OPTION D
MEDICINES and DRUGS

D1: Pharmaceutical products and short overview of the option

Dr. Ilias Liakatas
Outline of this option

- Pharmaceutical products
- Antacids
- Analgesics
- Depressants
- Stimulants
- Antibacterials
- Antivirals
- Drug action (HL)
- Drug design (HL)
- Mind altering drugs (HL)
What is a medicine or drug?

A substance that alters one or more of the following:

- Incoming sensory sensations
- Mood or emotions
- Physiological state
  - Consciousness
  - Activity level
  - Co-ordination
Categories of medicines

- Infection fighters
  - Antiseptics
  - Antibiotics
  - Antivirals

- Affecting metabolism
  - Hormones
  - Vitamins

- Affecting central nervous system
  - Stimulants
  - Depressants
  - Analgesics
  - Anaesthetics
Placebo Effect

- Inert substance but effective
- Used as control substance
- Power of suggestion
- Body’s natural healing
Research on new products

1. Tests on animals
   *Dose, side effects*

2. Clinical trial (phase 1)
   *Safety, dose range*

3. Clinical trial (phase 2)
   *Response, investigator bias, statistics*

4. Clinical trial (phase 3)
   *Extended evaluation*

> 16/3620 medicines into the market in 1970

> *Thalidomide*: for morning sickness but deformed babies
Administration of drugs

- **Oral**
  *convenient, absorbed at small intestines*

- **Rectal**
  *when not able from mouth or destroyed by acids*

- **Inhalation**
  *rapid, anaesthesia*

- **Parenteral / Injection**
  - Subcutaneous (dental, slow)
  - Intramuscular (vaccinations, large V)
  - Intravenous (fast, practical)
Lethal Dose (LD₅₀)

= the dose of a substance in mg per Kg of body mass, that kills 50% of sample

The smaller the LD50, the more toxic the substance

Examples:

- aspirin
  - rat: 200
  - rabbit: 1000
- nicotine
  - rat: 50
- ethanol
  - rat: 9000
Effective Dose (ED\textsubscript{50})

= the dose of a substance in mg per Kg of body mass, that is effective to 50% of sample

The smaller the ED\textsubscript{50}, the more effective the substance

Examples: aspirin 55
Therapeutic window

= the ratio of LD50 over ED50

The wider the window, the safer the substance

Examples: aspirin

therapeutic window = 200/55
Drug effect

- Main effect (desired)
- Side effects (unwanted responses)

Drug effects are relative!!

Morphine:
For pain relief, constipation is side effect
For diarrhoea, pain relief is side effect
Tolerance

Over time and with regular use, the user requires larger dose of the drug to achieve the effect originally obtained by smaller dose

- Increase of hazards (larger amounts)
- No tolerance to side effects
- If drug not taken for long time > decrease of tolerance > overdose
And now a short presentation of the rest of the topics of this option...
ANTACIDS

- Why is stomach acidic?
- How can we neutralize it?
- What are the most common antacids?
- What are the neutralizing reactions?
- With what can the antacids be combined?
ANALGESICS

- What are soft and strong analgesics?
- How do they prevent pain?
- Aspirin versus paracetamol?
- Morphine versus heroin/codeine?

Advantages – disadvantages?
DEPRESSANTS

- What is their effect?
- How is effect dependant on dose?
  - Tranquilizers
  - Sedatives
  - Hypnotics
  - Anaesthetics
- **Ethanol** (effects, detection)
- Most common depressants?
STIMULANTS

- What is their effect?
- Adrenaline versus amphetamines
- Nicotine
  - Short-term effects
  - Long-term effects
- Caffeine
  - Effects
  - Comparison to nicotine
ANTIBACTERIALS

- The discovery of penicillin
- How penicillin works
- Modifications of penicillin
- Use and overprescription

- Broad versus narrow spectrum antibiotics
ANTIVIRALS

- Viruses versus bacteria
- How do antiviral drugs work?
- What is HIV and what AIDS?
- Why is it difficult to fight HIV?
- (AIDS prevention methods?)
DRUG ACTION

- Geometrical isomers can have different pharmacological effects
- **Examples**: CISplatin – Thalidomide

- Optical isomers can have different pharmacological effects
- **Examples**: Thalidomide

- How structural features affect the pharmacological effect
- **Examples**: Penicillin, heroin
DRUG DESIGN

- Compound library
- Combinatorial and parallel chemistry
- Computer aided drug design
- Polarity modification
- Chirality modification
MIND ALTERING DRUGS

- LSD, Mescaline, Psilocybin, THC
- Effects similarities, differences
- Legalization of cannabis