



# **SKELTAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS (SKMRS)**

**Dr Kamlesh P. Patel  
Associate Professor  
Department of Pharmacology  
Smt. NHL Municipal Medical College  
Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad.**

**Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -  
Dr. Kamlesh Patel -  
Pharmacology - NHL MMC**



# **SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS**

- (I) Centrally Acting Muscle Relaxants**
- (II) Peripherally Acting Muscle Relaxants**
- (III) Directly Acting Muscle Relaxant (Dantrolene)**

**Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -**

**Dr. Kamlesh Patel -**

**Pharmacology - NHI MMC**

# CLASSIFICATION OF SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS

- **(I) Centrally Acting :-**
- **Methocarbamol**
- **Chlorzoxazone**
- **Chlormezanone**
- **Tizanidine**
- **Diazepam, Gabapentin**
- **Thiocholchicoside**
- **Tolperidone Hcl**
- **Baclofen**

Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -  
Dr. Kamlesh Patel -  
Pharmacology - NHI MMC



## CLASSIFICATION OF SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS

- **(II) Peripherally Acting at NMJ :-**
- **(a) Depolarizing NM Blockers:-**
- **Succinylcholine**
- **Dexamethonium**
- **(b) Non-Depolarizing NM Blockers :-**
- **D-Tubocurarine (d-TC) ; Pancuronium**
- **Vecuronium ; Atracurium**
- **Mivacurium**
- **(c) Others :-**
- **Botulinium Toxin A**

## **CLASSIFICATION OF SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS**

- **(III) Directly Acting SkMRs :-**
- **Dantrolene**

# **SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS (Differences)**



- **C-SKMRs**

- **Oral, Parenteral**
- **CNS depression**
  
- **Selectively block  
Polysynaptic reflexes**
  
- **Spastic, tetanus ,  
Sk.M spasm**

- **P-SKMRs**

- **Parenteral only**
- **No CNS depression**
  
- **Blocks N-M trans**
  
- **Surgical procedure**

# SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS (Differences) (contd..)



- **C-SKMRs**

- **Eg. Chlormezanone,  
Chloroxazone,  
Methocarbamol,  
Diazepam.**

- **↓ Muscle tone  
without affecting  
muscle power.**

- **P-SKMRs**

- **Eg. Succinylcholine,  
Pancuronium, d-TC**

- **Cause muscle  
Paralysis, loss of  
voluntary work.**

# PHYSIOLOGY OF SKELETAL MUSCLE CONTRACTION

**Motor nerve impulse**



**Release of Acetylcholine**



**Binds with NM receptors at NMJ**



**Depolarization and Development of End-plate potential (EPP) at motor end plate (Due to Na<sup>+</sup> influx)**



**Muscle – action potential (MAP) -  
Contraction of Skeletal Muscle**



**Action is rapidly inactivated by cholinesterase leading to repolarization**



**Muscle ready for a fresh nerve impulse**

Dr. Kamlesh Patel -

Pharmacology - NHI MMC





## DISORDERS OF SKELETAL MUSCLES



- **(i) Acute Skeletal Muscle Disorders :-**
- **Sprain; Strain; Fracture; Dislocation**
- **Torticollis; Lumbago ; Tendinitis**
- **Ligament rupture**
- **(ii) Spastic Neurological Disorders :-**
- **Tetanus**
- **Multiple sclerosis**
- **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**
- **Malignant Hyperthermia**

# CENTRALLY ACTING SKMRs



## PROPERTIES:

- **Effective C-SKMRs**
- **Reduces unwanted spasm, spasticity, rigidity and hyperflexia**
- **Does not alter consciousness**
- **No effect on voluntary movements, N-M transmission**

# **MECHANISM OF ACTION (C-SKMRs)**

**Selective action of cerebrospinal axis**



**Depresses spinal & supraspinal  
polysynaptic reflexes**



**Depresses polysynaptic pathway in  
ascending reticular system**



**Produces sedation.**

# CHLORMEZANONE



- **Anti-anxiety, Hypnotic**
- **OOA : 15-20 mins.      DOA: 4-6 Hrs.**
- **S/Es : Dizziness, Drowsiness, Skin Rashes**
- **Indications :-**
  - \* **Painful Skeletal muscle spasm**
  - \* **Premenstrual syndrome**
  - \* **Tension headache**
  - \* **Dysmenorrhoea**
  - \* **Neuromuscular vasomotor pain.**

