



APPENDIX A

Definitions of Selected Drug Categories

A

Abortifacient: an agent that will induce an abortion.

Abradant: an agent that removes an external layer, such as dental plaque (pumice).

Absorbent: a drug that takes up other chemicals into its substance; it is used to reduce the free availability of toxic chemicals (polycarbophil, gastrointestinal absorbent).

ACE Inhibitor: see Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor.

Acidifier, Systemic: a drug that lowers the internal body pH; it is useful in restoring normal pH in patients with systemic alkalosis (ammonium chloride).

Acidifier, Urinary: a drug that lowers the pH of the renal filtrate and urine (sodium dihydrogen phosphate).

Adrenergic: a drug that activates organs innervated by the sympathetic nervous system; a sympathomimetic drug (epinephrine, norepinephrine).

Adrenocorticosteroid, Anti-Inflammatory: an adrenal cortex hormone that regulates organic metabolism and inhibits inflammatory response; a glucocorticoid (prednisolone, prednisone).

Adrenocorticosteroid, Salt-Regulating: an adrenal cortex hormone that regulates sodium/potassium balance in the body; a mineralocorticoid (desoxycorticosterone acetate).

Adrenocorticotropin Hormone: a hormone that stimulates the adrenal cortex to produce glucocorticoids (corticotropin).

Adsorbent: a drug that binds other chemicals onto its surface; it is used to reduce the free availability of toxic chemicals (kaolin, gastrointestinal adsorbent).

Agonist: a drug that reacts with and activates physiological receptors and induces the associated biologic response (morphine, opioid receptor agonist; isoproterenol, beta-adrenergic receptor agonist).

Alcohol-Abuse Deterrent: a drug that alters physiology so that unpleasant symptoms follow ingestion of ethanol-containing products (disulfiram).

Aldehyde Dehydrogenase Inhibitor: a drug that blocks the conversion of acetaldehyde to acetic acid by aldehyde dehydrogenase (disulfiram).

Alkalinizer, Systemic: a drug that raises the internal body pH; it is useful in restoring normal pH in patients with systemic acidosis (sodium bicarbonate).

Alkylating Agent: an antineoplastic drug that attacks malignant cells by reacting covalently with their DNA (chlorambucil).

Alpha Glucosidase Inhibitor: a drug that blocks the digestion of carbohydrates into simple sugars that will increase blood sugar levels (oral diabetic drugs).

Alpha Receptor Agonist: a drug that activates sympathetic nervous system alpha receptors, for example, to induce vasoconstriction (norepinephrine).

Alpha Receptor Antagonist: a drug that reacts asymptotically with sympathetic nervous system alpha receptors and prevents their endogenous activation, for example, to induce vasodilation (phentolamine).

Alpha Reductase Inhibitor: a drug that decreases the levels of available 5 α -reductase prior to testosterone's binding with the enzyme, reducing levels of dihydrotestosterone.

Amebicide: an agent used to treat amoebic infections (metronidazole).

Anabolic Steroid: an androgen analogue with relatively greater anabolic activity; it is used to treat catabolic disorders (methandrostenolone).

Analeptic: a central nervous system stimulant, sometimes used to stimulate respiration during severe central nervous system depression (doxapram, modafinil).

Analgesic: a drug that suppresses pain perception (nociception) without inducing unconsciousness (morphine sulfate, opioid analgesic; aspirin, nonopioid analgesic).

Androgen: a hormone that stimulates and maintains male reproductive function and sex characteristics (testosterone).

Anesthetic, General: a drug that eliminates pain perception by inducing unconsciousness (ether, inhalation anesthetic; thiopental sodium, intravenous anesthetic; midazolam).

Anesthetic, Local: a drug that eliminates pain perception in a limited body area by local action on sensory nerves (procaine, lidocaine).

Anesthetic, Topical: a local anesthetic that is effective upon application to mucous membranes (tetracaine).

Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits biotransformation of angiotensin I into vasoconstricting angiotensin II; it is used to treat hypertension (captopril, ramipril).

Anorexiant: a drug that acts on the brain to reduce the appetite.

Anorexic: a drug that suppresses appetite, usually by elevating mood (phentermine, sibutramine).

Antacid: a drug that neutralizes excess gastric acid (calcium carbonate).

Antagonist: a drug that reacts asymptotically with physiological receptors and prevents their endogenous activation (naloxone, opioid receptor antagonist; propranolol and metoprolol, beta-adrenergic receptor antagonists).

Anthelmintic: a drug that eradicates intestinal worm infestations (mebendazole).

Antiacne Agent: a drug that combats the lesions of acne vulgaris (isotretinoin).

Antiadrenergic: a drug that inhibits response to sympathetic nerve impulses and adrenergic drugs; a sympatholytic drug (phentolamine, alpha adrenergic antagonist; metoprolol, beta-adrenergic antagonist).

Antiamoebic: a drug that kills or inhibits protozoan parasites such as *Entamoeba histolytica*, causative agent of amebiasis (metronidazole, intestinal antiamoebic; chloroquine, extraintestinal antiamoebic).

