PHARMACOLOGY NOTES NURSING IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

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heart attack

stroke

Adverse Effects



Teaching

Therapeutic Effects

PHARMACOLOGY NOTES

NURSING IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

Overview

There are currently nine (9) units comprising this *Pharmacology Notes* resource. Units are broken down by body system and published individually for ease of retrieval:

- Unit A: Autonomic Nervous System (ANS) Pharmacology
- Unit B: Cardiovascular (CV) System Pharmacology
- Unit C: Hematological System Pharmacology
- Unit D: Central Nervous System (CNS) Pharmacology
- Unit E: Skeletal System: Bone and Joint Pharmacology
- Unit F: Immune System Pharmacology
- Unit G: Digestive System Pharmacology
- Unit H: Endocrine System Pharmacology
- Unit I: Respiratory System Pharmacology



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UNIT H

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM PHARMACOLOGY

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(MC) Posterior Pituitary Agents

(MC) Thyroid Hormones

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(MC) Corticosteroids

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Endocrine System Pharmacology

I. ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY/PATHOPHYSIOLOGY REVIEW

A. Major Endocrine Organs

- 1. Hypothalamus
- 2. Pituitary Gland: Anterior and Posterior
- 3. Thyroid Gland
- 4. Parathyroid Gland
- 5. Adrenal Gland: Cortex and Medulla
- 6. Pancreas
- 7. Ovaries
- 8. Testes

B. Functions of Select Hormones

- 1. Growth Hormone:
 - a. Growth of cells, bones, and soft tissues
 - b. Affects CHO, protein, and fat metabolism
 - c. Increases blood glucose
 - d. Increases protein synthesis
 - e. Increases lipolysis
 - f. Increases fluid/electrolyte retentions
- 2. Antidiuretic Hormone (ADH):
 - a. Major regulator of osmolality and body water volume
 - b. Increases water reabsorption
 - c. Stimulates water intake by stimulating perception of thirst
- 3. Thyroxine (T₄) and Triiodothyronine (T₃):
 - a. Regulates metabolic rate
 - b. Regulates protein, fat, CHO catabolism
 - c. Regulates body heat production
 - d. Insulin antagonist \rightarrow increases blood glucose
 - e. Maintains cardiac rate, force, output
 - f. Affects respiratory rate and oxygen utilization
 - g. Regulates SNS activity
 - h. Maintains calcium mobilization
 - i. Affects RBC production
- 4. Parathormone:
 - a. Regulates serum calcium levels

- 5. Cortisol:
 - a. Maintains blood glucose gluconeogenesis
 - b. Increases protein catabolism
 - c. Promotes lipolysis
 - d. Antiinflammatory/immunosuppression
 - e. Degrades collagen/decreases scar tissue formation
 - f. Increases RBC formation and platelet formation
 - g. Increases gastric acid and pepsin production
 - h. Promotes sodium and water retention
 - i. Maintains emotional stability
- 6. Glucagon:
 - a. Promotes gluconeogenesis
 - b. Promotes glycogenolysis
- 7. Insulin:
 - a. Glucose transport brings glucose into the cells from the blood for use
 - b. Promotes glucose storage as glycogen
- 8. Amylin:
 - a. \downarrow glucagon secretion
 - b. \downarrow gastric emptying
 - c. \uparrow satiety leading to \downarrow caloric intake
- 9. Incretin:
 - a. ↑ insulin secretion
 - b. \downarrow glucagon secretion
 - c. Slows gastric emptying
- 10. Follicle-Stimulating Hormone (FSH):
 - a. Stimulates follicles in ovaries to mature (oocytes) phase
 - b. Secrete estrogen
- 11. Luteinizing Hormone (LH):
 - a. Promotes follicle to rupture \rightarrow transformed into corpus luteum
 - b. Secretes progesterone
- 12. Estrogen:
 - Promotes growth in tissues related to reproduction (enlarges fallopian tubes, uterus, vagina, breasts, and external genitalia) → appearance of secondary sex characteristics
 - b. Proliferation of endometrial lining of uterus nourishes ovum during pregnancy
 - c. Promotes bone formation; \downarrow bone loss
 - d. ↑ HDL
 - e. ↓LDL
 - f. Enhances blood coagulation

- 13. Progesterone:
 - a. Maintains endometrial lining of uterus
 - b. Promotes development of milk-producing cells
 - C. Reduces uterine contractility
 - d. Supports pregnancy
 - e. ↑LDL
 - f. ↓ HDL
 - g. ↑ insulin levels

