anesthetics

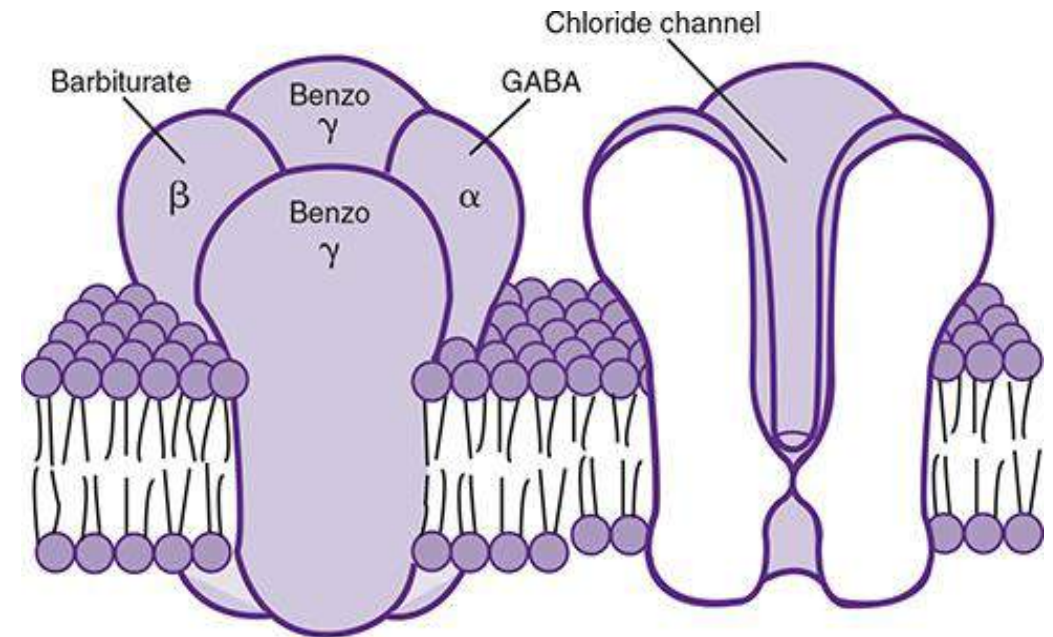
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
- Opioids
- Etomidate
- Ketamine
- Propofol



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GABA Receptor

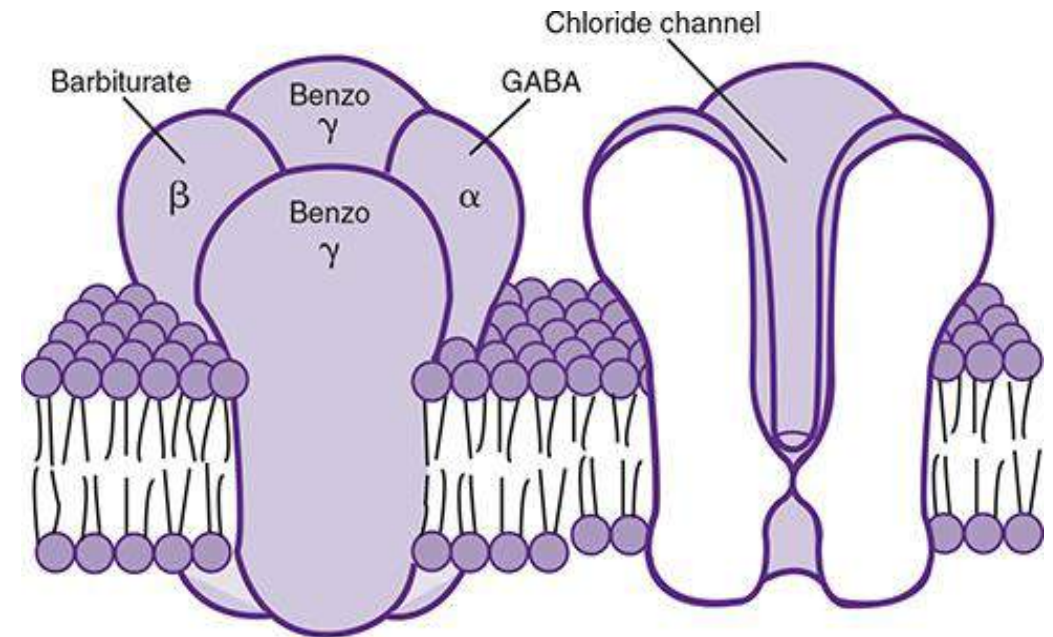
- GABA = Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid
- Binding to receptor opens chloride channel
- Multiple subunits around a central pore
- Primary inhibitor neurotransmitter
- Found in brain, spinal cord
- Increased activity = sedation/anesthesia



Source: Charles D. Ciccone: *Pharmacology in Rehabilitation*, 5th Edition:
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Barbiturates

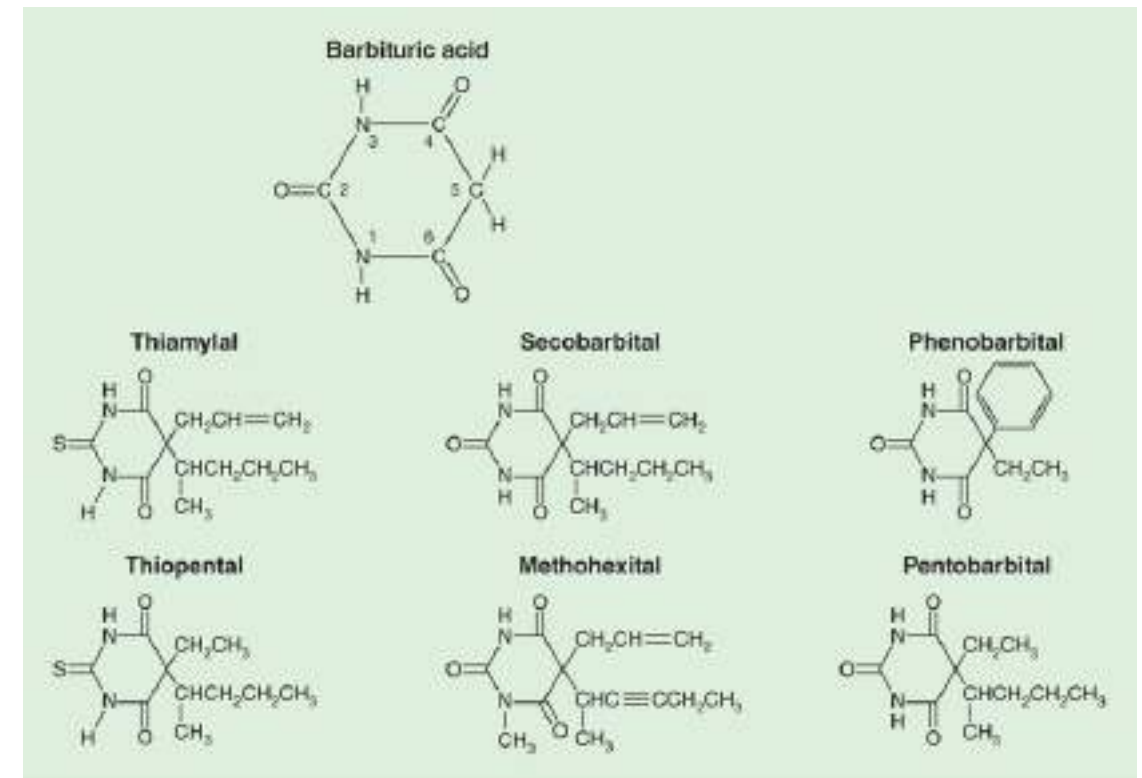
- Pentobarbital
- Binding to GABA-receptor
 - Positive allosteric modulator
 - Enhances activity
 - More chloride ion flux
- High potency from high lipid solubility
- Short-intermediate acting



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Barbiturates

- Respiratory depression
- Myocardial depression
- Peripheral vasodilation
- **Hypotension**
- Elevated ICP
- Seizures/coma
- Cause of celebrity deaths
 - Marilyn Monroe, Jimmy Hendrix
- Largely replaced by benzodiazepines

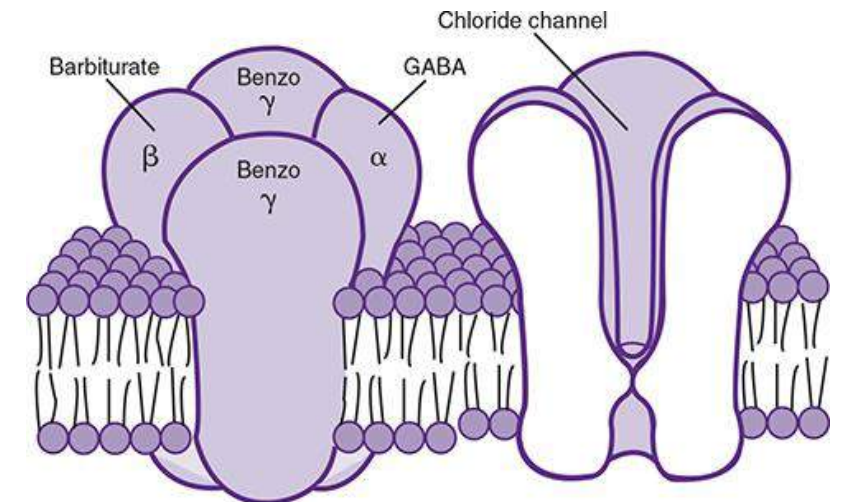


Source: John F. Butterworth IV, David C. Mackey, John D. Waznick:
Morgan & Mikhail's Clinical Anesthesiology, 7e
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Benzodiazepines