Antiandrogen: a drug that inhibits response to androgenic hormones.

Antianemic: a drug used to treat anemia; see Hematopoietic, Hematinic (ferrous sulfate).

Antianginal: a coronary vasodilator useful in preventing or treating attacks of angina pectoris (nitroglycerin).

Antiarrhythmic: a cardiac depressant useful in suppressing rhythm irregularities of the heart (amiodarone HCl; procainamide).

Antiarthritic: a drug that reduces the joint inflammation of arthritis (anakinra, celecoxib, ibuprofen).

Antibacterial: a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic bacteria (penicillin G, systemic antibacterial; nitrofurantoin, urinary antibacterial; bacitracin, topical antibacterial).

Antibiotic: a drug originally of microbial origin used to kill or inhibit bacterial and other infections (clarithromycin, penicillin, levofloxacin).

Anticholesterol Agent: a drug that lowers plasma cholesterol level (cholestyramine resin;

atorvastatin, rosuvastatin calcium; simvastatin; ezetimibe).

Anticholinergic: a drug that inhibits response to parasympathetic nerve impulses and cholinergic drugs; a parasympatholytic drug (ipratropium bromide).

Anticholinesterase Antidote: a drug that reactivates cholinesterase enzyme after its inactivation by organophosphate poisons (pralidoxime).

Anticoagulant Antagonist: a drug that opposes overdosage of anticoagulant drugs (phytonadione, supplies vitamin K to oppose vitamin K-antagonist anticoagulants).

Anticoagulant, for Storage of Whole Blood: a nontoxic agent added to collected blood to prevent clotting (anticoagulant citrate dextrose solution).

Anticoagulant, Systemic: a drug administered to slow the clotting of circulating blood (warfarin sodium).

Anticonvulsant: an antiepileptic drug administered prophylactically to prevent seizures, or a drug that arrests convulsions by inducing general central nervous system depression (phenytoin, antiepileptic prophylactic; diazepam, central nervous system depressant anticonvulsant).

Antidepressant: a centrally acting drug that induces mood elevation, useful in treating mental depression (amitriptyline).

Antidiabetic: a drug that supplies insulin or stimulates the secretion of insulin; it is useful in treating diabetes mellitus (insulin injection, supplies insulin; glipizide, stimulates insulin secretion; pioglitazone HCl, exenatide).

Antidiarrheal: a drug that inhibits intestinal peristalsis; it is used to treat diarrhea (diphenoxylate; bismuth subsalicylate; loperamide HCl).

Antidiuretic: a drug that promotes renal water reabsorption, thus reducing urine volume; it is used to treat neurogenic diabetes insipidus (desmopressin).

Antidote, General Purpose: a drug that reduces the effects of ingested poisons (or drug overdoses) by adsorbing toxic material (activated charcoal).

Antidote, Specific: a drug that reduces the effects of a systemic poison (or drug overdose) by a mechanism that relates to the particular poison (dimercaprol, specific antidote for arsenic, mercury, and gold poisoning; flumazenil, complete or partial reversal of the sedative effects of benzodiazepines).

Antieczematic: a topical drug that aids in control of chronic exudative skin lesions (coal tar).