**Dose :- 100 - 200 mg TDS**

**Available :- Tab. 100mg.**

# CHLORZOXAZONE



- **Longer DOA, Better tolerability orally**
- **OOA : 30 mins.      DOA : 6 – 8 Hrs.**
- **S/Es : Lethargy , Headache**
- **Indications :-**
  - \* **Painful SK.M. spasms**
  - \* **Trauma, Sprains, Strains**
  - \* **Sports injury, Lumbago (Low Backache)**
- **Dose : 250 mg – 750 mg QID (Adults)  
125 mg – 250 mg TID (Children).**

# TIZANIDINE



- **Clonidine derivative**
- **C-SKMRs – Central alpha-2 receptor agonist**
- **Inhibits release of excitatory amino acids in spinal interneurons**
- **Facilitates inhibitory transmitter – Glycine**
- **Inhibits polysynaptic reflexes – reduces muscle tone and frequency of muscle spasm– improves mobility, flexibility, Quality of Life (QOL).**
- **Half-Life : 2 – 3 Hrs.**
- **Dose : 2mg TDS Maximum 24 mg/day.**

**Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -  
Dr. Kamlesh Patel -  
Pharmacology - NHI MMC**

# TIZANIDINE (Contd..)



- **Indications :-**

- \* **Painful SK.M spasm of spinal origin**
- \* **Multiple sclerosis, spinal injury  
(with Baclofen, Diazepam)**
- \* **Dysmenorrhoea**

- \* **S/Es :- Drowsiness, Night – time insomnia,  
Hallucinations, Dry mouth,  
↑Antihypertensive effect of clonidine,  
↑Liver transaminases levels.**

# DIAZEPAM



- **Benzodiazepine**
- **Has sedative, muscle relaxant, anticonvulsant effect**
- **Acts on SP. Receptor in brain**
- **Enhance GABA – nergic transmission**
  
- **Reduces muscle tone by supra-spinal action**
- **Less GIT S/Es**
- **Valuable in Spinal injuries and Tetanus**
- **Combined with analgesics in rheumatoid disorders with spasm**
- **I.V. ( 10 – 100 mg) in Tetanus**
- **Oral :- 5 mg TDS.**



# **THIOCHOLCHICOSIDE**

- **Chemically related to Colchicine**
- **Acts by :- GABA mimetic & Glycinergic action**
- **Used in :- Painfull muscle spasm, degenerative & vertibral disorder, torticollis,sprain**
- **S/Es :- Photosensitivity**
- **Dose : 4mg BD Or 8mg OD orally**

# TOLPERISONE HCL

- **Central SKMR + Local Anaesthetic action**
- **Inhibits Reticulo-spinal reflexes without affecting cortical functions**
- **Improves peripheral blood flow due to peripheral effect**
- **Reduces rigidity, Hypertonia**
- **Uses :-Elevated SK M tone & Tension**
- **Circulatory problems of extremities,**
- **Dose : 150 mg TDS + NSAIDs**
- **C/I : My. Gravis, CABG surgery, Ulcer**

Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -

Dr. Kamlesh Patel -

Pharmacology - NHI MMC

# RILUZOLE

- **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**
- **50 mg BD before meals**
- **Decrease Glutaminergic transmission in CNS**
- **Blocks Polysynaptic NMDA Glutamate receptor**
- **Inhibits voltage dependent Na-channel**

# **IDROCILAMIDE**

- **Inhibits release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from sarcoplasmic reticulum**
- **Uses : ALS**



# USES OF C-SKMRs



- **(1) Acute Muscle Spasms :-**
  - \* **Sprain, strain, dislocation, fractures, tearing of ligaments/tendons , fibrositis, rheumatic disorders.**  
**(Chlormezanone+Diazepam+NSAIDs)**
- (2) Torticollis, Lumbago, Neuralgias :-**
- (3) Anxiety and Tension :-**  
**(Diazepam + Chlormezanone)**

## **USES OF C-SKMRs (Contd..)**

### **(4) Spastic Neurological Diseases :-**

**\* Muscle spasticity, Spinal injuries, multiple sclerosis, hemiplegia, paraplegia, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, ALS.**

**(Baclofen + Diazepam + Tizanidine) / (Dantrolene)**

### **(5) Tetanus : (I.V. infusion of diazepam)**

### **(6) Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) :- (Diazepam + Succinylcholine)**

### **(7) Orthopaedic Manipulation:- ( Diazepam / Methocarbamol ....I.V.)**

# PERIPHERALLY ACTING SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS (P-SKMRs)

- **Neuromuscular blocking agents**
- **(I) Non-Depolarising Agents :**
  - (a) D-Tubocurarine (d-TC), Mivacurium, Atracurium**
  - (b) Steroidal derivatives :-  
Pancuronium, Rocuronium,  
Rapacuronium, Vecuronium**
  - (c) Others :- Gallamine**