Midazolam, Lorazepam, Diazepam, Alprazolam

- Bind to GABA receptors
- Different mechanism from barbiturates
- ↑ frequency of GABA ion channel opening
- Low dose: anti-anxiety (anxiolytic)
- Midazolam (Versed): Short procedures (endoscopy)
- High dose: sedation, amnesia, anticonvulsant



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Benzodiazepines

Midazolam, Lorazepam, Diazepam, Alprazolam

- Cause cardio-respiratory depression
- ↓ blood pressure
- Overdose: Flumazenil



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Opioids

Morphine, Fentanyl, Hydromorphone

- Cause **pain relief and sedation** but no amnesia
- Opioid receptors
 - G protein-coupled receptors
 - Bind endorphins
 - Close presynaptic Ca channels
 - Open postsynaptic K channels
- Multiple subtypes
 - **Mu** = B-endorphin
 - Delta = enkephalin
 - Kappa = dynorphin



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Opioids Mechanism

Morphine, Fentanyl, Hydromorphone

- Close presynaptic Ca channels
- Leads to decreased synaptic transmission
- Inhibits the release of:
 - ACH
 - Norepinephrine
 - 5-HT
 - Glutamate
 - Substance P



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Opioids

Adverse Effects

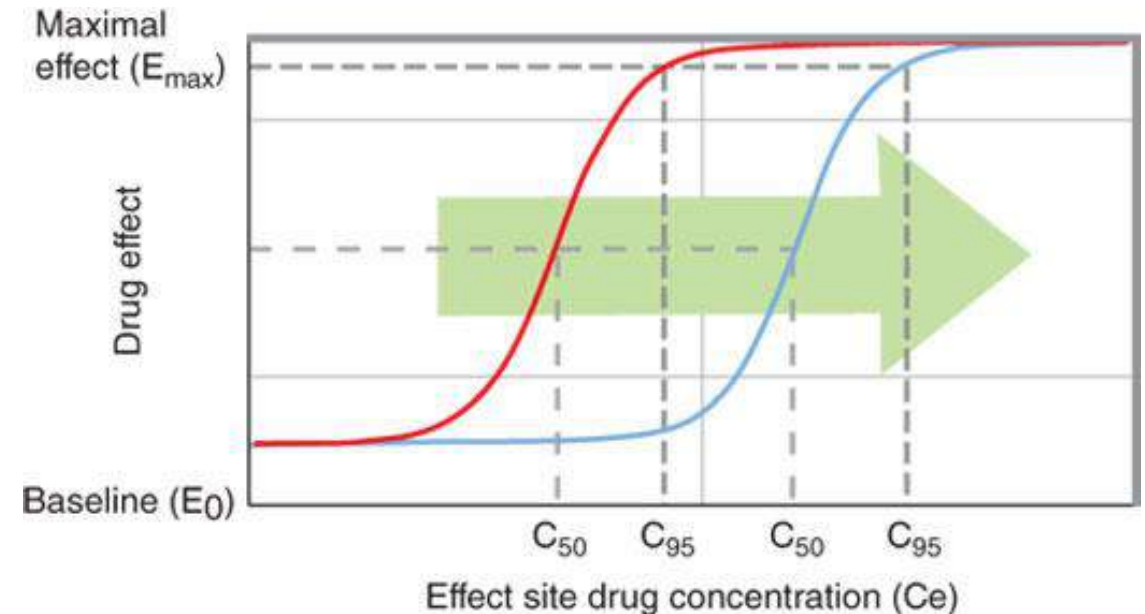
- ↓ Respiratory drive
- ↓ BP
- Nausea/vomiting
- Constipation/Ileus
- Sphincter of Oddi spasm
- Urinary retention
- Miosis
- Addictive → opioid use disorder



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Opioid Tolerance

- Some effects wane with chronic use
- Major problem with cancer pain
- Decreased effect on
 - Pain/sedation
 - Nausea, vomiting
 - Respiratory depression
 - Cough suppression
 - Urinary retention
- No tolerance to **constipation or miosis**
 - These effects persist



Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

Naloxone

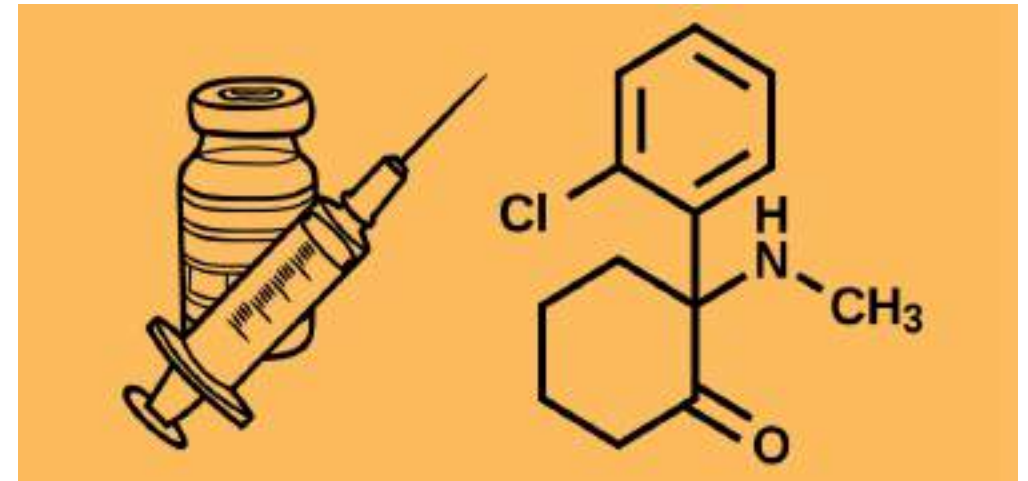
- Opioid antidote
- **Mu antagonist**
 - Also gamma & kappa
- Used for overdose
- Competes with opioids
- Displaces from binding site
- Reverses effects within minutes
- Must be given IV/nasal
- Inactivated by liver if PO



Source: Douglas D. Brunette
Extraordinary Cases in Emergency Medicine
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Ketamine

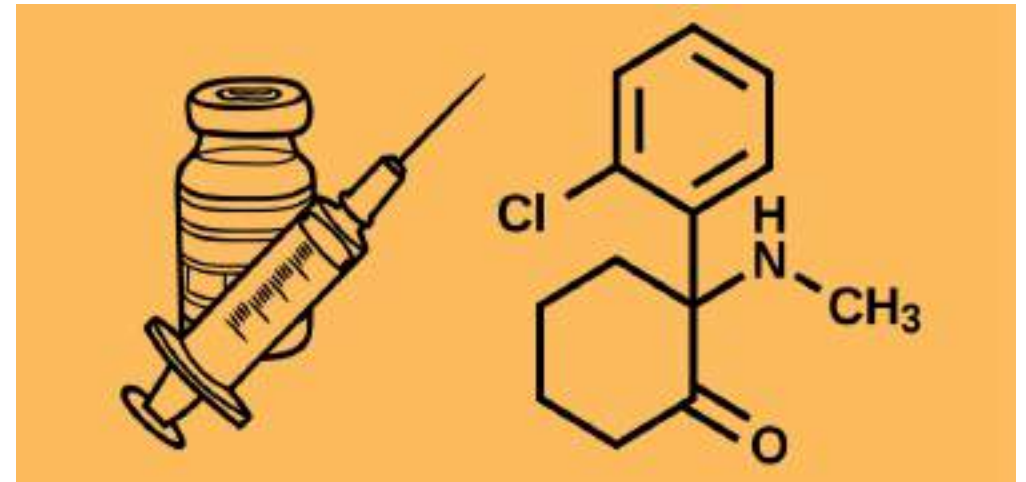
- PCP derivative
- Antagonist of NMDA receptor
- Blocks effects of glutamate
- “Dissociative” drug
 - “Psychotomimetic effects”
 - Patient enters trancelike state
- Analgesia and amnesia
- Few respiratory or CV effects



aroz_design07/Shutterstock

Ketamine

- Sympathomimetic drug
- **Increases BP and HR**
- Bronchodilation
- Increases cerebral blood flow (\uparrow ICP)



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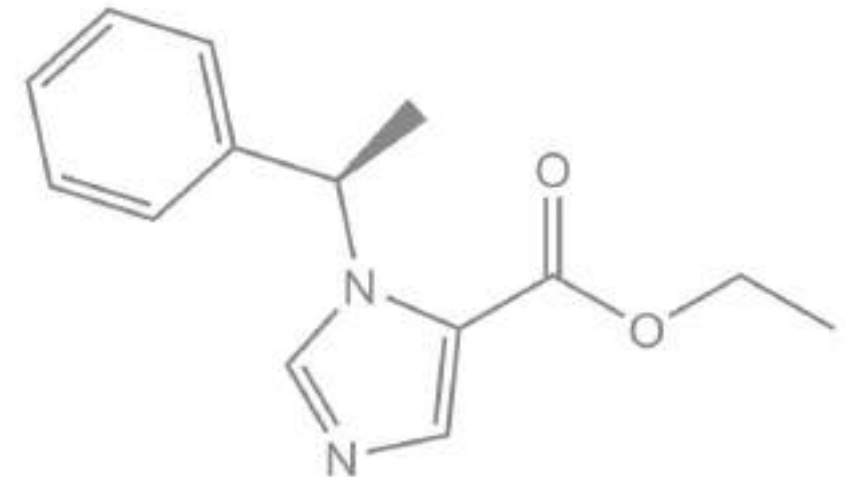
Ketamine

- Used for depression/anxiety
- “Emergence Reactions”
 - Disorientation
 - Dreams, hallucinations
 - Can be frightening to patients
 - Co-administer midazolam to help