- Antiemetic:** a drug that suppresses nausea and vomiting (ondansetron hydrochloride).
- Antineuritic:** a drug that aids in control of bed-wetting (enuresis) (imipramine).
- Antiepileptic:** a drug that prevents epileptic seizures upon prophylactic administration (valproic acid; topiramate).
- Antiestrogen:** a drug that inhibits the action of estrogenic hormones (tamoxifen).
- Antifibrinolytic:** a drug that promotes hemostasis by inhibiting clot dissolution (fibrinolysis) (aminocaproic acid).
- Antifilarial:** a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic filarial worms (diethylcarbamazine).
- Antiflatulent:** a drug that reduces gastrointestinal gas (simethicone).
- Antifungal, Systemic:** a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic fungi (fluconazole).
- Antifungal, Topical:** a drug applied externally to kill or inhibit pathogenic fungi (tolnaftate).
- Antiglaucoma Agent:** a drug that lowers intraocular fluid pressure; it is used to treat glaucoma (methazolamide and acetazolamide reduce fluid formation; isofluorophate promotes fluid drainage).
- Antigonadotropin:** a drug that inhibits anterior pituitary secretion of gonadotropins; it is used to suppress ovarian malfunction (danazol).
- Antigout Agent:** a drug that reduces tissue deposits of uric acid in chronic gout or suppresses the intense inflammatory reaction of acute gout (allopurinol for chronic gout; indomethacin for acute gout).
- Antihemophilic:** a drug that replaces blood clotting factors absent in the hereditary disease hemophilia (antihemophilic factor).
- Antih herpes Agent:** a drug that inhibits replication of herpes simplex virus; it is used to treat genital herpes (acyclovir).
- Antihistaminic:** a drug that antagonizes histamine action at H1 histamine receptors; it is useful in suppressing the histamine-induced symptoms of allergy (chlorpheniramine maleate; cetirizine, fexofenadine HCl).
- Antihyperlipidemic:** a drug that lowers plasma cholesterol and lipid levels (atorvastatin).
- Antihypertensive:** a drug that lowers arterial blood pressure, especially the elevated diastolic pressure of hypertension (metoprolol; atenolol).
- Antihypocalcemic:** a drug that elevates plasma calcium level; it is useful in treating hypocalcemia (parathyroid injection).
- Antihypoglycemic:** a drug that elevates plasma glucose level; it is useful in treating hypoglycemia (glucagon).
- Anti-infective, Topical (or Local):** a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic microorganisms and is suitable for sterilizing skin and wounds (povidone iodine liquid soap).
- Anti-inflammatory:** a drug that inhibits physiological response to cell damage (inflammation) (prednisolone, adrenocorticosteroid; ibuprofen, nonsteroid).
- Antileishmanial:** a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic protozoa of the genus *Leishmania* (hydroxystilbamidine isethionate).
- Antileprotic:** a drug that kills or inhibits *Mycobacterium leprae*, the causative agent of leprosy (dapsone).
- Antilipemic:** an agent that reduces lipid levels in the blood.
- Antimalarial:** a drug that kills or inhibits protozoa of the genus *Plasmodium*, the causative agents of malaria (chloroquine).
- Antimanic:** a drug that suppresses the excitement phase (mania) of bipolar disorder (lithium carbonate).
- Antimetabolite:** a drug that attacks malignant cells or pathogenic cells by serving as a non-functional substitute for an essential metabolite (fluorouracil, antineoplastic antimetabolite).
- Antimigraine Agent:** a drug that reduces incidence or severity of migraine vascular headaches (sumatriptan).
- Anti-Motion Sickness Agent:** a drug that suppresses motion-induced nausea, vomiting, and vertigo (dimenhydrinate hydrochloride).
- Antimuscarinic:** an anticholinergic drug that inhibits symptoms mediated by acetylcholine receptors of visceral organs (muscarinic receptors) (atropine sulfate).
- Antinauseant:** a drug that suppresses nausea and vomiting; an antiemetic (ondansetron).
- Antineoplastic:** a drug that attacks malignant (neoplastic) cells in the body (chlorambucil, alkylating agent).
- Antiparasitic:** a drug that eradicates parasitic arthropods, helminths, protozoa, etc. (permethrin for scabies, mebendazole for intestinal worms, metronidazole for amebic dysentery, malathion for head lice).
- Antiparkinsonian (antidyskinetic):** a drug that suppresses the neurologic disturbances and symptoms of parkinsonism (levodopa).
- Antiperistaltic:** a drug that inhibits intestinal motility; an antiarrheal drug (diphenoxylate hydrochloride).
- Antiplatelet Agent:** a drug that inhibits aggregation of blood platelets; it is used to prevent heart attack (aspirin; clopidogrel bisulfate).

Antiprogestin: a type of hormone antagonist that antagonizes or suppresses the actions of progesterone (mifepristone).

Antiprotozoal: a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic protozoa (metronidazole).

Antipruritic: a drug that reduces itching (pruritus) (trimeprazine, systemic antipruritic; menthol, topical antipruritic).

Antipsoriatic: a drug that suppresses the lesions and symptoms of psoriasis (methotrexate, systemic antipsoriatic; anthralin, topical antipsoriatic).

Antipsychotic: a drug that suppresses the symptoms of psychoses of various diagnostic types (haloperidol).

Antipyretic: a drug that restores normal body temperature in the presence of fever (acetaminophen).

Antirachitic: a drug with vitamin D activity; it is useful in treating vitamin D deficiency and rickets (cholecalciferol).

Antiretroviral: a group of drugs used to treat infections caused by retroviruses, especially HIV.

Antirheumatic: an anti-inflammatory drug used to treat arthritis and rheumatoid disorders (indomethacin).

Antirickettsial: a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic microorganisms of the genus *Rickettsia* (chloramphenicol).

Antischistosomal: a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic flukes of the genus *Schistosoma* (oxamniquine).

Antiscorbutic: a drug with vitamin C activity; it is useful in treating vitamin C deficiency and scurvy (ascorbic acid).

Antiseborrheic: a drug that aids in the control of seborrheic dermatitis (dandruff) (selenium sulfide).

Antisecretory: an agent that acts to reduce or inhibit gastric secretions.

Antispasmodic: a drug that inhibits the motility of visceral smooth muscles (atropine).

Antithyroid Agent: a drug that reduces thyroid hormone action, usually by inhibiting hormone synthesis (methimazole).

Antitreponemal: a drug that kills or inhibits *Treponema pallidum*, the causative agent of syphilis (penicillin).

Antitrichomonal: a drug that kills or inhibits pathogenic protozoa of the genus *Trichomonas* (metronidazole).

Antitubercular: a drug that kills or inhibits *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the causative agent of tuberculosis (isoniazid).

Antitussive: a drug that suppresses coughing (dextromethorphan hydrobromide).

