

# Opioids & opioids antagonists

---

- By
  - *Dr.Nashwa Abo-Rayah*
- *Assistant prof. (clinical &experimental pharmacology)*
  - *Mu'tah University- Faculty of Medicine*



# What are analgesics?

Drugs which relieve pain They are classified into:

## Narcotic

- Relieve all types of pain except itching and colic
- It is accompanied with Changes in mood
- Addiction liability

## Non narcotic

- Relieve pain of moderate to low intensity
- No
- No

Simple	Non steroidal antiinflammatory	Slowly acting antiinflammatory
Analgesic	Analgesic	No
Antipyretic	Antipyretic	No
No	Antiinflammatory	Antiinflammatory
Example: Acetaminophen	Example: Salicylates	Example: gold salts

# Analgesics

**Analgesics** are the drugs (natural or synthetic origin)

which relieve pain by acting on CNS or peripheral pain mechanism

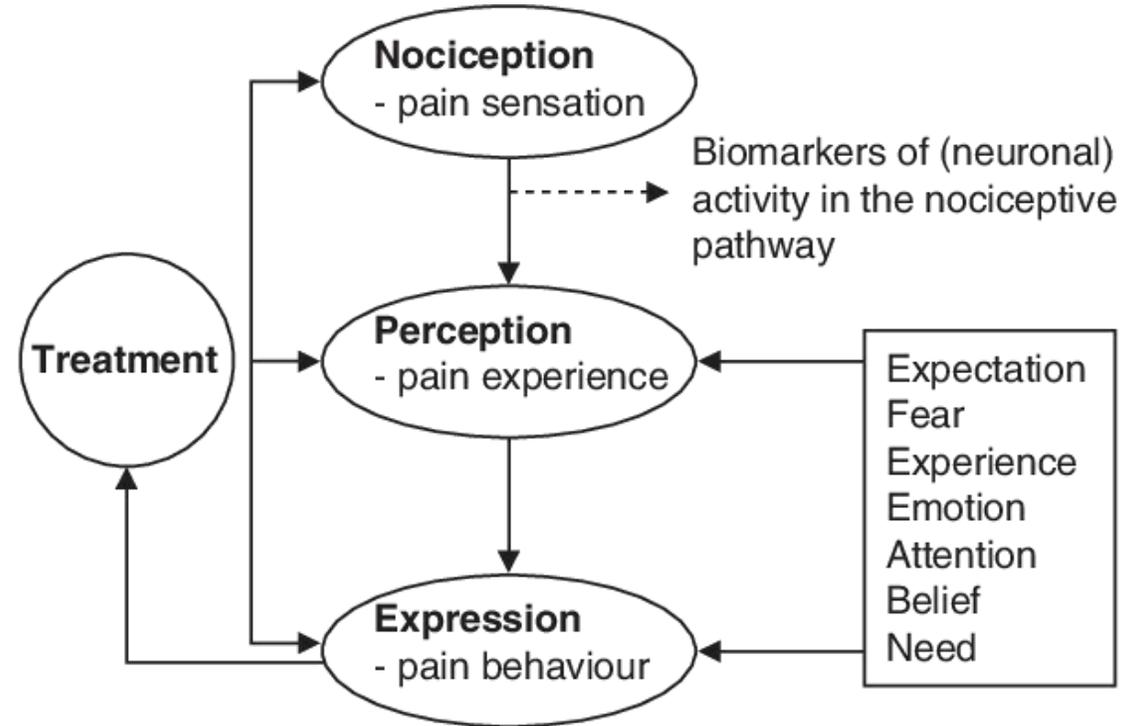
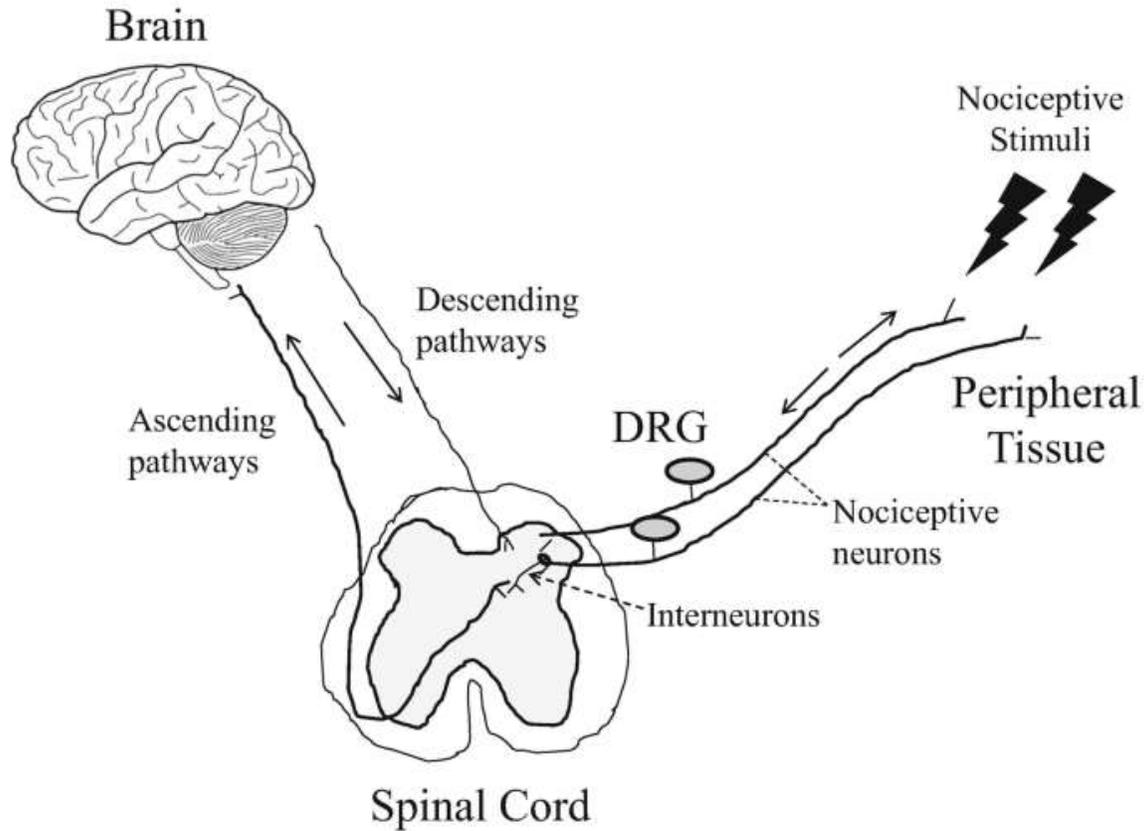
without causing loss of consciousness