Etomidate

- Binds GABA_A receptors → ↑ activity
 - “Potentiates” activity → blocks neuroexcitation
- Anesthesia but not analgesia
- Relatively hemodynamically neutral
 - Good for hypotensive patients
- Used in rapid sequence intubation
- Causes postoperative nausea and vomiting
- May cause myoclonic activity
 - 50-80% patients have muscle twitching/jerking
 - Attenuated with opioids or benzos

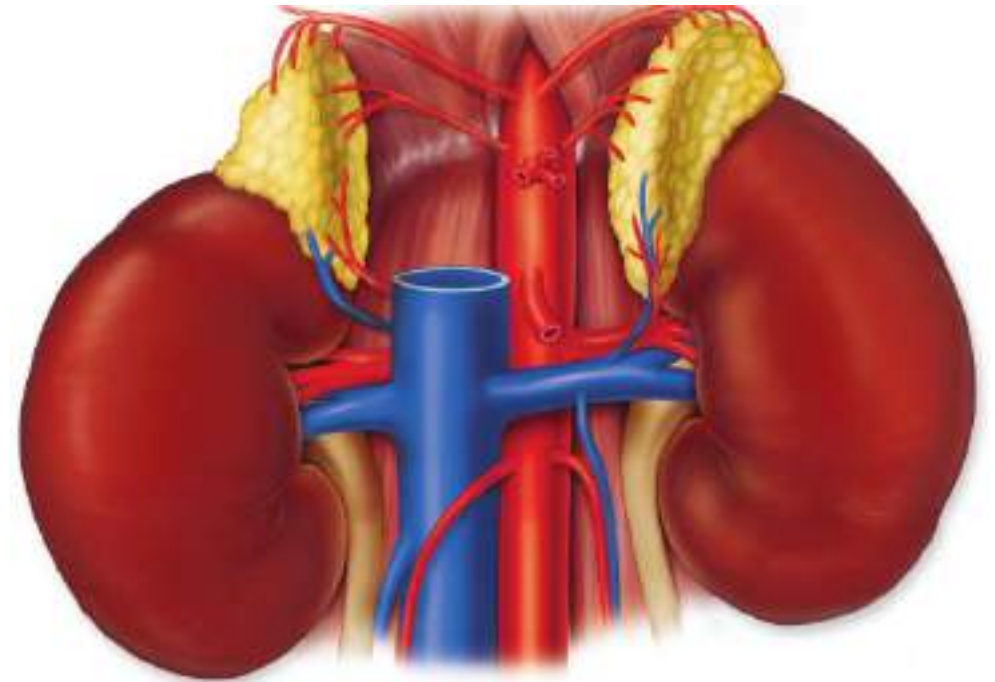


etomidate

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Etomidate

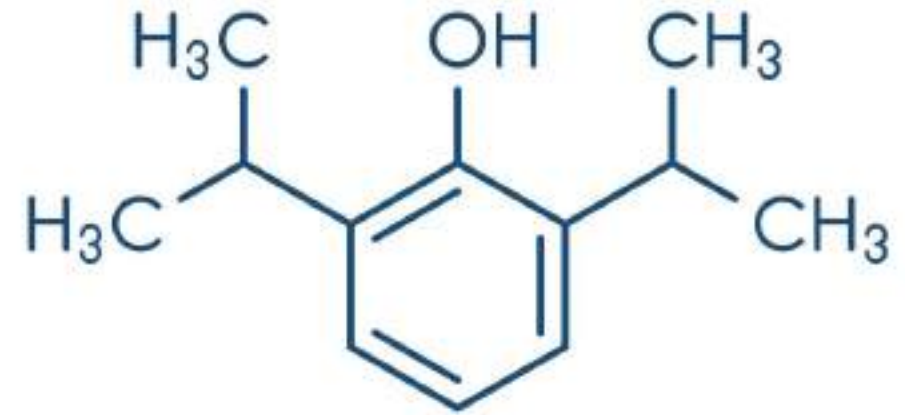
- Brief adrenal insufficiency
- Resolves < 24 hours
- Inhibits 11-beta-hydroxylase
- Cortisol rarely falls below normal range



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Propofol

- Potentiates GABA_A receptor
- Inhibits NMDA receptor
- Sedation, amnesia
- Respiratory depression
- Myocardial depression, hypotension

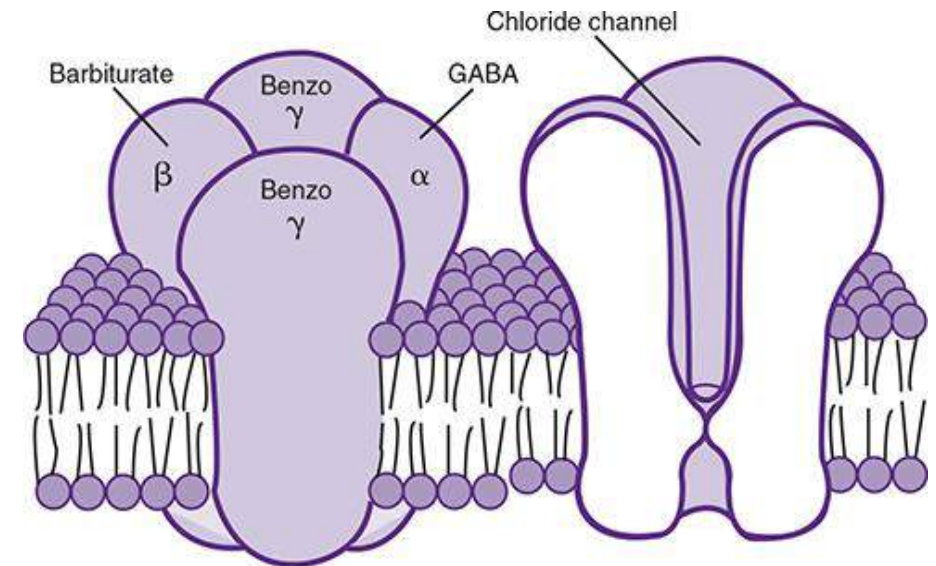


propofol

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GABA Receptor Anesthetics

- Etomidate
- Propofol
- Benzodiazepines
- Barbiturates
- GABA is largely inhibitory
- These drugs activate receptor → sedation



Source: Charles D. Ciccone: *Pharmacology in Rehabilitation*, 5th Edition:
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Induction and Maintenance

- Induction – Render patient unconscious
 - Propofol, Etomidate, Ketamine
- Maintenance – Maintain unconscious state
 - Propofol, sevoflurane, desflurane



A

Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition
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Typical Open Heart Case

- Induction
 - Propofol, Midazolam
- Paralysis
 - Rocuronium
- Maintenance
 - Sevoflurane, fentanyl



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Rapid Sequence Intubation

- Standard practice for emergent intubation
- Renders patient sedated and flaccid
- Induction: Etomidate
 - Sometimes ketamine, benzos
- Paralysis: Succinylcholine
 - Ideal due to rapid onset/offset
 - Paralysis within 60 seconds
 - Rocuronium used if contraindication
 - HyperK, rhabdo, burns, denervation



A

Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

Local Anesthetics

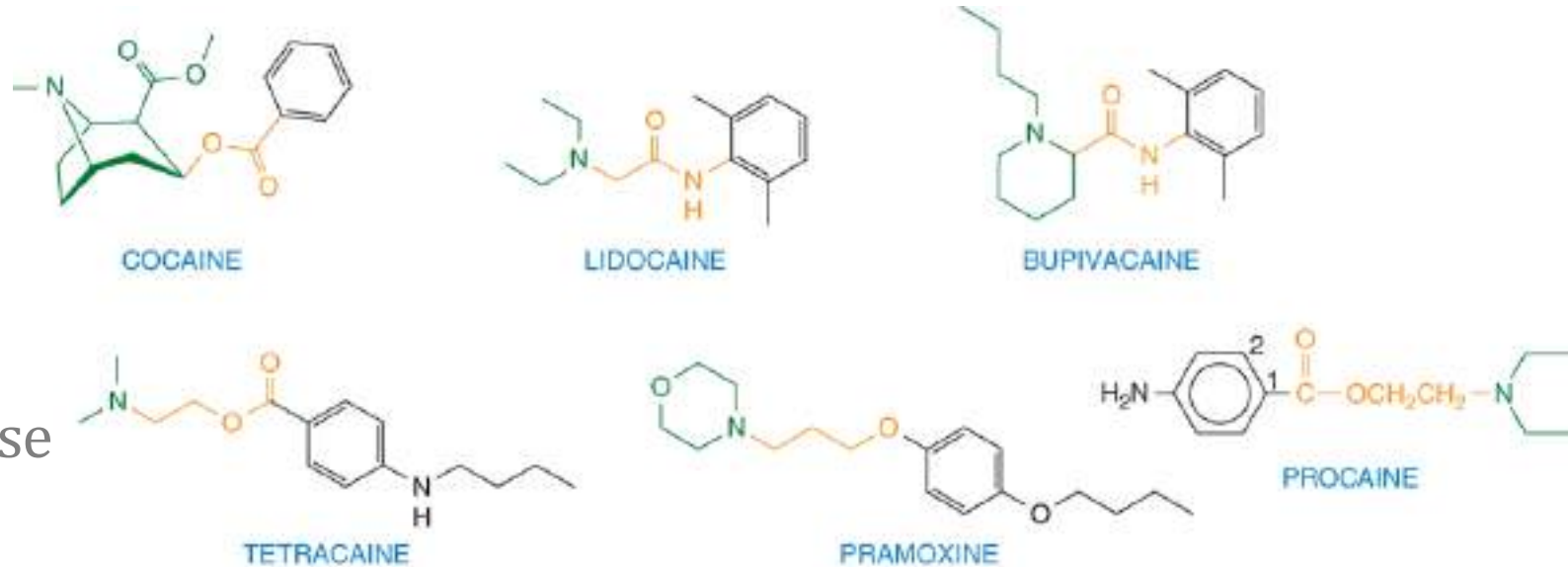
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Local Anesthetics