Antiviral: a drug that kills or inhibits viral infections (idoxuridine, ophthalmic antiviral).

Antiviral, Prophylactic: a drug useful in preventing (rather than treating) viral infections (amantadine, prophylactic for influenza).

Antixerophthalmic: a drug with vitamin A activity; it is useful in treating vitamin A deficiency and xerophthalmia (vitamin A).

Anxiolytic: a drug that suppresses symptoms of anxiety (diazepam; alprazolam).

Astringent: a drug used topically to toughen and shrink tissues (aluminum acetate solution).

Astringent, Ophthalmic: a mild astringent suitable for use in the eye (zinc sulfate).

B

Barbiturate: a sedative-hypnotic drug that contains the barbituric acid moiety in its chemical structure (phenobarbital).

Belladonna Alkaloid: a plant principle derived from *Atropa belladonna* and related species, with anticholinergic action (atropine).

Benzodiazepine: a sedative-anxiolytic-muscle relaxant drug that contains the benzodiazepine moiety in its chemical structure (diazepam).

Beta Receptor Agonist: a drug that activates sympathetic nervous system beta receptors, for example, to induce bronchodilation (isoproterenol).

Beta Receptor Antagonist: a drug that reacts asymptotically with sympathetic nervous system beta receptors and prevents their endogenous activation, for example, to oppose sympathetic stimulation of the heart (atenolol, metoprolol, propranolol).

Bisphosphonate: also called diphosphonates, are a class of drugs that are used to prevent the loss of bone mass.

Bone Metabolism Regulator: a drug that slows calcium turnover in bone; it is used to treat Paget disease (etidronate).

Bronchodilator: a drug that expands broncholar airways; it is useful in treating asthma (albuterol and isoproterenol, adrenergic bronchodilators; oxtriphylline, smooth muscle relaxant bronchodilator).

C

Calcium Channel Blocker: an antianginal drug that acts by impairing the function of transmembrane calcium channels of vascular smooth muscle cells (verapamil).

Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits the enzyme carbonic anhydrase, the therapeutic effects of which are diuresis and

- reduced formation of intraocular fluid (acetazolamide).
- Cardiac Depressant, Antiarrhythmic:** a drug that depresses myocardial function; it is useful in treating cardiac arrhythmias (procainamide).
- Cardiac Glycoside:** a plant principle derived from *Digitalis purpurea* and related species, with cardiotonic action (digoxin).
- Cardiotonic:** a drug that increases myocardial contractile force; it is useful in treating congestive heart failure (digoxin).
- Catecholamine Synthesis Inhibitor:** a drug that inhibits the biosynthesis of catecholamine neurotransmitters such as norepinephrine (metyrosine).
- Cathartic:** a drug that promotes defecation, usually considered stronger in action than a laxative (bisacodyl).
- Caustic:** a topical drug that destroys tissue on contact; it is useful in removing skin lesions (toughened silver nitrate).
- Cauterizing Agent:** an agent that “burns” off a part of the body to remove or close it off (silver nitrate).
- Centrally Acting Drug:** a drug that produces its therapeutic effect by action on the central nervous system, usually designated by the type of therapeutic action (sedative, hypnotic, anticonvulsant, etc.).
- Cephalosporin:** an antimicrobial drug that contains the cephalosporin moiety in its chemical structure (cefotaxime; cefdinir).
- Chelating Agent:** a complexing agent that binds metal ions into stable ring structures (chelates); it is useful in treating poisoning (edetate calcium disodium, chelating agent for lead).
- Cholelitholytic:** a drug that promotes dissolution of gallstones (ursodeoxycholic acid).
- Choleretic:** a drug that increases bile secretion by the liver (dehydrocholic acid).
- Cholinergic:** a drug that activates organs innervated by the parasympathetic nervous system; a parasympathomimetic drug (neostigmine, systemic cholinergic; pilocarpine, ophthalmic cholinergic).
- Chrysotherapeutic:** a drug containing gold; it is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis (auranofin).
- Coagulant:** see Hemostatic, Systemic.
- Contraceptive, Oral:** an orally administered drug that prevents conception. Currently available oral contraceptives are for use by females (norethindrone acetate and ethinyl estradiol tablets).
- Contraceptive, Topical:** a spermicidal agent used topically in the vagina to prevent conception (nonoxynol 9).
- Contraceptive, Transdermal:** topically administered drugs that prevent conception (norelgestromin/ethinyl estradiol).
- Contraceptive, Vaginal:** intravaginal ring inserted releasing drugs that prevent conception (etonogestrel/ethinyl estradiol).
- Corticosteroid:** an agent that includes the steroid hormones naturally produced in the adrenal cortex; it includes cortisol (hydrocortisone) and others.
- Cycloplegic:** an anticholinergic drug used topically in the eye to induce paralysis of accommodation (cycloplegia) and dilation of the pupil (cyclopentolate).
- D**
- Decongestant, Nasal:** an adrenergic drug used orally or topically to induce vasoconstriction in nasal passages (phenylephrine HCl; pseudoephedrine HCl).
- Demulcent:** a bland viscous liquid, usually water based, used to coat and soothe damaged or inflamed skin or mucous membranes (methylcellulose).
- Dental Caries Prophylactic:** a drug applied to the teeth to reduce the incidence of cavities (sodium fluoride).
- Dentin Desensitizer:** a drug applied to the teeth to reduce the sensitivity of exposed subenamel dentin (potassium nitrate).
- Depigmenting Agent:** a drug that inhibits melanin production in the skin; it is used to induce general depigmentation in certain splotchy depigmented conditions (e.g., vitiligo) (hydroquinone).
- Detergent:** an emulsifying agent used as a cleanser (hexachlorophene liquid soap, antiinfective detergent).
- Diagnostic Aid:** a drug used to determine the functional state of a body organ or to determine the presence of a disease (peptavlon, gastric secretion indicator; fluorescein sodium, corneal trauma indicator).
- Digestive Aid:** a drug that promotes digestion, usually by supplementing a gastrointestinal enzyme (pancreatin).
- Disinfectant:** an agent that destroys microorganisms on contact and is suitable for sterilizing inanimate objects (formaldehyde solution).
- Diuretic:** a drug that promotes renal excretion of electrolytes and water; it is useful in treating generalized edema (furosemide, loop diuretic; hydrochlorothiazide, thiazide diuretic; triamterene, potassium-sparing diuretic).
- Dopamine Receptor Agonist:** a drug that activates dopamine receptors, for example, to

