

# Antimetabolites

# Learning Objectives

- Source/Chemistry/classification of antimetabolites
- Pharmacokinetics
- Pharmacodynamics
- Clinical Uses
- Adverse Effects
- Drug Interaction
- Contrandications



# Anti-metabolites

- Sulfonamides
- Trimethoprim
- Pyrimethamine
- Co-trimoxazole

### **Chemistry of Sulfonamides:-**

- Weakly acidic compounds
- Have common nucleus resembling p-aminobenzoic acid (PABA)
- Different Sulfonamide are produced by substitution at :
  - Amino gp  $(-SO_2 NH R)$
  - Amino gp. (-NH2) of sulfanilamide nucleus.
- They are more soluble at alkaline than acid pH



### Classification

#### A. Oral absorbable agents

- I. Short Acting ----- Half life 6-9hrs
  - Sulfacytine
  - Sulfisoxazole
  - Sulfamethizole
- II. Intermediate Acting ----- Half life 10- 17 hrs
  - Sulfadiazine
  - Sulfamethoxazole
  - Sulfapyridine
- III. Long Acting ----- Half life 7-9 days
  - Sulfadoxine

#### B. Oral non-absorbable agents

- Sulfasalazine (salicylazosulfapyridine)
- C. For Topical Application
  - Sulphacetamide
  - Silver sulfadiazine
  - Mefenide
- D. Sulfonamide Combination
  - **Cotrimoxazole** (Sulfamethoxazole & trimethoprim)
  - Fansidar (Sulfadoxine & Pyrimethamine )



#### Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole

Bactrim, Septran



### **Pharmacokinetics**

Absorption: Mostly well absorbed after oral adm. On the basis of their half lives divided into :

Short, Medium, Long acting

Distribution: Wide to tissues & fluids including CSF, Placenta & Fetus.

PPB: 20 – 90 % to serum albumin

**PPL: 2 – 6 hrs** 

Metabolism – in Liver by Acetylation & Glucuronide conjugation

Excretion – Urine

### **MOA of Sulfonamides:**

Bacteriostatic , Anti-folate drugs

- **Folate** is required for synthesis of purines & subsequently DNA.
- Sulfonamide are structural analogs of PABA.
- They act as anti- metabolites & compete for Dihydro-pteroate synthase enzyme which converts PABA into Dihydrofolic acid.
- So they inhibit Folate production.
- Synthesis of purines & subsequently DNA can not occur.
- Bacterial growth is inhibited.



#### **MOA of Trimethoprim & Pyrimethamine:**

- They selectively inhibit Dihydrofolate reductase enzyme (DHFR) which converts Dihydrofolic acid. into Tetrahydrofolic acid.
- Synthesis of purines & subsequently DNA can not occur.
- Bacterial growth is inhibited

**Trimethoprim** is 50000 times < efficient in inhibiting mammalian DHFR.

**Pyrimethamine:** Selectively inhibits protozoal as compared to mammalian DHFR

#### **MOA of Co-Trimoxazole**

Cotrimoxazole..combination of Trimethoprim & Sulfamethoxazole

Fansidar combination of Trimethoprim & Pyrimethamine:

- The combination is bactericidal
- These drugs block sequential steps in the folate synthesis pathway.
- □ There is synergistic effect (potentiation).
- Synthesis of purines & subsequently DNA can not occur.
- Bacteria are killed

### Antibiotic Resistance Mechanisms



### **Resistance**:

Mammalian cells & some bacteria lack the enzymes for folate synthesis from PABA& depend on exogenous sources of folate.so not susceptible

Resistance to Sulfonamides can result from :

- Overproduction/ alteration of Dihydropteroate synthase.— Less binding.
- Reduced cell permeability

### Antibacterial Spectrum of Sulfonamides

- G +ve , G-ve bacteria
- Nocardia
- Chlamydia trachomatis
- Some protozoa.
- Some enterobacteria E.Coli, Shigella ,Salmonella, Klebsiella

#### **Therapeutic Uses:**

Infrequently used as single agents

#### I. As Topical Agents in

- Adjunctive therapy for Trachoma (Na -Sulfacetamide)
- Bacterial Conjunctivitis--- (Na Sulfacetamide)
- Prevention of infection of burn wounds (Silver sulfadiazine, Mafenide )
- II. UTI: Short & intermediate acting drugs.
- III. Ulcerative Colitis, enteritis, other inflammatory bowel diseases (Sulphasalazine)
- IV. Rheumatoid arthritis (Sulphasalazine)
- V. Dermatitis herpetiformis (Sulfapyridine)

#### Used in combination in

- (Sulfadoxine + Pyrimethamine Fansidar) Resistant
  Malaria
- (oral Sulfadiazine + Pyrimethamine + Folinic acid) Acute toxoplasmosis & Leishmaniasis.
- Sulfisoxazole +Erythrocine ethylsuccinate ---Pediazole
  for otitis media in children
- Sulfamethoxazole + Trimethoprim -----Septran for infection with Pneumocystis jiroveci Pneumonia.
- Sulfapyridine + 5 ASA -----Sulfasalazine in IBD