**Analgesics can  
be divided into  
two main  
groups:**

Opioid/narcotic/morphine-  
like analgesics.

Nonopioid/non-  
narcotic/aspirin-like  
analgesics.

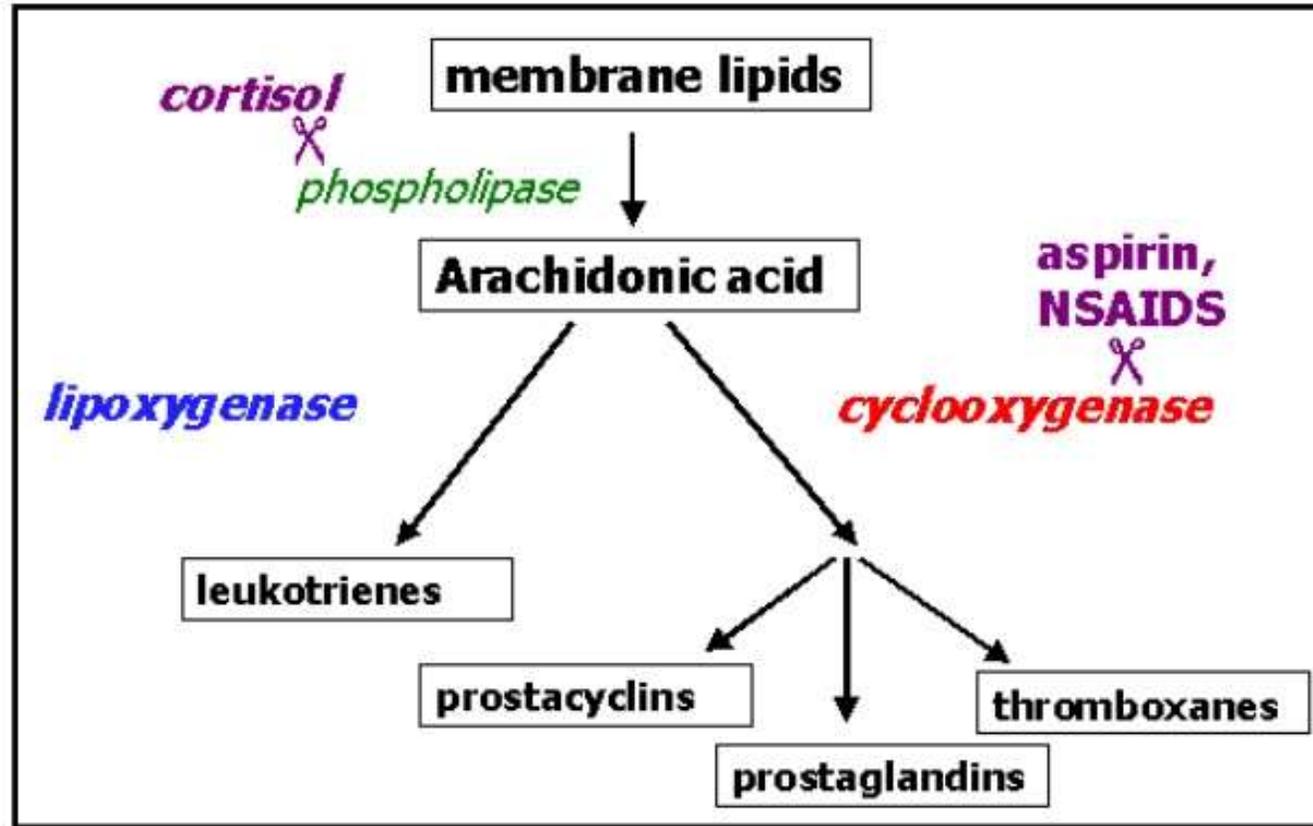
# Why do we feel pain?





Pain ladder

## MECHANISM OF PAIN CAUSATION :



# Opioid analgesics

The term *opioid* applies to any substance,

whether natural or synthetic,

that produces morphine-like effects that are blocked by antagonists such as naloxone

# Classification of narcotic analgesics

---

## 1-Natural alkaloids

---

Morphine

---

Codeine

---

## 2- Semisynthetic compounds

---

Pholcodeine

---

Diacetyl morphine??

## • 3- Synthetic compounds

- Pethidine (meperidine in USA)
- Fentanyl
- Methadone
- Tramadol
- Sufentanil
- Alfentanil

# opium poppy



**This is mature opium poppy. The opium has just been cut and what is dripping from the seam is a milky latex sap containing a “naturally occurring narcotic alkaloid” including morphine and codeine. This morphine can then turn into semisynthetic narcotics**

# Narcotic (Opioid) analgesics

They are natural or synthetic opium alkaloid derivatives e.g., Morphine (natural) & Meperidine (synthetic)

They mimic the action of endogenous opioid peptides produced naturally by the body e.g., endorphins, enkephalins & dynorphins

They act on specific receptors in CNS known as opioid receptors

They are abused due to their ability to produce euphoria

# Opoipeptides (endogenous opioids)

---

They include:

---

$\beta$ -endorphin, met-enkephalin, leu-enkephalin & dynorphin.

---

They are synthesized in the CNS.