inhibit anterior pituitary secretion of prolactin (bromocriptine; pramipexole dihydrochloride; ropinirole HCl).

E

Emetic: a drug that induces vomiting; it is useful in expelling ingested but unabsorbed poisons (ipecac syrup).

Emollient: a topical drug, especially an oil or fat, used to soften the skin and make it more pliable (cold cream).

Endothelin Receptor Antagonist: a drug that blocks endothelin receptors for treatment of a number of diseases, including pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Enzyme: a molecule that catalyzes a chemical reaction.

Epidermal Growth Factor: a growth factor that stimulates cell growth, proliferation, and differentiation by binding to its receptor EGFR.

Ergot Alkaloid: a plant principle derived from the fungus *Claviceps purpurea* grown on rye or other grains (ergonovine, uterine contractant; ergotamine, migraine therapy).

Estrogen: a hormone that stimulates and maintains female reproductive organs and sex characteristics and functions in the uterine cycle (ethinyl estradiol).

Expectorant: a drug that increases respiratory tract secretions, lowers their viscosity, and promotes removal (guaifenesin).

F

Fecal Softener: a drug that promotes defecation by softening the feces (docusate sodium).

Fertility Agent: a drug that promotes ovulation in women of low fertility or spermatogenesis in men of low fertility (clomiphene).

Fibrinolytic Proteolytic: an enzyme drug used topically to hydrolyze the exudates of infected and inflammatory lesions (fibrinolysin and desoxyribonuclease, bovine).

G

GABA Agonist: a drug that acts to stimulate or increase the action at the GABA receptor, producing typically sedative effects, and may cause other effects such as anxiolytic and muscle relaxant effects.

Galactokinetic: a drug used to initiate lactation after childbirth (oxytocin nasal spray).

Gastric Acid Secretion Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits the secretion of gastric acid, as shown by the proton pump inhibitors.

Gastroprokinetic: a drug that increases gastrointestinal motility by increasing the frequency

of contractions in the small intestine or making them stronger, without disrupting their rhythm.

Glucocorticoid: an adrenocortical hormone that regulates organic metabolism and inhibits inflammatory response (betamethasone; prednisone).

Glutamate Inhibitor: a drug that will block the action of glutamic acid/glutamate.

Gonadotropin: a drug that supplies the gonad-stimulating actions of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and/or luteinizing hormone (LH); it is used to promote fertility (menotropins contain FSH and LH; human chorionic gonadotropin has LH-like activity).

Growth Hormone, Human: a drug that duplicates endogenous growth hormone; it is used in children to treat growth failure due to the lack of growth hormone (somatrem).

H

Heavy Metal Antagonist: a drug used as an antidote to poisoning with toxic metals such as arsenic and mercury (dimercaprol).

Hematinic: a drug that promotes hemoglobin formation by supplying iron (ferrous sulfate).

Hematopoietic: a vitamin that stimulates the formation of blood cells; it is useful in treating vitamin-deficiency anemia (cyanocobalamin).

Hemorheologic Agent: a drug that improves the flow properties of blood by reducing viscosity (pentoxifylline).

Hemostatic, Local: a drug applied to a bleeding surface to promote clotting or to serve as a clot matrix (thrombin, clot promoter; oxidized cellulose, clot matrix).

Hemostatic, Systemic: a drug that stops bleeding by inhibiting systemic fibrinolysis (aminocaproic acid).

Histamine H₁ Receptor Antagonist: a drug used to combat the histamine-induced symptoms of allergy; an antihistamine (diphenhydramine hydrochloride).