14. Oxytocin:

a. Promotes uterine contraction

- b. Causes milk to be ejected ('let down') from mammary glands
- 15. Testosterone:
 - a. Androgenic effects: development of male sexual characteristics → reproduction
 - b. Anabolic effects: protein synthesis (+) nitrogen balance \rightarrow stimulates tissue building; reverses tissue depletion

C. Relationship of Endocrine Disorders to Gland and Hormone

↑ = horm	one excess $\Psi = he$	ormone deficiency
Gland	Hormone	Endocrine Disorders
pancreas	insulin	hypoglycemia hyperglycemia = diabetes mellitus (DM)
anterior pituitary	growth hormone	↑ acromegaly/gigantism dwarfism
posterior pituitary	antidiuretic hormone (ADH)	 syndrome of inappropriate ADH (SIADH) diabetes insipidus (DI)
thyroid	triiodothyronine (T ₃) and thyroxine (T ₄)	hyperthyroidism (Grave's) hypothyroidism (myxedema)
parathyroid	parathormone	 hyperparathyroidism/hypercalcemia hypoparathyroidism/hypocalcemia
Adrenal cortex	cortisol	Cushing's disease/syndrome Adrenal insufficiency/Addison's Disease
Adrenal medulla	catecholamines	 ↑ pheochromocytoma ↓ Ø

II. PHARMACOLOGY

A. Pharmacologic Connections for Endocrine Drugs

- 1. Purposes of Drug Agents:
 - a. *Replace* to restore normal hormonal function with natural or synthetic sources
 - b. *Negate* to restore normal hormonal function by:
 - 1) inhibiting production or synthesis of a hormone
 - 2) inhibiting hormonal action(s)
 - c. **Exaggerate** one or more of a hormone's normal function(s) for another condition
- Relationship of Endocrine Agents (replacements vs. antagonists) and Management of Endocrine Disorders (hypofunction/deficiency vs. hyperfunction/excess)

Type of Agent	Pharmacotherapeutics (Clinical Uses)	Therapeutic Effects	Adverse Effects "Too much of a good thing"
Hormone Replacement	<u>HYPO</u> – Function of target gland → <u>HYPO</u> – Secretion of hormones	↑ Hormonal functions → restore normal function	<u>HYPER</u> – Excessive function from ↑ hormonal levels (medications used as replacements provide exogenous source to body)
Hormone Antagonists (Anti-)	<u>HYPER</u> – Function of target gland → <u>HYPER</u> – Secretion of hormones	↓ Hormonal functions → ↓ s/sx → return to normal function	<u>HYPO</u> – Reduce function by inhibiting either synthesis or secretion of hormones <u>too</u> much

- 3. Additional Points for Endocrine Drugs:
 - a. Produces widespread effects → administration of one hormone may alter the effects of other hormones
 - b. Most hormonal agents are contraindicated during pregnancy due to effects on the fetus

Nursing Implications: Endocrine Pharmacology: Hypothalamic and Pituitary Agents

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	A – ✓ Adverse Effects – Specific (SC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)	T – Teaching – Specific (SC)
Hypothalamic agents	Gonadotropin -releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist → desensitizes receptors ⇒ initial ↑ then, ↓↓ LH & FSH (sex hormone suppression)	leuprolide	Eligard, Lupro Depot	Route: IM Duration: 1,2,3,4 month Contra- indications: • pregnancy	 + response (↓ growth) of advanced prostate cancer ↓s/sx endome- triosis: ↓uterine wall thickening ↓bleeding w/ menstrual cycles ↓pelvic pain & cramping ↓pelvic pain & cramping ↓pain w/ intercourse Normal puberty/ sexual development 		 Injection site: redness/burning/ stinging/pain/ bruising CNS: dizziness, HA, pain, rare: seizures CV: peripheral edema, MI GI: N/V/A/C GU: urinary frequency, hematuria Endo: hot flashes, ↑ sweating 		 Safety re: osteoporosis risk Teach re: proper administration ✓ labs: F/E, CBC ✓ weight Support for body changes Report: △ mood/ depression, CNS △'s, difficulty voiding
Anterior Pituitary agents	Growth hormone (GH) replace- ment (SC)	somatropin	Genotropin, Nutropin	Route: SQ/IM	 ↓s/sx dwarfism or ↑effects of GH 		 <i>GH</i> excess or acromegaly: hyperglycemia hypothyroidism bone pain HA visual △'s 		 Proper injection technique ✓ G&D, growth plateaus, Report adverse effects Provide emotional support
	Growth hormone antagonist (SC) – acts directly on post-synaptic dopamine receptors in brain	bromocriptine mesylate octreotide	Parlodel, Cucloset Sandostatin	Route: PO Route: IM/SQ Contraindica- tions: preg- nancy, other endocrine disorders	 ↓s/sx acromegaly or ↓effects of GH ↓s/sx Parkinson's dz Restore menstrual cycles → ↑fertility ↓incidence of acute GI/variceal bleeding ↓s/sx carcinoid tumors (i.e. ↓ diarrhea) 		 CNS: dizziness, fatigue, drowsiness, HA GI: N/V/D/C, abd cramping, gallbladder abnormalities △ BG levels Endo: hypothyroidism CV: sinus bradycardia 		 Safety – move to standing slowly Give meds. w/ food Teach re: injection technique ✓ blood glucose