- Amides (2 i's)
 - Lidocaine
 - Mepivacaine
 - Bupivacaine
- Esters (1 i)
 - Procaine
 - Cocaine
 - Benzocaine
 - Tetracaine
- Can vary in allergic response

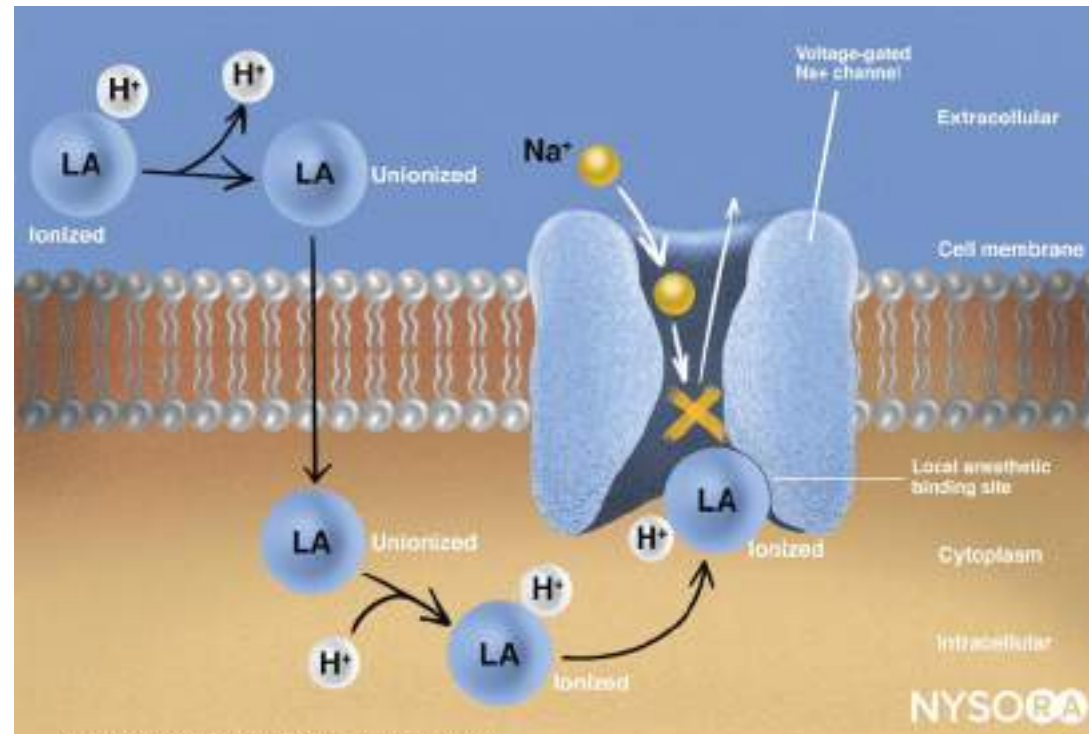


Source: Laurence L. Brunton, Björn C. Knollmann:
Goodman & Gilman's: The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 14e:
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Local Anesthetics

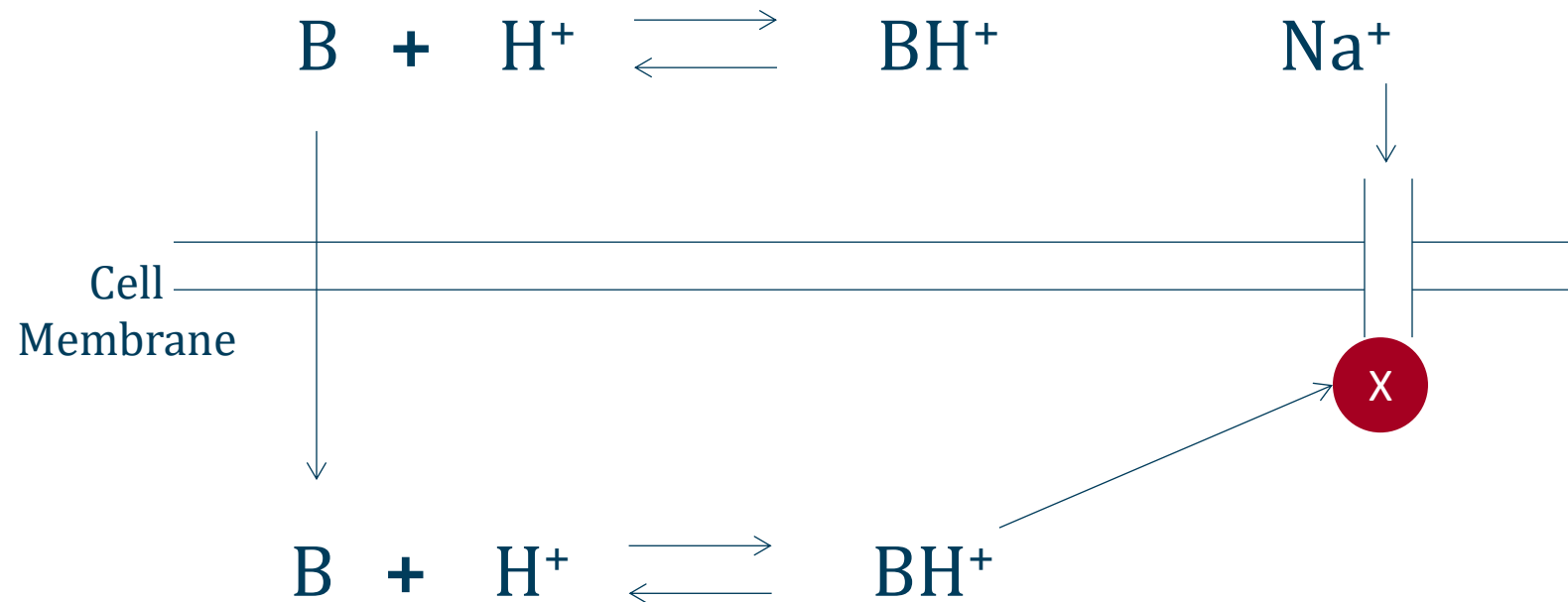
Mechanism of Action

- Block sodium channels in nerves
- Greater effect on small myelinated nerves



Admir Hadzic: *Hadzic's Peripheral Nerve Blocks and Anatomy for Ultrasound-Guided Regional Anesthesia*, 3rd.
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Local Anesthetic



Key Points

1. Uncharged form crosses membrane
2. Charged form blocks Na channel
3. Drugs work on inside of cell membrane
4. Acidic environments (infection) = more drug needed for effect

Local Anesthetic

Onset of Action

- **Determined by pKa**
- pH value with equal ionized/non-ionized forms of drug
- Higher pKa = **more ionized form**
- Less ability to cross cell membranes
- Slower onset of action

Drug	pKa
Lidocaine	7.8
Etidocaine	7.9
Prilocaine	8.0
Bupivacaine	8.1
Tetracaine	8.4

Local Anesthetic

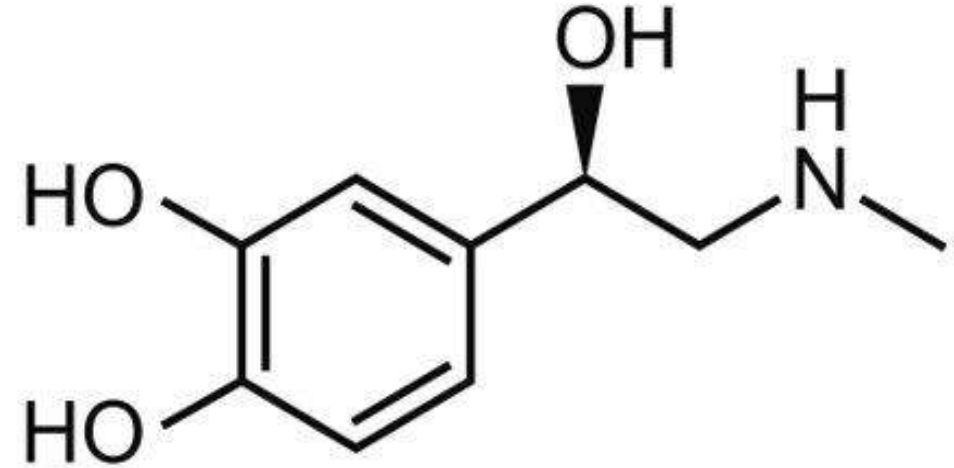
Other Characteristics

- **Potency**
 - Determined by lipid solubility
 - More lipid soluble = more potent
 - Less dose needs to achieve anesthesia
 - Measured by partition coefficient
- **Duration of action**
 - Determined by protein binding
 - High binding = long duration of action

Drug	Lipid Solubility	Protein Binding %
Lidocaine	110	70
Bupivacaine	560	95
Mepivacaine	42	77
Prilocaine	50	55

Adding Epinephrine

- All LA cause vasodilation except cocaine
- LA can be given with epinephrine
 - Causes vasoconstriction
 - Less bleeding
 - Less washout → more local effect



**EPINEPHRINE
(Adrenaline)**

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Differential Blockade

- Small fibers > large fibers
- Myelinated > unmyelinated

Order of Block	Fiber Type
1	Small, myelinated
2	Small, unmyelinated
3	Large, myelinated
4	Large, unmyelinated