# P-SKMRs..(Contd..)



- **(II) Depolarising Agents :-**
  - (a) Succinylcholine (6-8 min)**

**(III) Others :-**

**(a) Botulinum toxin**



# PSKMRs- Classification According to Duration of Action



<b>Ultra Short acting</b>	<b>Succinylcholine</b>	<b>6-8 mins</b>
<b>Short acting</b>	<b>Mivacurium, Rapacuronium</b>	<b>10-20 mins</b>
<b>Intermediate acting</b>	<b>Atracurium, Vecuronium, Rocuronium</b>	<b>30-40 mins</b>
<b>Long acting</b>	<b>Pancuronium, D-Tubocuronium (d-TC)</b>	<b>80 – 180 mins</b>

# P-SKMRs..(Contd..)



## D-NMB agents

- **Succinylcholine**
- **Phase I,II block**
- **AntiCHE prolongs block**

## ND-NMB agents

- **d-TC**
- **Competitive Nicotinic receptor block**
- **Reverses block**

# P-SKMRs..(Contd..)



- **D-NMB agents**

- **ND-NMB agents**

- **S/Es :-**

- \* **Malignant hyperthermia**

- \* **Hypotension**

- \* **Bradycardia**

- \* **Bronchospasm**

- \* **P.O Muscle soreness**

- \* **No P.O. Muscle soreness.**

# MOA- **ND-NMB** agents :

**(d-TC, Pancuronium)**

**D-tubocurarine**



**Small doses of d-TC**



**Acts on Nicotinic (Nm) receptor**



**Compete with Acetylcholine(Ach)**



**Produces surmountable(competitive)**

**antagonism**

Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -

Dr. Kamlesh Patel -

Pharmacology - NHI MMC

# MOA- **ND-NMB** Agents :

(**d-TC, Pancuronium**) (contd...)

**D-tubocurarine**



**High doses of d-TC**



**Enter the pore of Na- ion channel**



**Causes blockade of Na- ion channel**



**No Depolarization – No Sk. M contraction**

# MOA- **ND-NMB** Agents :

**(d-TC, Pancuronium) contd.**



**D-tubocurarine**



**At much Higher doses of d-TC**



**Blocks Pre-synaptic Sodium channel**



**Inhibit Acetylcholine (Ach) release**

# MOA- **D-NMB** Agents :

**(Succinylcholine)**

**PHASE - I BLOCK**

**Succinylcholine**



**Acts like Acetylcholine (Ach)**



**Acts on Nicotinic (Nm) Receptors**



**Opens up Na-ionic channel**

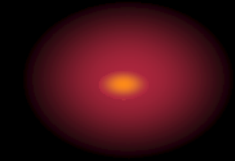


**Causes Depolarization of SKM end plate**

**Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -**

**Dr. Kamlesh Patel -**

**Pharmacology - NHI MMC**



# MOA- **D-NMB** agents :

**(Succinylcholine) (Contd.)**

**PHASE - I BLOCK (Contd.)**

**Spreading of Depolarisation**

↓  
**Produces disorganize contraction of  
muscle motor units  
(Twitching and Fasciculations)**

↓  
**Membrane remain depolarized**

↓  
**Unresponsive to further impulses**

↓  
**Inhibition of re-polarization causing  
Flaccid Paralysis**

**Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -**

**Dr. Kamlesh Patel -**

**Pharmacology - NHI MMC**



# MOA- **D-NMB** agents :

(Succinylcholine) (Contd..)

## PHASE – II BLOCK

With Continuous exposure of SCh

↓  
**Appearance of Na – Channel &  
Desensitization Blockade**

↓  
**Slow in onset due to desensitization  
of receptors to Ach**

↓  
**Resembles block produced by d-TC.**

## Pharmacokinetic Properties of PSKMRs (NMBAAs)

- **Not absorbed orally → given I.V.**
- **Do not cross BBB → no CNS toxicity**
- **Do not cross placental membrane → No foetal abnormality → safe during C.S.**
- **Some are metabolized to active metabolites; excreted through kidneys**

## Pharmacokinetic Properties of PSKMRs (NMBAs)

- **D-TC, Gallamine are not metabolized → have long duration of action**
- **Steroidal drugs are metabolized in liver to active 3-hydroxy metabolite → accumulate on prolonged administration in ICU**
- **Intermediate acting vecuronium, rocuronium are excreted through bile**
- **Atracurium is inactivated by spontaneous breakdown – ( Hofmann reaction ) to inactive metabolite Laudanosine which can cross BBB → precipitates Seizures**