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	A – ✓ Adverse Effects – Specific (SC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)	T – Teaching – Specific (SC)
Posterior Pituitary agents	ADH replacement	desmopressin vasopressin	DDAVP, Stimate Vasostrict	Route: IV/IM /IN ✓ vs – BP	 ↓s/sx diabetes insipidus or ↓ UO: ↑specific gravity improved fluid & electrolyte balance (↓Na⁺) Maintain BP & FV post-op/shock 	 ADH excess or SIADH: water excess hyponatremia neuro △'s 	 Route – related: tenderness at injection sites nasal dryness/ irritation 	 ✓ weight, I/O ✓ specific gravity ✓ electro- lytes, esp. Na+ 	 Route injection sites Route nares

Nursing Implications: Endocrine Pharmacology: Thyroid and Parathyroid Agents

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	A – ✓ Adverse Effects – Specific (SC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)	T – Teaching – Specific (SC)
Thyroid agents	T ₃ , T ₄ replacement	levothyroxine desiccated thyroid	Synthroid, Levothroid	Route: PO ✓ vs - HR	 ↓s/sx hypothyroidism (myxedema) or ↑ metabolism 	• S/sx thyroid excess or hyperthyroidism		 ✓ thyroid fn. – T₃, T₄ levels <i>lifelong tx</i> 	● ✓ HR daily
Antithyroid agents	Blocks thyroid hormone synthesis by blocking combination of iodine + tyrosine	propylthiouracil methimazole	PTU Tapazole	Route: PO, 3x/day; up to 40 yo PO, 1x/day	 ↓s/sx hyperthy- roidism (Grave's Dz) or ↓ metabolism 	• S/sx hypothyroidism	 Blood dyscrasias Hepatotoxicity Preg. risk cat.=D 	 ✓ thyroid fn T₃, T₄ levels 	 ✓CBC esp. WBCs – watch for fever ✓AST, ALT Contraception
	Radiation destroys thyroid tissue →↓ hormone production	radioactive iodine	131	Route: PO, one-time dose; >40 yo			 Radioactive body secretions BMD Preg. risk cat.=X 		 Radiation precautions ✓CBC Contraception
	Large doses of iodine inhibit thyroid secretion	strong iodine solution	Logol's solution	Route: PO, 3xday; short- term use			 Iodism (mucous membranes) 		Diet restriction of iodized salt
Anti- hypocalcemics	 ↓ parathor- mone levels Vit. D stimulates calcium absorption from intestine 	calcitriol	Rocaltrol	Route: PO	 ↑Ca⁺⁺ WNL ↓s/sx hypo- calcemia or tetany Prevention of osteoporosis 	 S/sx hyper- calcemia – ↓ N-M irritability; Hepatotoxicity 		Refer to Bone Pharmacology: • ✓ diet • safety • exercise • ✓ electrolytes	 Take as directed Watch for complication of hyper- calcemia (renal calculi) Dietary sources of calcium Report: s/sx liver toxicity
Anti- hypercalcemics	↓ bone resorption	alendronate	Fosamax	Route: PO Timing: take on empty stomach; do <u>not</u> take before HS	 ↓ Ca⁺⁺ WNL ↓ s/sx hyper-calcemia Ø progression of osteoporosis – ↑ bond density 	 S/sx hypo- calcemia 	 GI: esophageal irritation 		 Sit upright or ambulate after taking for ~30 minutes Drink w/ full glass of water