---

Actions: morphine-like

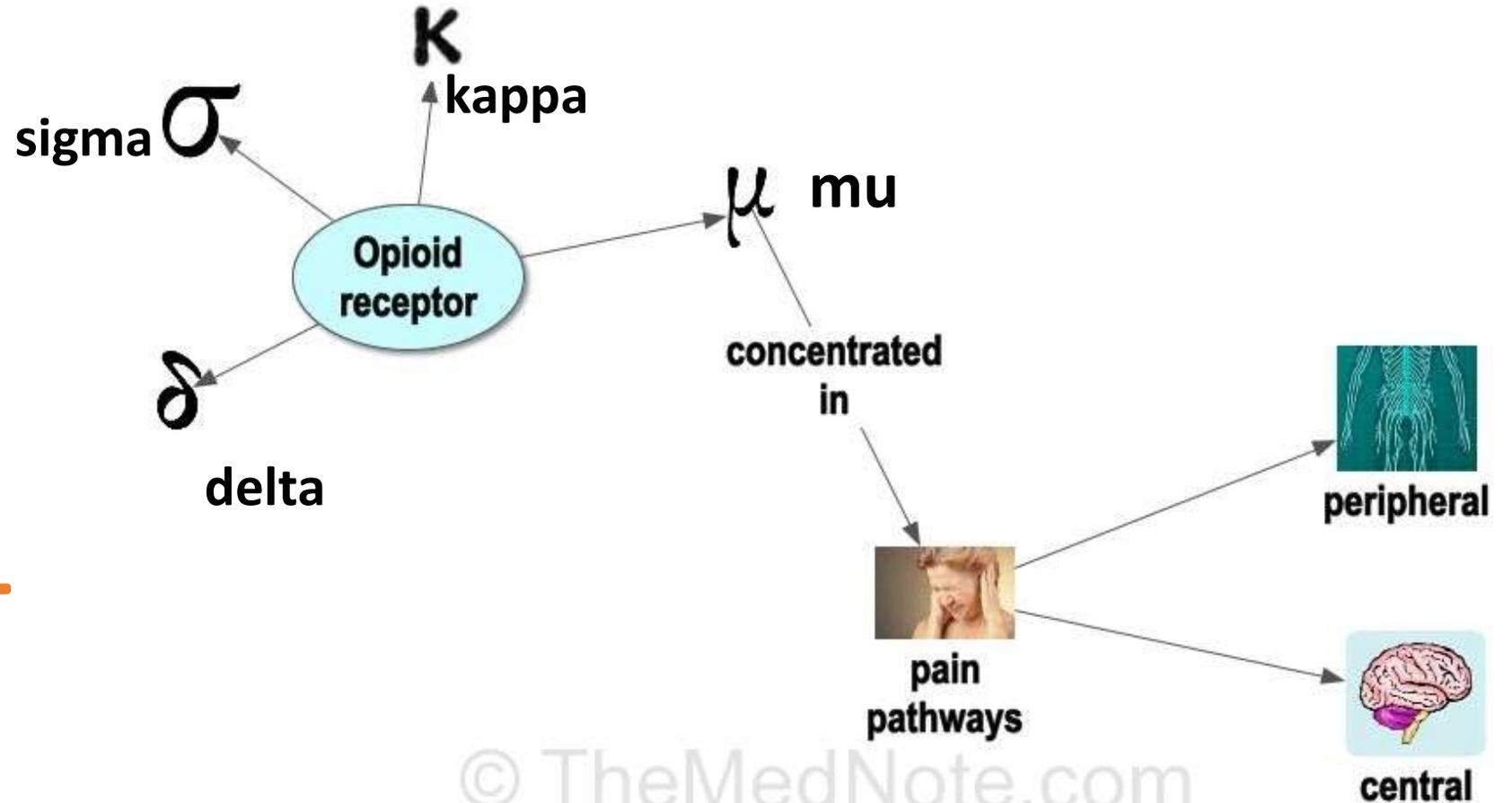
---

They can not be used clinically: because they do not pass BBB.