# **USES OF NMB AGENTS**



- (1) Adjuvants to G.A. for all major surgeries**
- (2) Employed for short diagnostic procedures :-**
  - Laryngo / broncho / endoscopy,**
  - Endotracheal intubation**
- (3) In orthopedic procedures :-**
  - Reduction of fractures,**
  - Dislocations,**
- (4) d-TC , Gallamine, Pancuronium for ocular surgery**

## **USES OF NMB AGENTS (Contd..)**

- (5) Sch in ECT with Diazepam**
- (6) In spastic disorders :- Severe cases of Tetanus**
- (7) In refractory cases of status epilepticus (D-TC / Pancuronium + respiration)**
- (8) In ICU with Ventilators**
- (9) For provocative diagnostic test in Myaesthesia gravis  
(d-TC - 0.5-2mg I.V.) = Muscle weakness → Confirm My. Gravis)**

# **S/Es OF NMB AGENTS**

## **(I) NDP – Agents (d-TC, Pancuronium) :-**

- (a) Hypoxia, respiratory paralysis  
( Neostigmine+Atropine+ Resp)**
- (b) Hypotension (Antihist +IV fluids), Bronchospasm (dTC)**
- (c) Tachycardia (Gallamine)**
- (d) Regurgitation, constipation.**

# **S/Es OF NMB AGENTS** **(Contd..)**



## **(II) DP - Agents (Succinylcholine)**

- (a) Cardiac arrest, arrhythmia, bradycardia**
- (b) Malignant hyperthermia (Sch + Halothane)**
- (c) Hyperkalaemia, Emesis**
- (d) Increase IOP (Intraocular pressure)**

## Drug Interactions of PSKMRs

- **1) G.A + PSKMRs → Augment action of PSKMRs**
- **2) AntiCHEs (Neostigmine) + d-TC → Reverses the action of competitive NMBAs – d-TC**
- **3) Aminoglycosides, CCBs + PSKMRs → potentiate the action of PSKMRs → C/I**



# **BOTULINUM TOXIN**



- **Is obtained from a Gram Positive Anaerobic Bacterium Clostridium Botulinum**
- **It prevents release of Acetylcholine into synaptic cleft by inhibiting necessary proteins for the release of Ach → normalizes the tone in hyperactive or spastic muscles when given locally → inhibition lasts for 3-4 months**
- **S/Es are myalgia, muscle paralysis , rashes**

# Botulinum Toxin ( Contd...)



- **Therapeutic Uses :-**
- **1) In Cosmetic surgery – I.M.; I.D**
- **\*\* For removal of facial lines**
- **\*\* To give wrinkle - free face**
- **\*\* To prevent ageing process**
- **2) For spasticity or Dystonia → given in muscles in multiple doses**
- **3) For strabismus, blepharospasm, hemifacial spasms, LES spasm**
- **4) For hyper-hydrosis of palms and axillae**

# Malignant Hyperthermia

- **Caused by co-administration of halogenated inhalational anaesthesia and depolarizing NMBA**  
( Halothane + succinylcholine)

- **Occurs in genetically susceptible individuals deficient of Ryanodine (RyR1) receptors on calcium channel of sarcoplasmic reticulum of skeletal muscles.**

→ **Hence, impairment of the ability to sequester calcium from the sarcoplasmic reticulum** → **↑ in  $Ca^{2+}$  concentrations.**

# Malignant Hyperthermia



- **Clinical features :- Severe rise in body temperature, hyper-reflexes, hypertonia, hyperventilation, tachycardia, palpitations, rigidity and metabolic acidosis → a life threatening condition.**
- **Treatment :-**
  - **1) 1mg/Kg Dantrolene i.v. inj**
  - **2) Rapid cooling by cool sponging**
  - **3) Ventilation, 100% oxygen inhalation**
  - **4) Treatment of acidosis**

# FAQs :-



- **1) Classify NMBAs. Describe pharmacological actions, therapeutic uses, Important adverse effects , drug-Interactions of Depolarizing or Non-depolarizing agents.**
- **2) Compare & contrast D-NMBAs & ND-NMBAs**

# FAQs :-



- **3) What is Hofmann Reaction? Which drug produces it?**
- **4) What is malignant Hyperthermia? How to treat it?**
- **5) What is Botulinum Toxin? What are its uses?**

**SKMRs AGENTS.....**



**THANK YOU**

THANK YOU

**Skeletal Muscle Relaxants -  
Dr. Kamlesh Patel -  
Pharmacology - NHI MMC**