Histamine H₂ Receptor Antagonist: a drug that inhibits histamine-mediated gastric acid secretion; it is used to treat peptic and duodenal ulcers (famotidine).

HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits the rate-controlling enzyme of the mevalonate pathway, the metabolic pathway that produces cholesterol and other isoprenoids.

Hormone: a drug that duplicates the action of a physiological cell regulator (hormone) (insulin, estradiol, thyroxine).

Hydantoin: an antiepileptic drug that contains the hydantoin moiety in its chemical structure (phenytoin sodium).

Hydrolytic, Injectable: an enzyme drug that promotes the diffusion of other injected drugs through connective tissues (hyaluronidase).

Hyperglycemic: a drug that elevates blood glucose level (glucagon).

Hypnotic: a central nervous system depressant used to induce sleep (eszopiclone; flurazepam, zolpidem tartrate).

Hypoglycemic: a condition of low blood sugar.

Hypotensive: see Antihypertensive.

I

Immunizing Agent, Active: an antigen that induces antibody production against a pathogenic microorganism; it is used to provide permanent but delayed protection against infection (tetanus toxoid).

Immunizing Agent, Passive: a drug containing antibodies against a pathogenic microorganism; it is used to provide immediate but temporary protection against infection (tetanus immune globulin, rabies immune globulin).

Immunoglobulin: antibody protein derived from blood serum; it is used to confer passive immunity to infectious diseases (see Immunizing Agent, Passive).

Immunosuppressant: a drug that inhibits immune response to foreign materials; it is used to suppress rejection of tissue grafts (azathioprine).

Inotropic Agent: a drug that increases the contractile strength of heart muscle; a cardiotonic (digoxin, digitoxin, dopamine).

Ion Exchange Resin: a drug in the gastrointestinal tract that takes up ions present in a toxic amount with an equivalent release of nontoxic ions (sodium polystyrene sulfonate, takes up potassium ions with the release of sodium ions).

Irritant, Local: a drug that reacts weakly and non-specifically with biologic tissue; it is used topically to induce a mild inflammatory response (camphor).

K

Keratolytic: a topical drug that toughens and protects skin (compound benzoin tincture, salicylic acid).

L

Laxative: a drug that promotes defecation, usually considered milder in action than a cathartic (psyllium mucilloid, bulk laxative; mineral oil, lubricant laxative; sodium phosphates oral solution, saline laxative; bisacodyl, irritant laxative).

Leprostastic: see Antileprotic.

Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist: a drug that inhibits leukotrienes or fatty compounds produced by the immune system that cause inflammation in asthma and bronchitis and constrict airways.

Lipase Inhibitor: a drug used to reduce the activity of lipases found in the intestine secreted by the pancreas when fat is present.

Loop Diuretic: a diuretic with renal site of action in the thick ascending loop of Henle (furosemide).

Lung Surfactant: a surface-active lipoprotein complex (phospholipoprotein) formed by type II alveolar cells.

M

MAO Inhibitor: see Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor.

Metal Complexing Agent: a drug that binds metal ions; it is useful in treating metal poisoning (dimercaprol, complexing agent for arsenic, mercury, and gold).

Mineralocorticoid: an adrenocortical hormone that regulates sodium/potassium balance in the body (desoxycorticosterone acetate).

Miotic: a cholinergic drug used topically in the eye to induce constriction of the pupil (miosis) (pilocarpine).

Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor: an antidepressant drug that inhibits the enzyme monoamine oxidase, thereby increasing catecholamine levels of neurons (isocarboxazid).

Monoclonal Antibody: a highly specific immunoglobulin produced by cell culture cloning (muromonab CD3, inactivates T lymphocytes that reject tissue grafts).

Mucolytic: a drug that hydrolyzes mucoproteins; it is useful in reducing the viscosity of pulmonary mucus (acetylcysteine).

Muscle Relaxant, Skeletal: a drug that inhibits the contraction of voluntary muscles (cyclo-benzaprine HCl, dantrolene, succinylcholine).

Muscle Relaxant, Smooth: a drug that inhibits the contraction of visceral smooth muscles (aminophylline).

Mydriatic: an adrenergic drug used topically in the eye to induce dilation of the pupil (mydriasis) (phenylephrine).

N

Narcotic: a drug that induces action by reacting with opioid receptors of the central nervous system or a drug that is legally classified as a narcotic with regard to prescribing regulations.

Narcotic Antagonist: a drug that reacts with opioid receptors asymptotically; it is used to terminate the action of narcotic drugs (naloxone).

Neuraminidase Inhibitor: a drug in a class of antiviral drugs targeted at the influenza virus, which works by blocking the function of the viral neuraminidase protein, preventing the virus from reproducing by budding from the host cell (oseltamivir).

Neuromuscular Blocking Agent: a drug that paralyzes skeletal muscles by preventing transmission of neural impulses to them (succinylcholine).

Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug: an analgesic, anti-inflammatory drug that inhibits prostaglandin synthesis (ketoprofen).

NSAID: see Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug.

O

Opioid: see Narcotic.

Opioid Antagonist: see Narcotic Antagonist.