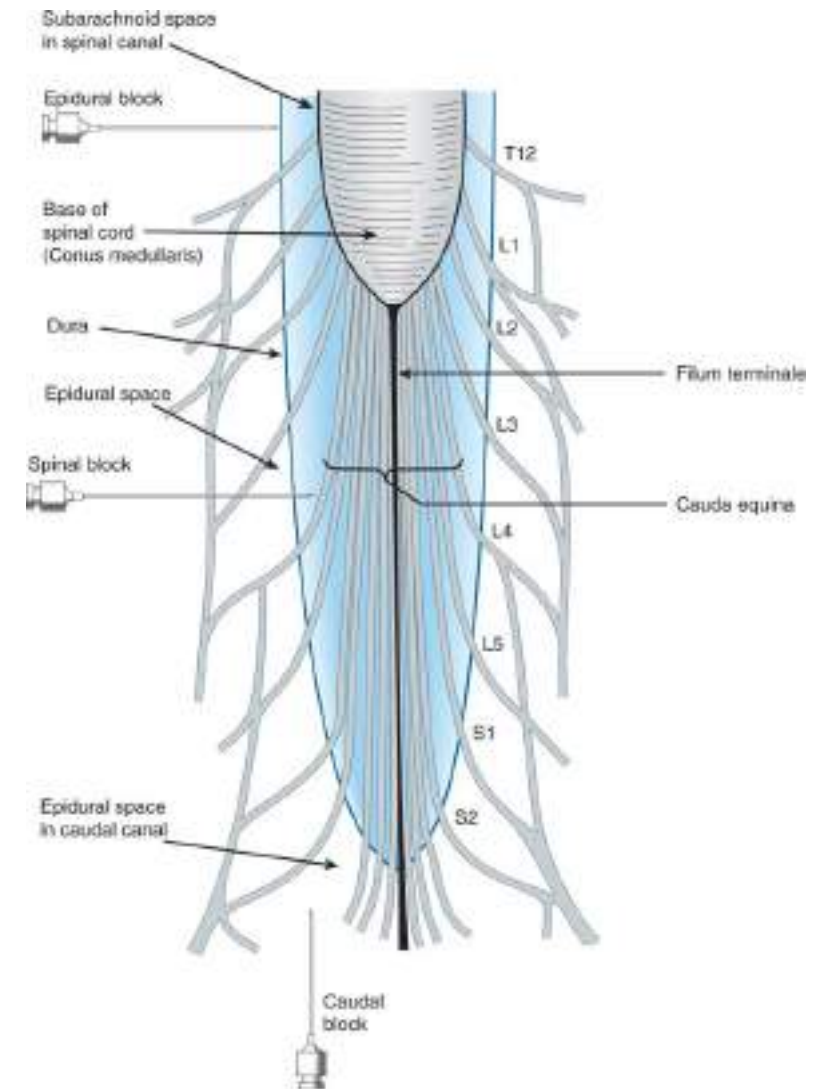
Differential Blockade

- Different effects on different senses
- Pain blocked first
- Pressure sense last

Order of Block	Fiber Type
1	Pain
2	Temp
3	Touch
4	Pressure

Local Anesthetics Uses

- Minor surgical procedures
- Epidural/spinal anesthesia

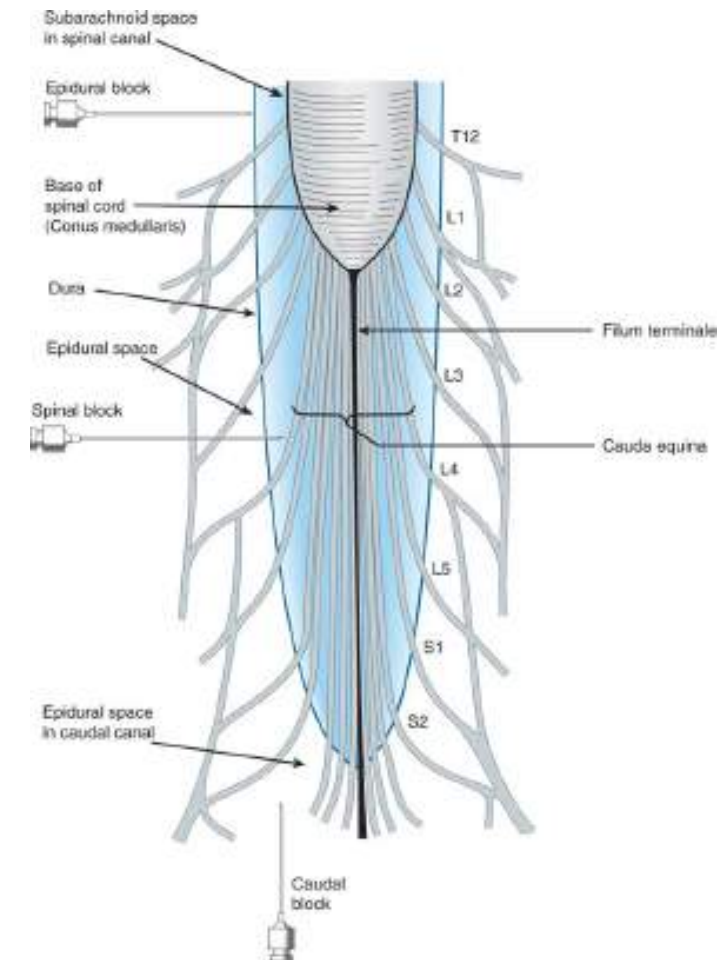


Source: Todd M. Vanderlin
Basic & Clinical Pharmacology, Sixteenth Edition
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Needle Pathway

Epidural and Spinal Anesthesia

- Skin/subcutaneous tissue
- **Supraspinous ligament**
 - Connects tips of spinous processes
- **Interspinous ligament**
 - Between adjacent spinous processes
- **Ligamentum flavum**
 - Thick, elastic ligament – makes a “pop” when needle passes
- Epidural space – drug injected here for epidural anesthesia
- Dura mater – second “pop”
- Arachnoid mater
- Subarachnoid space (CSF) - inject here for spinal anesthesia



Source: Todd W. Vanderzant,
Basic & Clinical Pharmacology, Sixteenth Edition
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Local Anesthetics Side Effects

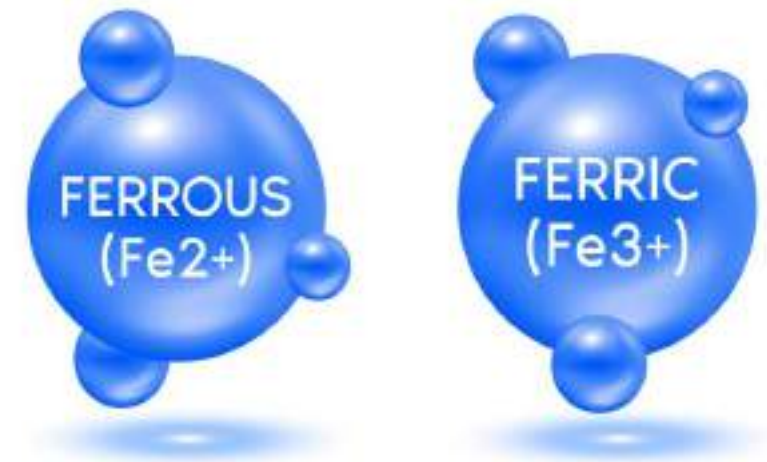
- CNS Stimulation
 - Initial (excitation): Talkativeness, anxiety, confusion, stuttering speech
 - Later: Drowsiness, coma
- Cardiovascular
 - Most cause vasodilation
 - Cocaine is exception: hypertension, vasoconstriction
 - Also bradycardia, heart block, arrhythmias
- Bupivacaine most cardiotoxic
 - Highly potent



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Methemoglobinemia

- Iron in hemoglobin normally reduced (Fe^{2+} ; ferrous)
- Certain drug oxidize iron to Fe^{3+} (ferric)
- When Fe^{3+} is present \rightarrow methemoglobin
- Fe^{3+} cannot bind oxygen
- Remaining Fe^{2+} cannot release O_2 to tissues
- Acquired methemoglobinemia from drugs
 - Local anesthetics (benzocaine)
 - Nitric oxide
 - Dapsone
- Treatment: methylene blue



Adisak Riwkratok/Shutterstock

Clinical Scenario

- Endoscopy patient
- Benzocaine spray used for throat analgesia
- Post procedure shortness of breath
- “Chocolate brown blood”
- O₂ sat (pulse oximetry) = variable (80s-90s)
- PaO₂ (blood gas) = normal
- Also premature babies given NO for pulmonary vasodilation



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Neuromuscular Blockers

Jason Ryan, MD, MPH

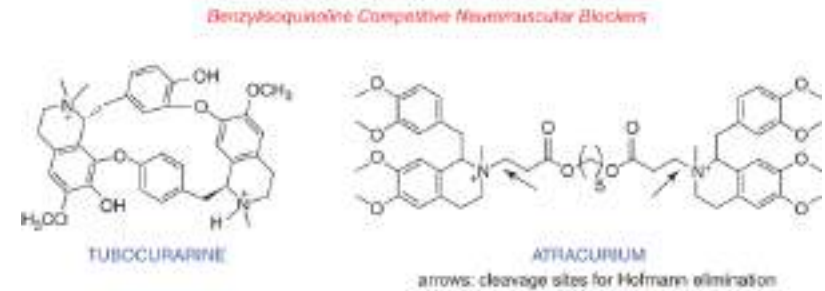
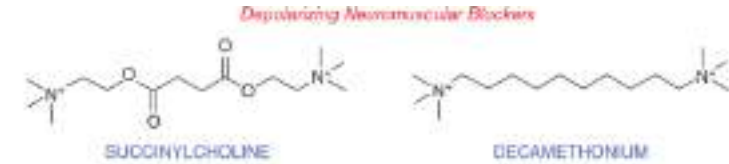
Types of Anesthesia Drugs

- Inhaled anesthetics
- Intravenous anesthetics
- Local anesthetics
- Neuromuscular blocking agents



Paralytics

- Tubocurarine
- Atracurium
- Mivacurium
- Pancuronium
- Vecuronium
- Rocuronium
- Succinylcholine

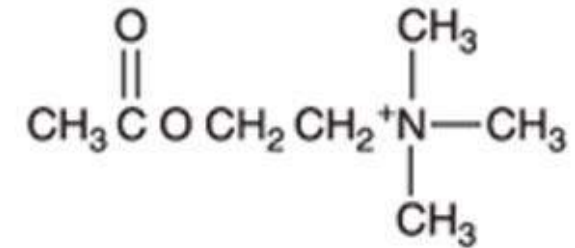


Source: Laurence L. Brunton, Björn C. Knudsen, Goodman & Gilman's: The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 14e, Copyright © McGraw Hill. All rights reserved.