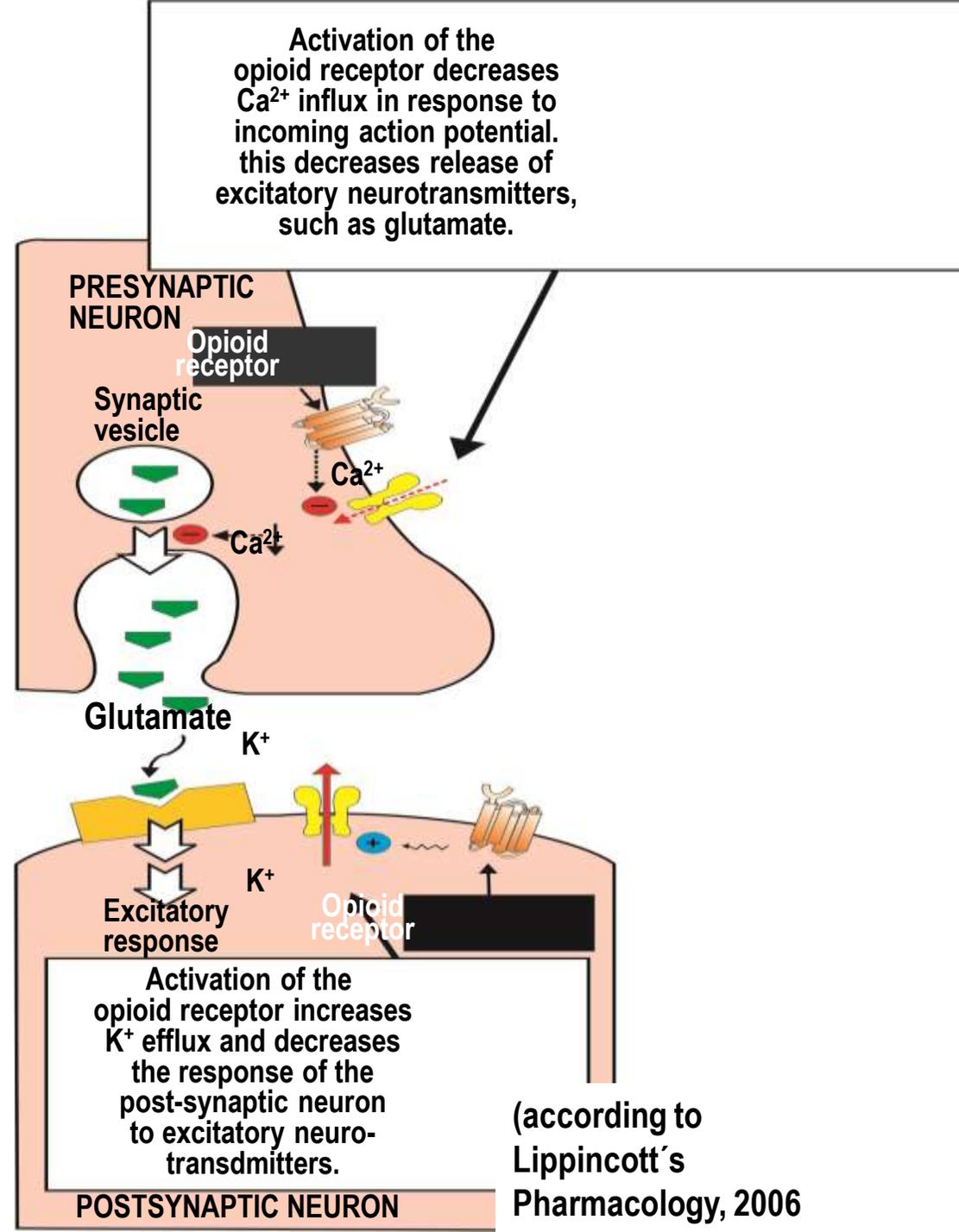
N.B. Recently, there are evidences that morphine & codeine may present in mammalian tissues.