Ovulation Stimulator: a drug that is similar to estrogen and binds to the estrogen receptor causing a negative feedback that stimulates the release of gonadotropin releasing hormone that activates the pituitary gland to release follicle-stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone with resultant release of an egg.

Oxytocic: a drug that stimulates uterine motility; it is used in obstetrics to initiate labor or to control postpartum hemorrhage (oxytocin).

P

Parasympatholytic: a drug that inhibits response to parasympathetic nerve impulses and to parasympathomimetic drugs; an anticholinergic drug (atropine).

Parasympathomimetic: a drug that activates organs innervated by the parasympathetic nervous system; a cholinergic drug (metoclopramide HCl; neostigmine).

Pediculicide: an insecticide suitable for eradicating louse infestations (pediculosis) (malathion; permethrin).

Penicillin Adjuvant: a drug that extends the systemic duration of penicillin by inhibiting its renal excretion (probenecid).

Phenothiazine: an antipsychotic or antidepressant drug that contains the phenothiazine nucleus in its chemical structure (chlorpromazine, antipsychotic; imipramine, antidepressant).

Phosphate Binder: an agent that reduces the absorption of phosphate when taken with meals and snacks.

Photosensitizer: a drug that increases cutaneous response to ultraviolet light; it is used with ultraviolet light to treat certain skin diseases (e.g., psoriasis) (methoxsalen).

Pigmenting Agent: a drug that promotes melanin synthesis in the skin (trioxsalen, oral pigmenting agent; methoxsalen, topical pigmenting agent).

Plasma Volume Expander: a substance that can be transfused to maintain fluid volume of the blood.

Platelet Growth Factor: contained in platelet-rich plasma that is a blood plasma that has been enriched with platelets, different growth factors, and cytokines.

Platelet-Reducing Agent: a drug that slows down platelet production in the body (anagrelide).

Posterior Pituitary Hormone, Antidiuretic: a hormone that promotes renal reabsorption of water; it is useful in treating diabetes insipidus (vasopressin injection).

Potassium-Sparing Diuretic: a diuretic that does not induce systemic potassium depletion as a side effect (triamterene).

Potentiator: an adjunctive drug that enhances the action of a primary drug, the total response being greater than the sum of the individual actions (hexafluorenum, potentiator for succinylcholine).

Progesterin: a progesterone-like hormone that stimulates the secretory phase of the uterine cycle (norethindrone).

Prostaglandin Synthetase Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits prostaglandin synthesis and prostaglandin-induced symptoms such as inflammation; a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (ibuprofen).

Prostaglandin: a drug from the classes of cell-regulating hormones cyclized from arachidonic acid (alprostadiol, maintains ductus arteriosus patency in newborn infants pending corrective surgery for congenital heart defects).

Protease Inhibitor: is a drug used to treat or prevent infection by viruses, including HIV and hepatitis C.

Proteasome Inhibitor: a drug that blocks the action of proteasomes, cellular complexes that break down proteins

Protectant: a topical drug that provides a physical barrier to the environment (zinc gelatin, skin protectant; methylcellulose, ophthalmic protectant).

Proteolytic, Injectable: an enzyme drug for injection into herniated lumbar intervertebral discs to reduce interdisc pressure (chymopapain).

Prothrombogenic: a drug with vitamin K activity; it is useful in treating the hypoprothrombinemia of vitamin K deficiency or overdosage with a vitamin K antagonist (phytonadione).

Proton Pump Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits gastric acid production.

Psychedelic: (especially a street drug) that induces vivid sensory phenomena and hallucinations (mescaline).

Psychotherapeutic: a drug used to treat abnormal mental or emotional processes (chlorpromazine, haloperidol).

R

Radiographic Agent: see X-Ray Contrast Medium.

Radiopaque Agent: a drug used to help diagnose certain medical diseases.

Radiopharmaceutical: a drug containing a radioactive isotope; it is used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes (iodinated albumen with ^{125}I or ^{131}I).

Rauwolfia Alkaloid: a plant principle derived from *Rauwolfia serpentina* and related species, with antihypertensive and antipsychotic actions (reserpine).

Resin, Electrolyte Removing: see Ion Exchange Resin.

Respiratory Stimulant: a drug which serves to increase the action of the respiratory system; it increases breathing.

Retinoic Acid Derivative: a derivative of vitamin A (retinol).

Reverse COMT Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits the action of catechol-*O*-methyltransferase.

Rubefacient: a topical drug that induces mild skin irritation with erythema; it is used as a toughening agent (rubbing alcohol).

S

Salt Substitute: a sodium-free alternative to sodium chloride used for flavoring foods (potassium chloride).

Scabicide: an insecticide suitable for the eradication of the itch mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* (scabies) (crotamiton).

Sclerosing Agent: an irritant drug suitable for injection into varicose veins to induce their fibrosis and obliteration (morrhuate sodium injection).

Sedative: a central nervous system depressant used to induce mild relaxation (phenobarbital).

Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulator (SERM): a compound that acts on the estrogen receptor to selectively inhibit or stimulate estrogen-like action in various tissues.