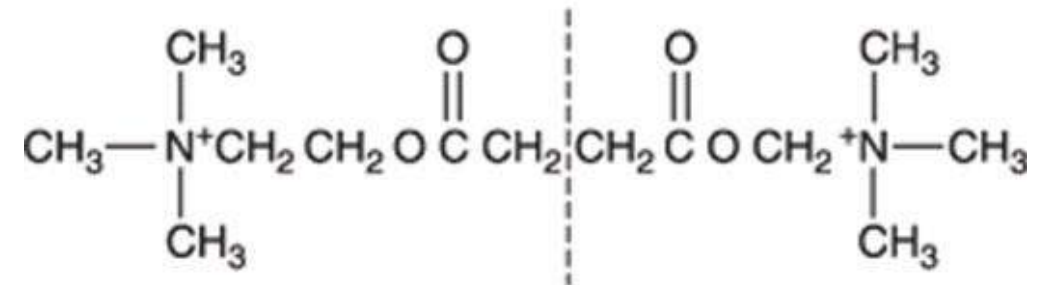
Succinylcholine

- Different from all other paralytics
- **DEPOLARIZING** neuromuscular blocker
- Two ACh molecules joined together
- Strong ACh (nicotinic) receptor agonist
- Sustained depolarization
- Prevents muscle contraction

Acetylcholine



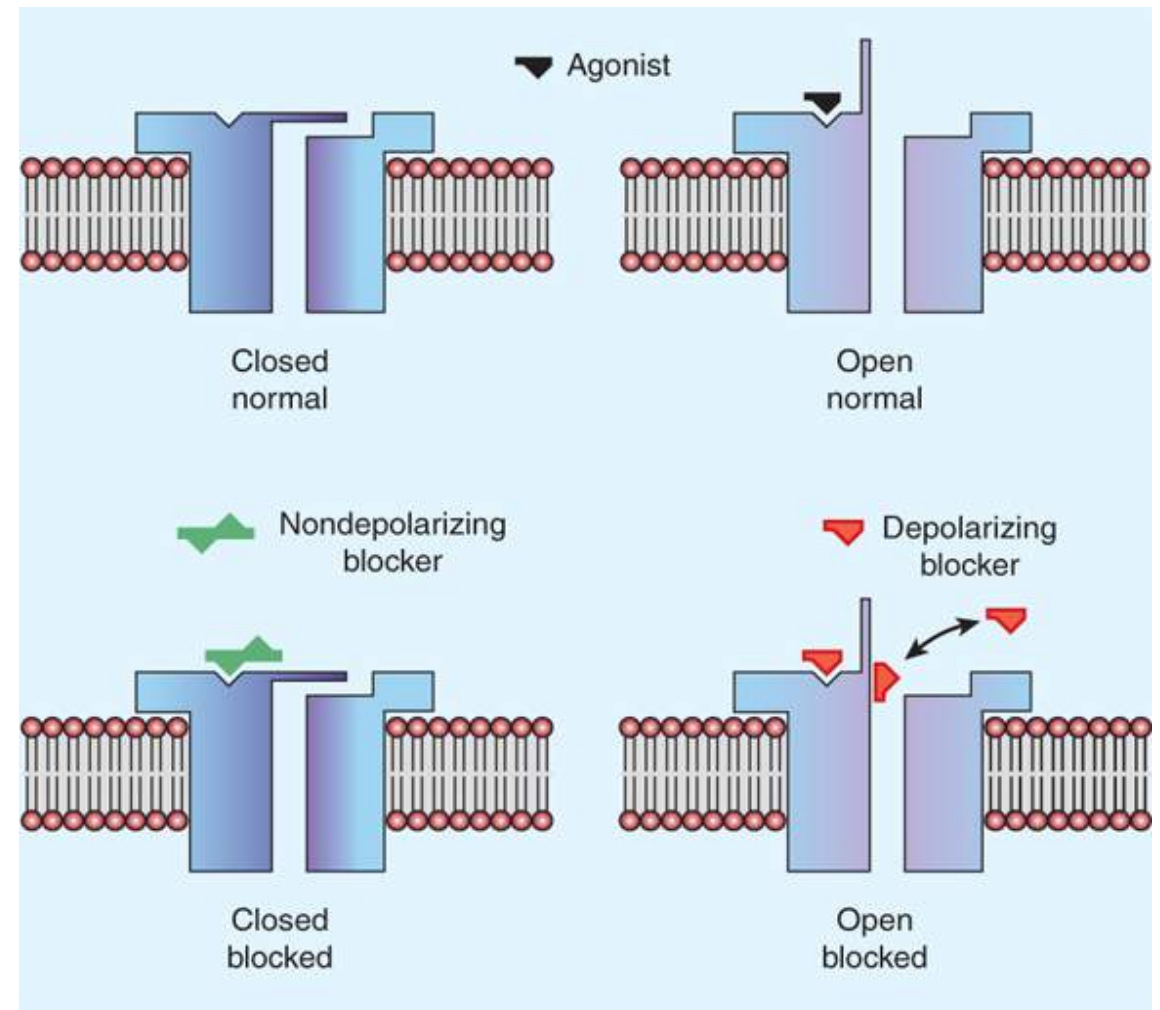
Succinylcholine (diacetylcholine)



Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition
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Succinylcholine

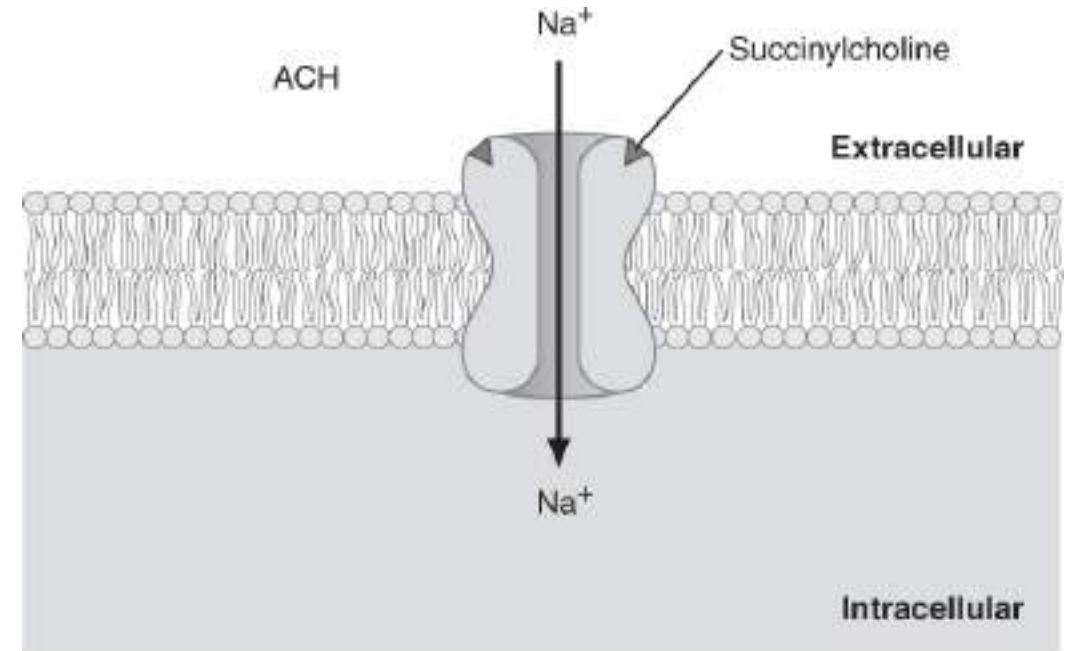
- Two phases to depolarizing block
- Phase 1
 - Depolarizing phase
 - **Muscle fasciculations occur**
- Phase 2
 - Desensitizing phase
 - Depolarization has occurred
 - Muscle no longer reacts to Ach
 - **Flaccid paralysis without fasciculation**



Source: E.E. Jobst, P.C. Panus, M. Kruidenring-Hall
Pharmacology for the Physical Therapist, Second Edition
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Succinylcholine – Phase 1