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	A – ✓ Adverse Effects – Specific (SC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)	T – Teaching – Specific (SC)
Corticosteroids	Mimics cortisol • replacement • exaggerate anti- inflammatory & immune suppressive effects	prednisone methyl- prednisolone	Deltasone Solu-Medrol	Route: PO/IV, bolus Frequency: daily → every 6-12 hrs Timing: AM	 ↓ s/sx adrenal insufficiency ↓ s/sx inflammation/ immunosup- pression e.g. COPD, Arthritis, Crohn's dz organ transplants, autoimmune dz 	 Cushing's Dose – & duration- dependent CV: fluid retention, edema, HTN Electrolytes: ↑Na, ↓K+, ↑Ca, ↑BG CNS: mood swings GI: N/V, GI bleed MS: ↑bone resorption Skin: paper thin, bruises, infections, delayed healing Adrenal- insufficiency 		 ✓ diet ✓ safety-skin ✓ injury & infection prevention ✓ electrolytes Tapering Weigh self Use other meds for adverse effects 	
Hyperglycemics	Mimics glucagon	glucagon	GlucaGen	Route: SQ/IM/ IV, ✓ BG	 ↑ BG ↓ s/sx of hypoglycemia 	Hyperglycemia	 N/V → aspiration 	 ✓ BG Injection technique 	 Aspiration precautions DM manage- ment
Hypoglycemics or Antidiabetic agents	exogenous insulin	insulins	**Know types (rapid-, short-, intermittent-, and long- acting)	Route: SQ/IM/ IV, ✓ BG	 ↓ BG Hbg_{A1C} < 6–6.5 ↓ s/sx of hyperglycemia: Ø polyuria, Ø polydipsia, Ø polyphagia 	Hypoglycemia	 Lipohypertrophy Somogyi effect 	 ✓ BG ac/HS Timing Diet Exercise 	 Injection technique Sliding scale coverage Storage

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	A – ✓ Adverse Effects – Specific (SC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)	T – Teaching – Specific (SC)
Hypoglycemics: Oral Hypoglycemics				Route: PO ✓ timing ✓ BG	• ↓ BG • HbgA1C < 6–6.5 • ↓ s/sx of	(See previous page)		(See previous page)	 Avoid ETOH F/U lab: liver function tests,
 1st generation sulfonylureas 2nd generation 	 ↑insulin sensitivity 	chlorpropamide	Diabinese		hyperglycemia: Ø polyuria, Ø polydipsia,		 Weight gain 		electrolytes Sun protection Drug-drug
sulfonylureas	 ↑insulin secretion 	glipizide	Glucotrol		Ø polyphagia				interactions
	 ↑# of insulin receptors 	glyburide	DiaBeta, Micronase						
Biguanides	 ↓glucose production & ↑glucose uptake; ↓hepatic glucose production 	metformin	Glucophage				 GI: N/V/D/A, Vit. B deficiency Acid-base: lactic acidosis 		
Meglitinides	 ↑ insulin release 	repaglinide	Prandin				Weight gain		
• Thiazoli- dinediones (TZD)	 ↓insulin resistance; ↑glucose uptake; ↓glucose production 	pioglitazone	Actos				 CV risk-fluid retention, ↑LDL Hepatotoxicity 		
 alpha- glucosidase inhibitors 	 Inhibits enzyme that breaks down glucose → delays glucose/ CHO absorption 	acarbose	Precose				 GI: abd. distention, cramping, diarrhea, gas Anemia Hepatotoxicity 		
• dipeptidyl peptidase -4 inhibitors	 Slows breakdown of GLP-1 →↑ effects of incretin 	sitagliptin	Januvia				Well tolerated		

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	A – ✓ Adverse Effects – Specific (SC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)	T – Teaching – Specific (SC)
Other hypo- glycemic (new) • amylin mimetic	Mimics amylin ● ↓glucagon secretion ● ↓gastric emptying ● ↑satiety ● ↑insulin secretion	pramlintide	Symlin	Route: SQ • ✓ BG` Timing: immediately āc Contraindica- tions: alcoholism, osteoporosis	(See previous page)	(See previous page)	Local reaction at injection site	(See previous page)	 Do <u>not</u> give w/ insulin Prefilled injector pens
incretin mimetic	Mimics incretin- glucagon-like poly-peptide (GLP-1) ● ↑insulin release ● ↓glucagon release ● ↓Gl emptying	exenatide	Byetta	Contraindica- tions: bowel dz			Pancreatitis		
 sodium- glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors 	Inhibits SGLT- 2 in proximal tubule → ↓glucose reabsorption & ↑glucose excretion	canagliflozin	Invokana	Route: PO Contraindica- tions: renal impairment			 FE: dehydration, hyperkalemia Acid-base: ketoacidosis GU: genital infections 		 CBC, electrolyte, BUN, Cr, EGFR Timing: take in AM Encourage fluids Report: s/sx UTI, or genital infections

