



**SNS COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES**  
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**DEPARTMENT : PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

**COURSE NAME : PHARMACOLOGY**

**UNIT : DRUGS ACTING ON HEART**

**TOPIC : ANTIARRHYTHMIC AGENTS**



# ANTIARRHYTHMIC AGENTS



- Antiarrhythmic agents are drugs designed to correct or control irregularities in the heart's rhythm, known as arrhythmias.
- These medications act on the electrical signaling pathways of the heart to restore a normal rhythm.



## CLASSIFICATION



- Class I: Sodium channel blockers (IA, IB, IC)
- Class II: Beta-adrenergic blockers
- Class III: Potassium channel blockers
- Class IV: Calcium channel blockers



# MECHANISM OF ACTION



## Class I (Sodium Channel Blockers):

- IA: Block sodium channels, prolonging action potential duration and refractory period.
- IB: Block sodium channels, shortening action potential duration.
- IC: Potent sodium channel blockers with minimal effect on action potential duration.



## Class II (Beta-Adrenergic Blockers):

- Block beta receptors, reducing sympathetic stimulation and heart rate.

## Class III (Potassium Channel Blockers):

- Prolong the repolarization phase of the cardiac action potential by blocking potassium channels.



## Class IV (Calcium Channel Blockers):

- Block calcium channels, reducing the influx of calcium during depolarization.



# PHARMACODYNAMICS



- The pharmacodynamics of antiarrhythmic agents involve their effects on cardiac ion channels, membrane potentials, and neurotransmitter receptors.
- These actions collectively aim to stabilize the electrical activity of the heart.



# PHARMACOKINETICS



- The pharmacokinetics of antiarrhythmics vary widely. They are absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract, undergo metabolism in the liver, and are eliminated via renal or hepatic pathways.
- Individual drugs within each class may have specific pharmacokinetic properties that influence their dosing and frequency.





## INDICATIONS



- Antiarrhythmic agents are used for various types of arrhythmias, including atrial and ventricular arrhythmias.
- Specific indications may include atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, ventricular tachycardia, and others, depending on the drug and its class.



# CONTRAINDICATIONS



- Known hypersensitivity to the drug
- Severe bradycardia (for certain drugs)
- Heart block
- Hypotension
- Severe hepatic or renal impairment



## SIDE EFFECTS



- Proarrhythmia (inducing new arrhythmias)
- Bradycardia or tachycardia
- Hypotension
- Gastrointestinal disturbances
- Central nervous system effects (dizziness, fatigue, tremors)
- Pulmonary toxicity (especially with amiodarone)



## TECHNICIAN ROLE



- Electrocardiogram (ECG) Monitoring
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Heart Rate Monitoring
- Serum Drug Levels
- Renal and Hepatic Function
- Lung Function Tests
- Thyroid Function Tests
- Electrolyte Levels
- Symptom Monitoring



# ASSESSMENT



- What is the Classification of Antiarrhythmic agents ?
- What all are the Contraindications of Antiarrhythmic agents ?