# Opioid receptors

---



# Mechanism of action of opioid receptor agonists in the spinal cord.



# Opioid receptors

They are present in CNS & GIT

They are members of the **G-protein-coupled** receptor family and inhibit adenylyl cyclase

They are also associated with ion channels, increasing postsynaptic  $K^+$  efflux (hyperpolarization) or reducing presynaptic  $Ca^{++}$  influx

They are classified into 4 types

# Opioid receptors

## 1- Mu ( $\mu$ ) receptors:

- Analgesia, euphoria, sedation, miosis, dependence, respiratory depression & constipation

## 2- Kappa ( $\kappa$ ) receptors:

Analgesia, sedation & miosis

## 3- Delta ( $\delta$ ) receptors:

Spinal analgesia & constipation

## 4- Sigma ( $\sigma$ ) receptors:

Hallucination & dysphoria

# Morphine

Natural alkaloid found in opium plant

## Mechanism of action

Morphine stimulates opioid receptors in CNS & spinal cord.  
This leads to:

- 1- ↓ Adenylyl cyclase → ↓ cAMP
- 2- ↑ K<sup>+</sup> efflux → hyperpolarization
- 3- ↓ Ca<sup>++</sup> influx → ↓ release of pain mediators e.g., substance P & excitatory NTs e.g., glutamate