Nursing Implications: Endocrine Pharmacology: Reproductive Agents: Female

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)
Female Sex Hormones = estrogen & progesterone	Mimics effects of estrogen	conjugated estrogens estradiol	Cenestin, Enjuvia, Premarin Estrace	Route: PO – <i>daily;</i> long-term prep: injections, implants, transdermal patches,	 Ø pregnancy + female sex characteristics, + menses 	 GYN: menstrual disorders, breast tenderness GI s/sx; ↑BG Skin: acne 	 Take as directed – esp. w/ missed oral dose(s) Ø smoking Drug-drug interactions w/
	Mimics effects of progesterone	medroxyprogesterone norethindrone acetate	Provera, Depo-Provera Aygestin	rings, IUD Freq: varies w/ other routes Contraindications: CV risk factors, <i>thromboembolic</i> dz	 Relief of s/sx of menopause Restore regular menses Reduced growth of reproductive cancers 	 CNS s/sx CV: ↑FV, HTN, +DVT/PE, dyslipidemia Reproductive CA Gallbladder dz Vision △'s 	 BCs (alternative contraception) S/sx DVT/PE Diet △'s - ↓Na⁺ Report unusual bleeding or abnormal pain BLACK BOX WARNING
Oxytocics = uterine motility drugs	Mimics oxytocin- ↑frequency & force of uterine contractions	oxytocin	Pitocin Syntocinon	Route: IM/IV/IN	 Childbirth Firm uterine fundus ↓vaginal bleeding +milk let-down for breastfeeding 	 Uterine rupture CV: HTN, HA, dysrhythmias CNS: seizures GI: N/V/abd pain 	 If contrx > every 90 sec & > 60 sec duration → stop med
Tocolytics = uterine relaxants	Selective β ₂ agonist CNS depressant	terbutaline sulfate magnesium sulfate	Brethine	Route: SQ/IV/PO (maintenance); give up to 48 hrs	 Labor stopped Birth postponed long enough to ↓prematurity problems 	 CV: palpitations, dysrhythmias, ↑HR, CP CNS excitation, ↑BG CNS depression-lethargy, weakness Resp depression GI: N/V/D 	 Non-pharmacologic tx for preterm labor: bedrest hydration sedation

Nursing Implications: Endocrine Pharmacology: Reproductive Agents: Male

Major Class	MOA	Prototype – generic	Prototype – trade	A – Admin	T – ✓ Therapeutic Effects – General (MC)	A –✔ Adverse Effects – General (MC)	T – Teaching – General (MC)
Male sex hormones	Mimics testosterone – androgenic & anabolic effects	testosterone oxandrolone	Androderm, Androgel, Testopel Oxandrin	Route: Multiple Contraindications: liver dz, BPH	 ↑masculinizing effects: achieve erection improved sperm count ↑appetite, weight gain, euphoria in debilitated patients ↓progression of breast cancer 	 GI: hepatotoxicity CV: edema, electrolyte imbalances; dyslipidemia GU: difficulty voiding ↑virilism effects in females 	 Proper administration F/U labs: electrolytes, lipid panel, liver function tests ✓ weight – report FV excess Not for enhancing athletic performance
Erectile dysfunction agents	Inhibits phos- phodiesterase type 5 receptors to cause relaxation of smooth muscle in corpus cavernoseum →↑ blood flow to penis	sildenafil	Viagra	Take 30-60 min before sex Contraindications: taking nitrates	Erection achieved & maintained	 Most common: nasal congestion, HA, facial flushing, dizziness GU: priapism, UTI Skin: rash GI: diarrhea, dyspepsia, indigestion CV: ↓BP, CP if taking nitrates 	 Freq: 1x/day & timing F/U w/ MD/ report chest pain, prolonged, painful erection Do <u>not</u> take w/ nitrates
Antiprostatic agents	Blocks testosterone production by inhibiting enzyme for testosterone metabolism	finasteride	Proscar, Propecia	Route: PO Freq: daily dose; response time- takes several months Preg. risk cat.=X	 ↓s/sx of BPH: ↓urinary elimination sx improved bladder emptying Ø complications of BPH: 	 Gynecomastia Sexual dysfunction 	 Daily dosing, takes up to 6 mos. Instruct partner to avoid contact w/ semen
	Relaxes smooth muscle walls of bladder neck & prostrate (α- adrenergic blocker) – ↓ SNS effects on bladder & UT	tamsulosin doxazosin	Flomax Cardura	Route: PO Freq: daily dose; ✓BP	 Ø UTI ↓renal function 	 CV: ↓BP, ↑HR, dizziness, drowsiness GI: upset Sexual dysfunction 	 General: F/U labs: PSA Report adverse effects Non-pharm measure to help bladder emptying