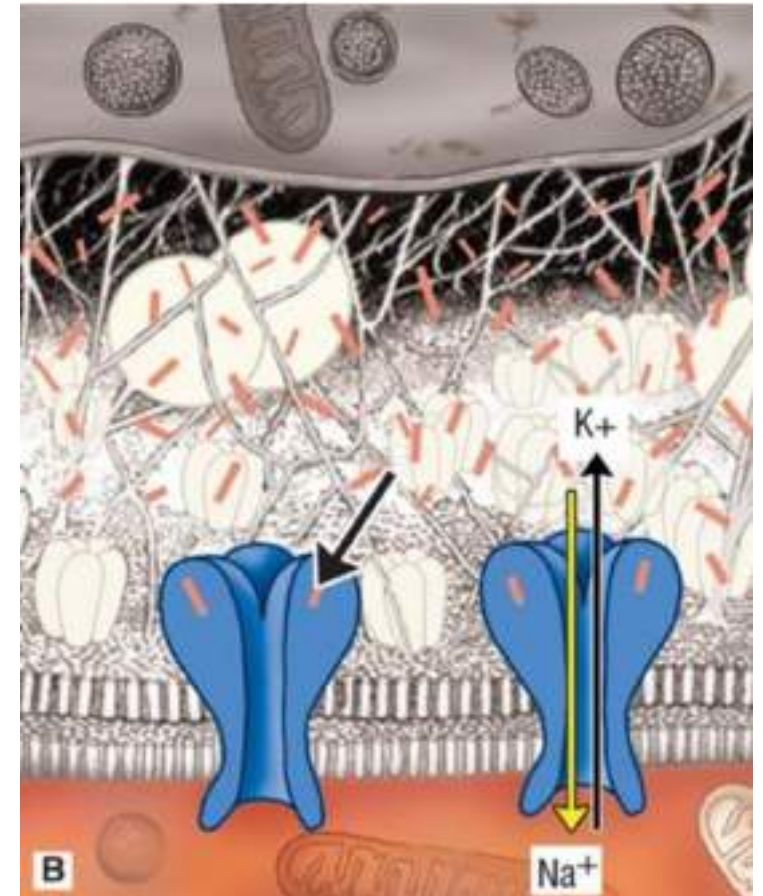
- Na channels open and then close - become inactivated
- **Muscle fasciculations occur**
- Membrane potential must reset
- Normally rapid as Ach hydrolyzed by AChE
- Succinylcholine NOT metabolized by AChE
- Prolonged activation of ACh receptors occurs
- No antidote
- Duration 5-10 min
- Desired type of block for brief paralysis



Source: Conley L, Pollock J, Voss PA, Pot B, Toy EC. CASE FILES®
Anesthesiology: www.anesthesiology.com
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Succinylcholine – Phase 2

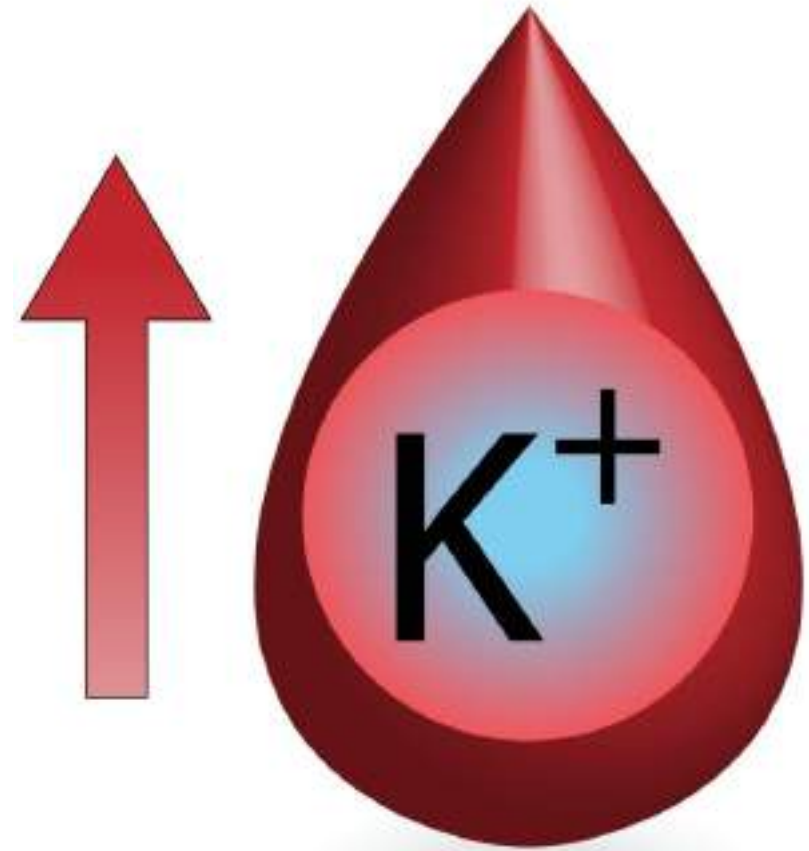
- Occurs with repeated doses or prolonged infusion
- **Flaccid paralysis without fasciculation**
- Desensitizing phase
- Normally ACh washed out quickly – no desensitization
- Longer depolarization (succ) → desensitization
- May be reversed by cholinesterase inhibitors
- Similar to non-depolarizing block
- Duration 20min-several hours



Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

Succinylcholine

- Fast acting
- Rapid washout
- Main side effect is $\uparrow K$
 - Caution in burn patients, dialysis patients
- Pseudocholinesterase deficiency
- Malignant hyperthermia



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Pseudocholinesterase Deficiency

- Unable to metabolize succinylcholine
- Prolonged paralysis
- “Slow to wake up” from anesthesia



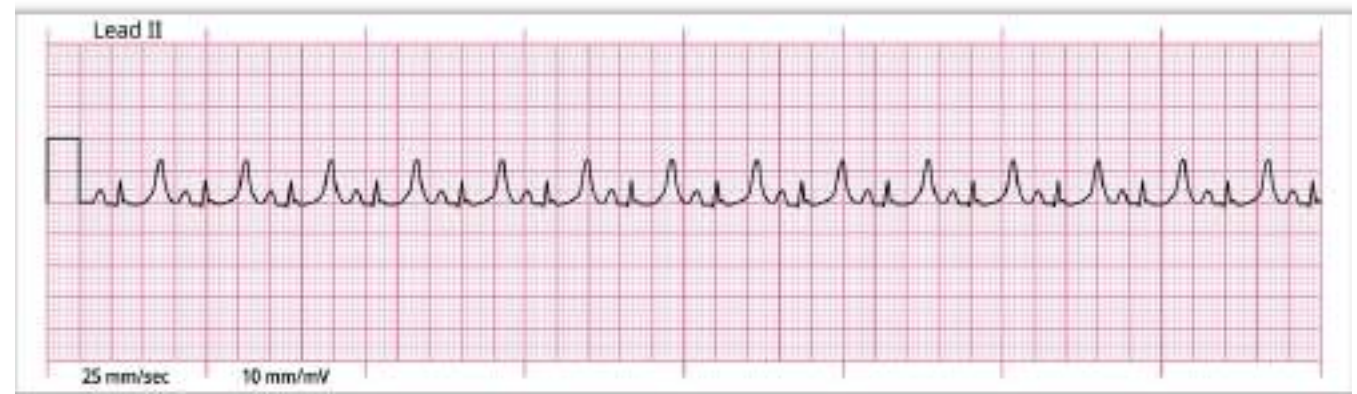
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Succinylcholine

Adverse Effects

- Exaggerated hyperkalemia
- May cause life-threatening arrhythmia
- Especially in the setting of burn/crush injury
- Especially denervating quadriplegia (receptor upregulation)
- MG have altered receptor sensitivity

Hyperkalemia



Alfa MD/Shutterstock

Malignant Hyperthermia

- Rare, dangerous reaction to drugs:
 - Inhaled anesthetics (sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane)
 - Succinylcholine in susceptible patients
- De novo or inherited (AD) mutations
- Ryanodine receptor (RYR1)
- Dihydropyridine receptors (DHPR)



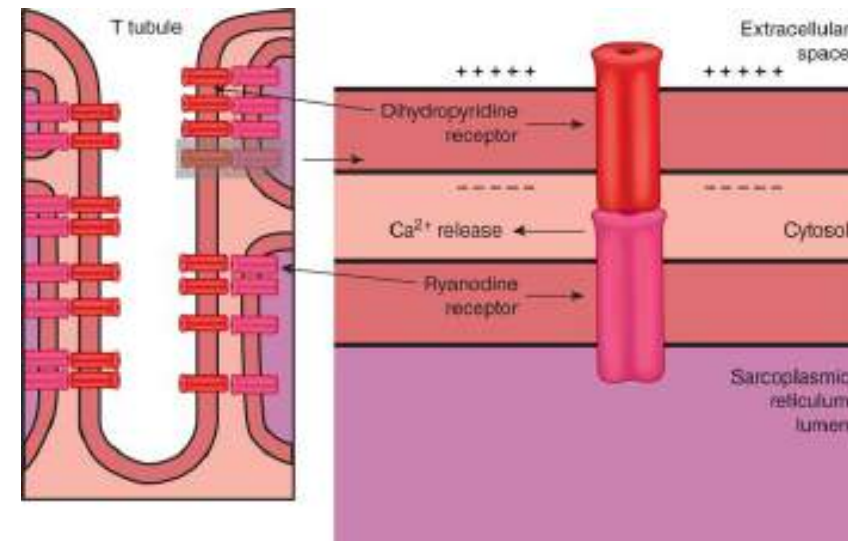
Malignant Hyperthermia

- High fever, muscle rigidity after/during surgery
- Tachycardia, hypertension
- Muscle damage (rhabdomyolysis): ↑K, CK
- Symptoms occur 1-12 hours after exposure



Malignant Hyperthermia

- Cause: ryanodine receptor sarcoplasmic reticulum
 - Ca channel in SR of muscle cells
 - Ca leads to consumption of ATP for SR reuptake
 - Sustained muscle contraction
 - ATP consumption leads to heat & therefore tissue damage
- Treat with dantrolene (ryanodine receptor antagonist)