# Pharmacological actions of morphine

## 1- CNS

**Analgesia (reduce pain) & euphoria**

**Cough suppression (Inhibits cough center)**

**Vomiting (Stimulates CTZ)**

**Hypoxia (Inhibits respiratory center)**

# Pharmacological actions of morphine

---

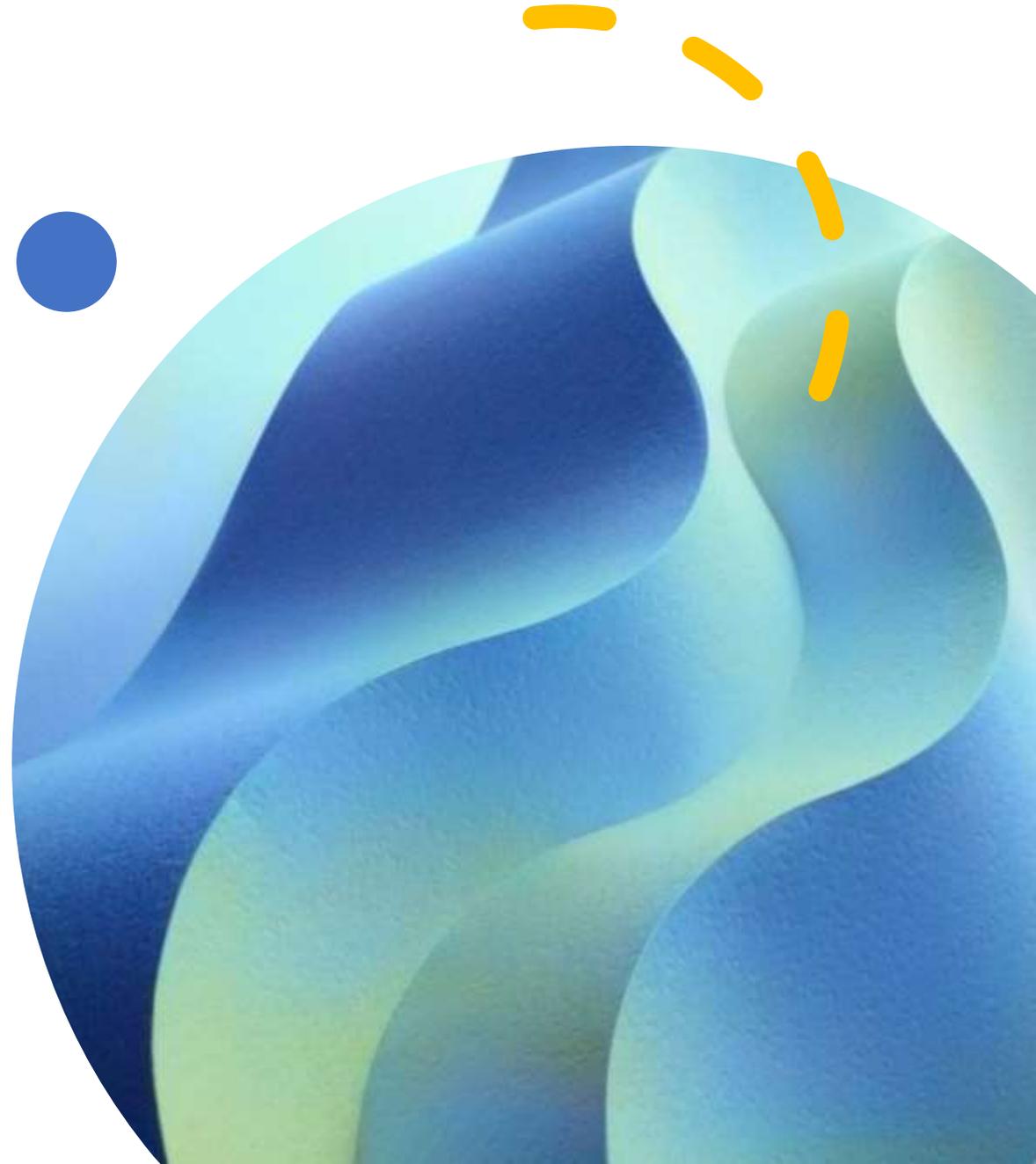
## 2- CVS

---

**Bradycardia (Stimulates vagal center)**

---

**Hypotension (Inhibits vasomotor center)**



# Pharmacological actions of morphine

## 3- Eye

- **Pin-Point Pupil (PPP) due to stimulation of oculomotor nerve**

## 4- GIT

- **Constipation (Inhibits intestinal motility)**

# Pharmacological actions of morphine

## 5- Endocrine effects

- **Increases release of antidiuretic hormone (ADH)**
- **Decreases release of lutenizing hormone (LH), follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) & adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH)**

# Therapeutic uses of morphine

1- Severe pain (Post-operative, trauma, cancer & myocardial infarction)

2- Pre-anesthetic medication

3- Cough suppressant

# Therapeutic uses of morphine

4- Pulmonary  
oedema: As it  
can:

Decrease  
pulmonary  
pressure

Decrease  
patient  
anxiety

Suppress  
cough

Slow  
respiration

# Adverse effects of morphine

Respiratory depression

Vomiting

Hypotension

Bradycardia

Urine retention

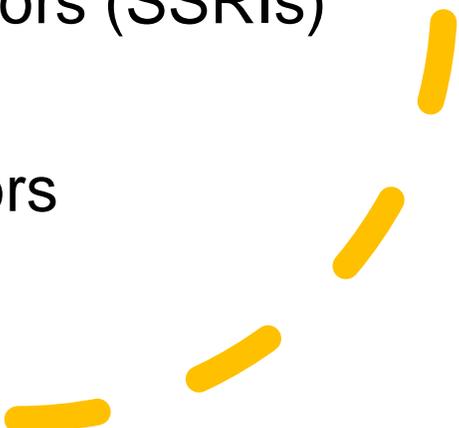
Constipation

Addiction

# Contraindications

- **1-Respiratory diseases e.g., Asthma**
- **Inhibits RC**
- **Increases histamine release**
- **2- Adrenal insufficiency**
- Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use, more often following greater than one month of use.
- **3- Pregnancy**
- **Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome**
- **Prolonged use of Morphine Sulfate Injection during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening if not recognized and treated**
- **Can pass placenta: Neonatal asphyxia**
- **4- known or suspected GIT obstruction including paralytic ileus, BILIARY COLIC?**
- **5- *Patients with Increased Intracranial Pressure, Brain Tumors, Head Injury, or Impaired Consciousness***
- **6- *Benign prostatic hyperplasia?***