Serotonin Agonist: a compound that activates serotonin receptors, mimicking the effect of the neurotransmitter serotonin.

Serotonin Antagonist: a drug used to inhibit the action at serotonin receptors.

Smoking Deterrent: a drug that serves to minimize the desire to smoke.

Somatostatin Analog: a hormone chemically and functionally similar to somatostatin.

Specific: a drug specially adapted in its indicated use, usually because of a functional relationship between drug mechanism and disease pathophysiology.

Stimulant, Central: a drug that increases the functional state of the central nervous system, sometimes used in convulsive therapy of mental disorders (flurothyl; modafinil).

Stimulant, Respiratory: a drug that selectively stimulates respiration, either by peripheral initiation of respiratory reflexes or by selective central nervous system stimulation (carbon dioxide, reflex respiratory stimulant; ethamivan, central respiratory stimulant).

Stool Softener: a drug used to soften the stool by enhancing the incorporation of water to ease evacuation.

Sulfonylurea: an oral antidiabetic drug that contains the sulfonylurea moiety in its chemical structure (glimepiride, glipizide).

Sunscreening Agent: a skin protectant that absorbs light energy at wavelengths that cause sunburn (paraaminobenzoic acid, PABA).

Suppressant: a drug that inhibits the progress of a disease but does not cure it.

Sympatholytic: a drug that inhibits response to sympathetic nerve impulses and to sympathomimetic drugs; an antiadrenergic drug (phenolamine, *alpha* sympatholytic; propranolol, *beta* sympatholytic; clonidine, *alpha*₂ sympatholytic; doxazosin mesylate, *alpha* sympatholytic).

Sympathomimetic: a drug that activates organs innervated by the sympathetic nervous system; an adrenergic drug (epinephrine).

Systemically Acting Drug: a drug administered so as to reach systemic circulation, from which the drug diffuses into all tissues, including the site of the therapeutic action.

T

Thiazide Diuretic: a diuretic that contains the benzothiadiazide (thiazide) moiety in its chemical structure (hydrochlorothiazide).

Thrombolytic: an enzyme drug administered parenterally to solubilize blood clots (enoxaparin sodium, urokinase, warfarin sodium).

Thyroid Hormone: a hormone that maintains metabolic function and normal metabolic rate of tissues (levothyroxine).

Topically Acting Drug: a drug applied to the body surface for local therapeutic action.

Toxoid: a modified antigen from an infectious organism used as a vaccine (tetanus toxoid).

Trace Element: a chemical element required by living organisms in minute amounts.

Tranquilizer, Minor: an old term for an anxiolytic drug.

Tranquilizer: a drug (such as antipsychotic) used to suppress an acutely disturbed emotional state (trifluoperazine, antipsychotic).

Tricyclic Antidepressant: an antidepressant that contains the tricyclic phenothiazine nucleus in its chemical structure (amitriptyline, imipramine).

Tuberculostatic: see Antitubercular.

U

Urea Cyclic Disorder Agent: a drug used to treat a severe disease of newborns in which ammonia is not correctly metabolized in the liver.

Uricosuric: a drug that promotes renal excretion of uric acid; it is useful in treating chronic gout (probenecid).

Urinary Acidifier: an agent used to adjust the pH of the urine to be more acidic (ammonium chloride).

Uterine Contractant: an obstetric drug used after placenta delivery to induce sustained uterine contraction to reduce bleeding (methylergonovine).

Uterine Contraction Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits uterine muscle contraction; it is used in preterm labor to prolong gestation (ritodrine).

V

Vaccine: an antigen-containing drug used to induce active immunity against an infectious disease (hepatitis B vaccine, rabies vaccine).

Vasoconstrictor: a drug that narrows arterioles, usually to elevate blood pressure. See Vasopressor.

Vasodilator, Coronary: a drug that expands blood vessels in the heart and improves coronary blood flow; it is useful in treating angina pectoris; an antianginal drug (nitroglycerin).

Vasodilator, Peripheral: a drug that expands peripheral blood vessels and improves blood flow to the extremities of the body (minoxidil).

Vasopressor: an adrenergic drug administered to constrict arterioles and elevate arterial blood pressure (norepinephrine).

Vesicant: a blistering agent or blister-producing agent.

Vinca Alkaloid: a plant principle derived from *Vinca rosea* and related species, with antineoplastic action (vincristine).

Vitamin: an organic chemical essential in small amounts for normal metabolism; it is used therapeutically to supplement the vitamin content of foods (ascorbic acid, thiamine HCl, pyridoxine HCl).

X

Xanthine Alkaloid: a plant principle chemically related to xanthine, with central nervous system stimulant, smooth muscle relaxant, and diuretic actions (caffeine).

Xanthine Oxidase Inhibitor: a substance that inhibits the activity of xanthine oxidase, an enzyme involved in purine metabolism.

X-Ray Contrast Medium: a drug opaque to X-rays that assists visualization of an internal organ during radiographic examination (barium sulfate, iopanoic acid).