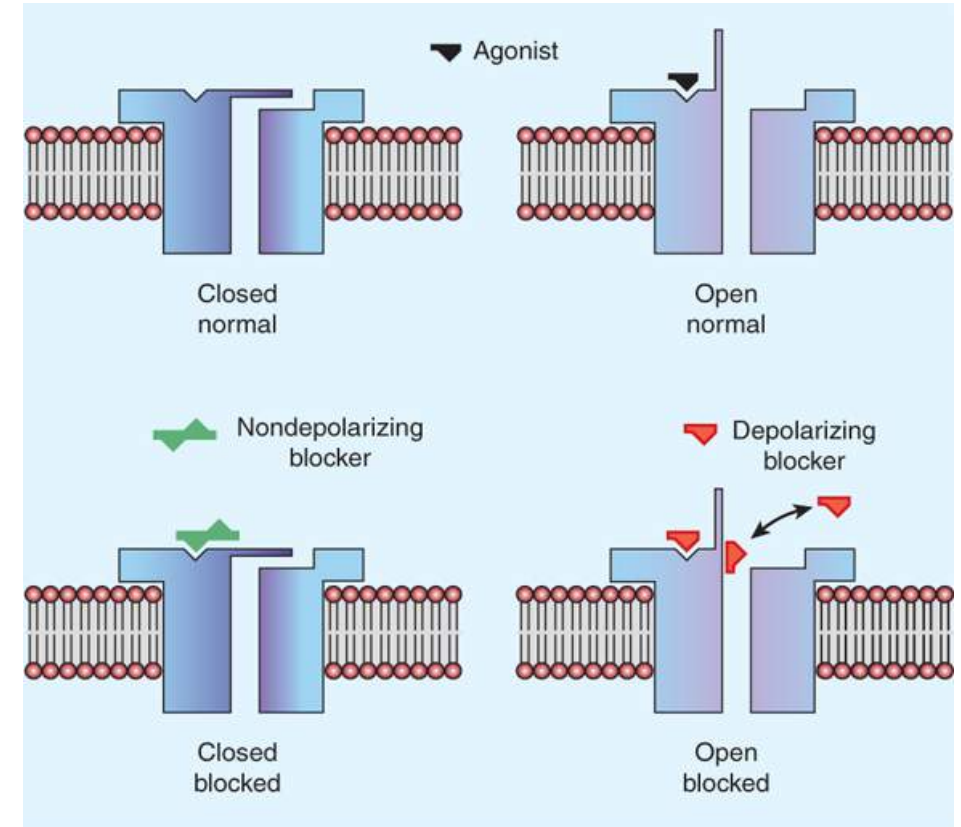


Source: K.E. Barrett, S.M. Barman, H.L. Brooks, Jason K.J. Yuan:
Ganong's Review of Medical Physiology, Twenty-Sixth Edition
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Non-depolarizing NMBA

Tubocurarine, Atracurium, Mivacurium, Pancuronium, Vecuronium, Rocuronium

- Competitive antagonists to ACh
- Compete with ACh for nicotinic receptors
- Produce paralysis
- Many cause marked histamine release
 - Hypotension → compensatory tachycardia
- Can be reversed by flooding synapse with ACh
- Done by inhibiting AChE

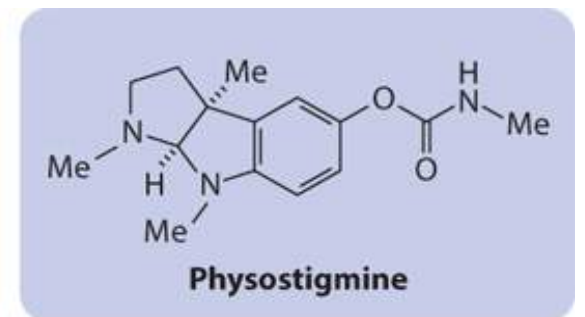
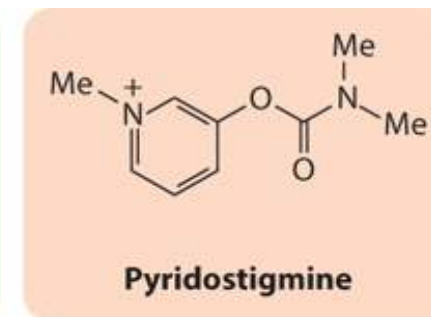


Source: E.E. Jobst, P.C. Panus, M. Kruidering-Hall
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AChE Inhibitors

Reversal of non-depolarizing neuromuscular blockers

- Physostigmine
- Neostigmine
- Pyridostigmine
- Edrophonium
- Often given with anticholinergics
 - Atropine, glycopyrrolate
 - Prevent muscarinic effects like bradycardia



Critical Illness Neuropathy/Myopathy

- Occurs in critically ill patients requiring ICU treatment
- Increased risk with older age
- May be associated with NMBA



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Assessing Neuromuscular Blockade

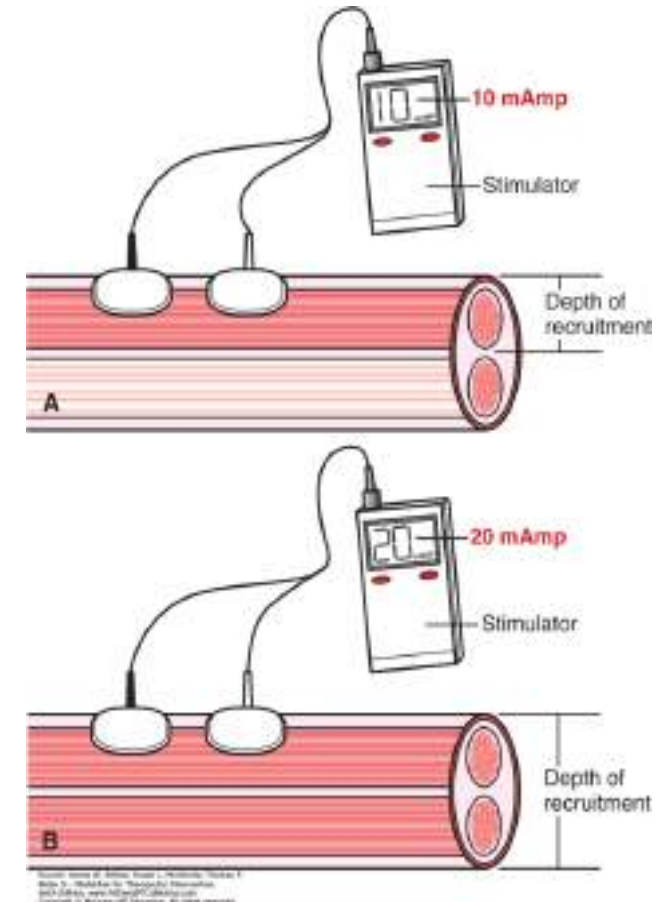
- Peripheral nerve stimulator
- Train of 4 impulses



Source: Admir Hadzic: Hadzic's Textbook of Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Management, Second Edition
www.AccessAnesthesiology.com
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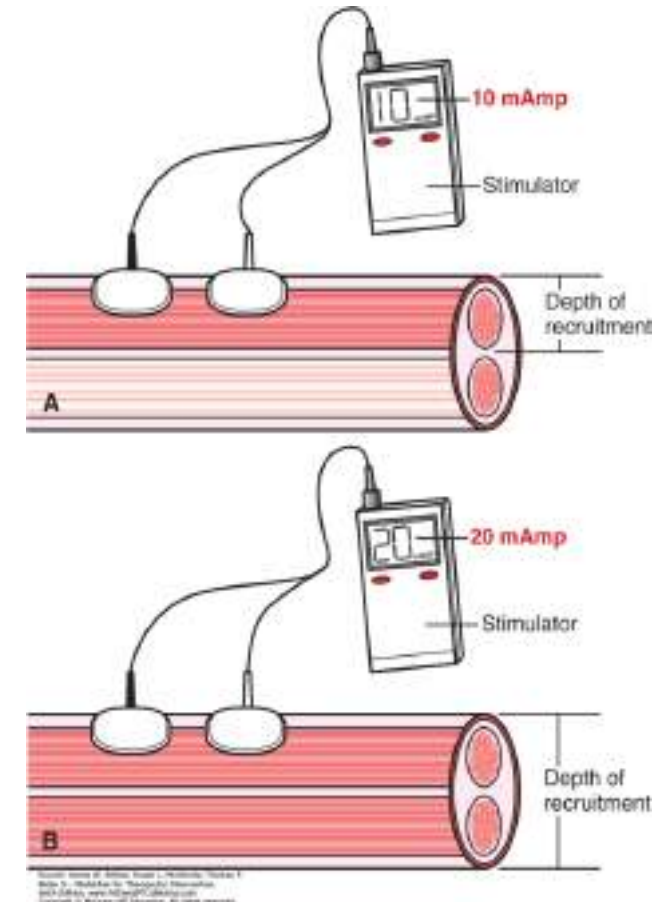
Train of 4

- Used to assess neuromuscular blockade in patients under anesthesia
- 4 electrical stimulations to nerve (i.e. ulnar)
 - Watch for finger twitches
- Goal usually 1/4 or 2/4
- Zero = all receptors blocked
 - No more drug needed
- Four = <75% of receptors blocked
 - May need more drug
 - Or may be okay to extubate



Train of 4

- **Nondepolarizing blockers**
 - Fade pattern
 - Progressively decreasing amplitude of responses
 - More block = twitches disappear
 - Fourth → third → second → first
- **Succinylcholine**
 - No fade pattern
 - All four twitches decline similarly
 - Unless phase 2 block: fade pattern



Rapid Sequence Intubation

- Standard practice for emergent intubation
- Renders patient sedated and flaccid
- Induction: Etomidate
 - Sometimes ketamine, benzos
- Paralysis: Succinylcholine
 - Ideal due to rapid onset/offset
 - Paralysis within 60 seconds
 - Rocuronium used if contraindication
 - HyperK, rhabdo, burns, denervation



A

Source: D.E. Longnecker, S.C. Mackey, M.F. Newman, W.S. Sandberg, W.M. Zapol: Anesthesiology, Third Edition Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.