# Morphine drug interactions

- Due to additive pharmacologic effect, the concomitant use of benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including alcohol, can increase the risk of hypotension, respiratory depression, profound sedation, coma, and death.
  - The concomitant use of opioids with other drugs that affect the serotonergic neurotransmitter system has resulted in serotonin syndrome:
    - Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)
    - tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)
    - monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors
- 

# Classification of opioid drugs

1- Strong agonists

2- Partial agonists: Mixed  
agonist/antagonists

3- Miscellaneous

4- Opioid antagonists

# 1- Strong agonists

Examples: Morphine, Meperidine, Methadone, Heroin & Fentanyl

- Act mainly on  $\mu$  receptors
- Have some actions on  $\kappa$  &  $\delta$  receptors

2- Partial agonists:  
Mixed  
agonist/antagonists

Buprenorphine is  
a partial  $\mu$  agonist

- **Less euphoric, longer duration**
- **Used in treatment of heroin addiction**

## Examples: Pentazocine, butorphanol & Nalbuphine

- **Agonist at  $\kappa$  receptors (analgesia) but competitive antagonist at  $\mu$  receptors**

## 3- Miscellaneous

### A- Codeine (methyl morphine)

- It is a moderate agonist
- Less potent analgesic than morphine
- Lower abuse potential than morphine
- May be used in treatment of dry cough
- Note:
  - In most cough preparations codeine has been replaced by Dextromethorphan (Free of analgesic & addictive properties)

## 3- Miscellaneous

### B- Tramadol (*Tramal, Tamol, Contramal*)

- It is a weak  $\mu$  agonist
- Weakly inhibits reuptake of NE & 5-HT
- Used in treatment of moderate pain
- It has been lately abused

### 3- Miscellaneous

**C- Diphenoxylate  
(*Lomotil*) & Loperamide  
(*Imodium*):**

- **They are synthetic opioids**
- **They have some anticholinergic activity**
- **They are taken orally for treatment of diarrhea**

# 4- Opioid antagonists

## A- Naloxone

- Used in morphine poisoning
- Short acting (1-2 hrs), given IV

## B- Naltrexone

- Long acting (Up to 48 hrs), given orally

## C- Nalmefene

- Similar to naloxone but longer half-life (8-10 hrs)

# Narcotic antagonists

A narcotic antagonist reverses the actions of a narcotic

Specific antagonists have been developed to reverse the respiratory depression associated with the opiates

The narcotic antagonists in use today are :

Naloxone , Naltrexone , and Nalmefene

# Narcotic antagonists

**Naloxone** can restore respiratory function within 1 to 2 minutes after administration.

**Naltrexone** is used primarily for the treatment of narcotic dependence to block the effects of the opiates, especially the euphoric effects experienced in opiate dependence

# تعرف على متعاطي الترامادول من خلال الأعراض الآتية:

- الترنح اثناء المشى او السير بسحب القدم
- احمرار خفيف الى متوسط فى العينين وشبه مغلقتين
- الاكل الدائم والشرب الدائم والأكثر من المعتاد لأن الترامادول او المخدرات تشعر متعاطيها بالجوع و العطش
- التحدث بلسان ملتوى او ثقيل وتأتأة فى الكلام
- الكذب المستمر فيخفى مكان تواجدده ولايخبر متى عودته فى حال خروجه
- حب العزلة و إغلاق الباب عليه وعدم الاهتمام بأحد من عائلته
- ترك الصلاة والصيام والطاعة

# تعرف على متعاطي الترامادول من خلال الأعراض الآتية:

- لا يهتم كثيرا بمظهره ونظافته الشخصية
- تردى وضعه المالى ويطلب المزيد من المال بشكل مستمر
- يقوم بحركات و تصرفات غير مناسبة كالضحك او البكاء فجأة
- التغير السريع والمفاجيء فى المزاج فتجده من عصبى الى هادىء او العكس
- تدنى مستوى التحصيل العلمى الدراسى وفقد التركيز والحفظ
- الشعور الدائم بالخوف و المراقبة ودائم الدفاع عن نفسه حتى لو لم يتم توجيه تهمة له



*Thank you*