### **ADVERSE EFFECTS**

### A. Hypersensitivity Reactions:-

- Fever, Skin rashes, exfoliative dermatitis, photosensitivity, urticaria, Angioedema & Steven – Johnson syndrome (1%)
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhoea, Stomatitis
  - Conjunctivitis, Arthritis & rarely Polyarteritis nodosa.
- 2. Hematopoietic Disturbances :- Hemolytic or Aplastic anemia, Granulocytopenia, Thrombocytopenia

#### Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS)/Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN)

The rash in SJS/TEN consists of painful pink to dark-red spots that may blister and usually involves the skin, lips, mouth, eyes, and genitals.

#### Early-stage rash

#### Middle-stage rash

Typical rash distribution





Blistering, peeling skin



Redness, blisters, and erosions of the lips and inside of the mouth Redness, irritation, pain, and erosions of the eyelids and eye **B.** Urinary Tract Disturbances:-

Precipitation in acidic urine causing Crystalluria, Hematuria /

Obstruction. Nephrosis & Allergic Nephritis may occur.

**Treatment**: Alkalinize urine with Sodium Bicarbonate,

- Plenty of fluids 2 L/day intake or maintain urine
- output 1200 ml/day

C. Kernicterus in premature babies

D. Haemolysis in Glucose 6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase deficient patients.



## **Drug interactions:**

Competition with warfarin & methotrexate & oral hypoglycemics for PPB ---- increase level

### Contraindication

Known hypersensitivity.

Newborns & infants less than 2 months

Pregnant woman at term – Kernicterus

#### TRIMETHOPRIM

Chemically related to pyrimethamine-----folate antagonist.

**Pharmacokinetics:** Given orally, fully absorbed from GIT.

**Distribution:** Wide, in body fluids and tissues, including CSF

**Concentrates in prostatic & vaginal fluid.– more acidic than plasma** 

It is more lipid soluble than sulfamethoxazole , has large Vd.

**PPB:** 65 – 70 %

**Excretion** : 50-60- in urine within 24 hrs.

**Clinical Use:** Acute UTI: 100 mg –twice daily.

**Resistance to trimethoprim :** Overproduction/ altered of Dihydrofolate reductase.- Less binding.

**CO-TRIMOXAZOLE: (Oral/IV)** 

Combination of trimethoprim with sulfamethoxazole.

Sulfamethoxazole – 400 mg. Trimethoprim – 80 mg. Ratio 1:5

## **Clinical uses**

- Pneumocystis Jiroveci Pneumonia in AIDs patient
  For treatment & prevention.
- 2. Respiratory , ear & sinus infections by:

Hemophilis influenzae, Pneumococcus, Moraxella Catarrhalis Staphylococcus (methicillin sensitive /resistant). Klebsiella Pneumoniae

- 3. Nocardosis. --- DOC
- 4. Shigellosis , Typhoid Fever , cholera-- Back up drug

- 5. G-ve bacterial sepsis. By resistant micro-organisms specially Enterobacter & Serretia.
  - 6. UTI: For treatment & prophylaxis of recurrent UTI
  - 7. Prostatitis by susceptible micro-organisms.

## **Advantages of Using Co-Trimoxazole**

- The combination produces synergistic effect –
  Potentiation.
- 2. Bactericidal. (Individual drugs are bacteriostatic)
- **3**. Wider antibacterial spectrum than individual drugs
- 4. More efficacy than individual drugs.
- 5. Less dose of each drug.
- 6. Less incidence of toxicity.

## **Adverse Effects**

### **1.** Hematological

Trimethoprim (Anti-folate) Megaloblastic Anemia, Leukopenia, Granulocytopenia .... Prevented by simultaneous administrations of folinic acid

2. Due to Sulphamethoxazole---

Nausea ,Vomiting, Rashes, Fever, Vasculitis

**Occasionally:** renal damage & CNS disturbances

3. AIDS patients with pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia show high incidence of fever, rashes, leukopenia, diarrhea, elevation of hepatic aminotransferases, hyperkalemia, hyponatremia.

# Summary

Basic characteristics (remember of SULFA): Solubility low Useful for Urinary tract infections Large spectrum (active against gram positive and gram negative bacteria) Folic acid synthesis blocker ( DHPS inhibitor) Antimetabolite /Analog of PABA

Side effects of Sulfonamides include (remember of SULFA): Steven-Johnson syndrome / Skin rashes Urticaria / Urine precipitation (crystalluria) Leucopenia Folic acid deficency Aplastic Anemia

# Assignment

- What are non anti microbial sulfonamides?
- Enlist drugs causing Steven Johnson syndrome.
- Enlist drugs causing hemolysis in G6PD deficient patients.