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**FACULTY OF NURSING**

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# **Unit VIII Drug used on skin & Mucous Membrane**

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# Syllabus – (Unit VIII: Drug used on skin & Mucous Membrane)

**Pharmacology of commonly used:** Topical application for:

Skin.

Eye.

Ear.

Nose.

Buccal cavity.

Composition, action, dosage, route, indications, contraindications, drug interactions, side effects, adverse effects, toxicity & role of nurse.

SKIN

# Skin: Dermatologic Pharmacology

Introduction

Dermatologic Vehicles

Antibacterial Agents

Antifungal Agents

Immunomodulators

Ectoparasiticides

Agents Affecting Pigmentation.

- Sunscreens
- Acne Preparations
- Corticosteroids
- Keratolytics & Destructive Agents
- Antipruritic Agents
- Trichogenic & Antitrichogenic Agents

# roduction

Topical drugs are especially appropriate for diseases of the skin.

Some dermatologic diseases respond as well or better to drugs administered systemically.

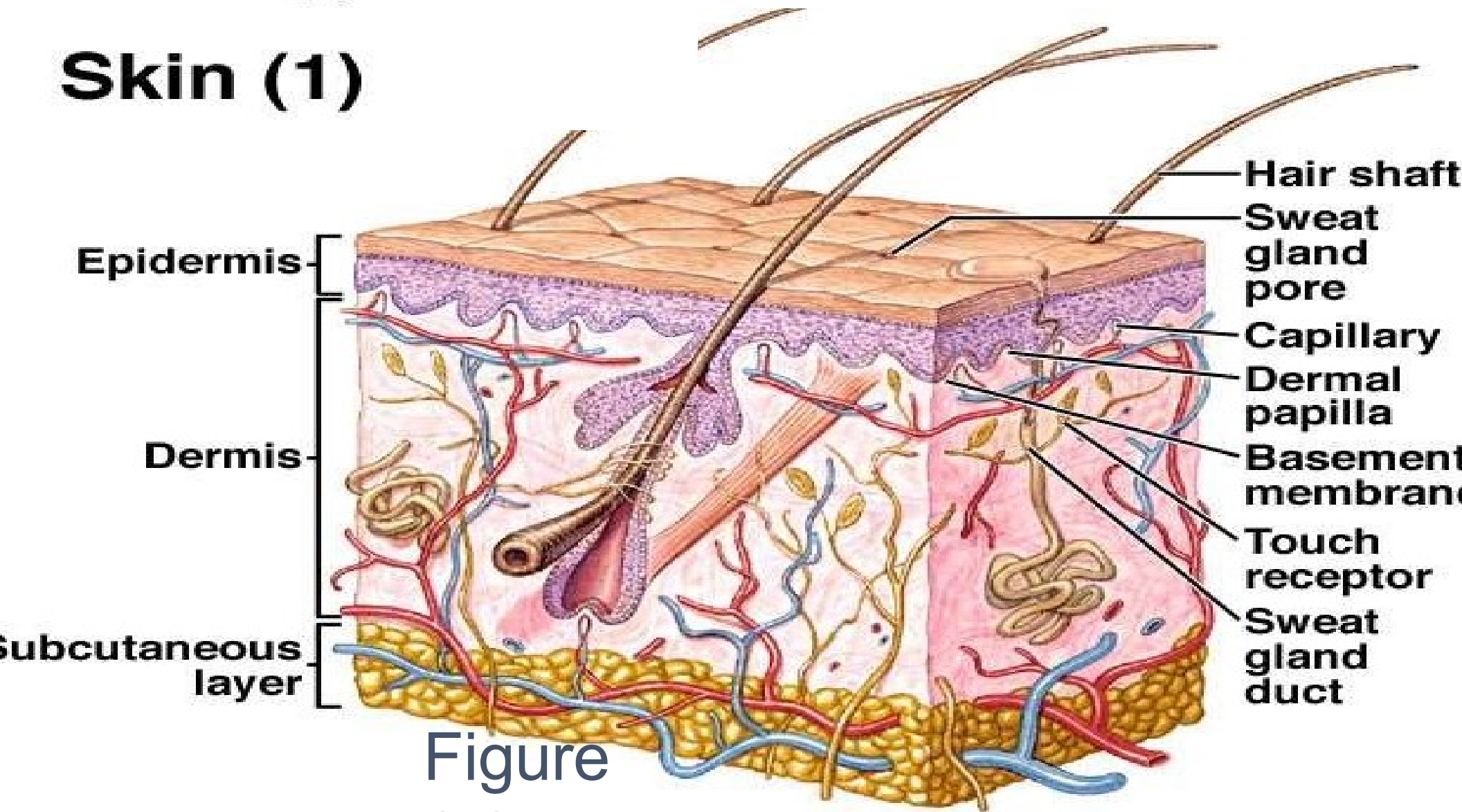
Major variables that determine response to topical drugs include:

- Regional variation in drug penetration: the scrotum, face, axilla, and scalp are far more permeable than the forearm.
- Concentration gradient: increasing the concentration increases the mass of drug transferred per unit time.
- Dosing schedule: the skin acts as a reservoir, so the "local half-life" may be longer than systemic half-lives and permit once-daily application of drugs.
- Vehicles: vehicles maximize the skin penetration of the drug and their moistening and drying effects have therapeutic benefit.
- Occlusion: occlusion (application of a plastic wrap) is extremely effective in maximizing efficacy.

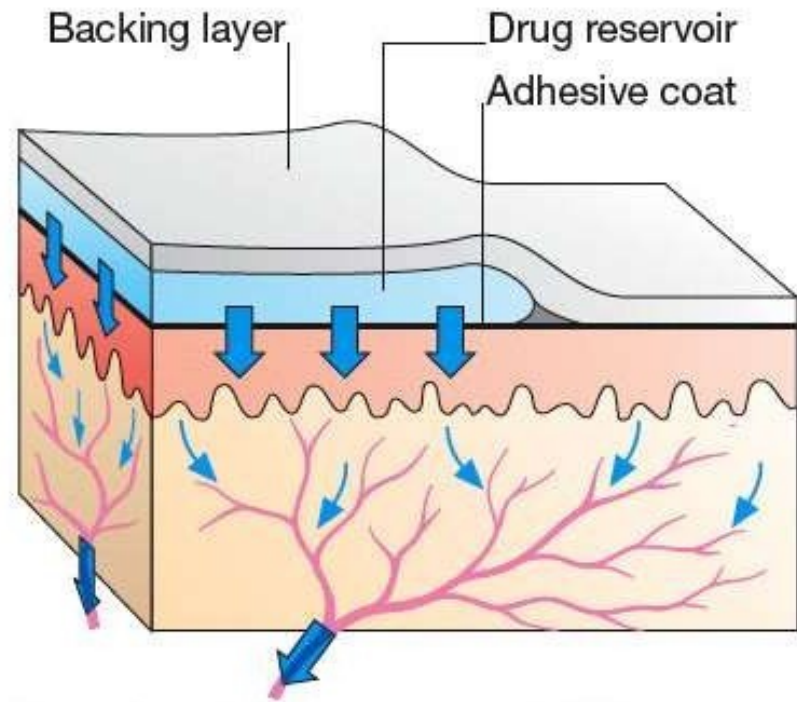
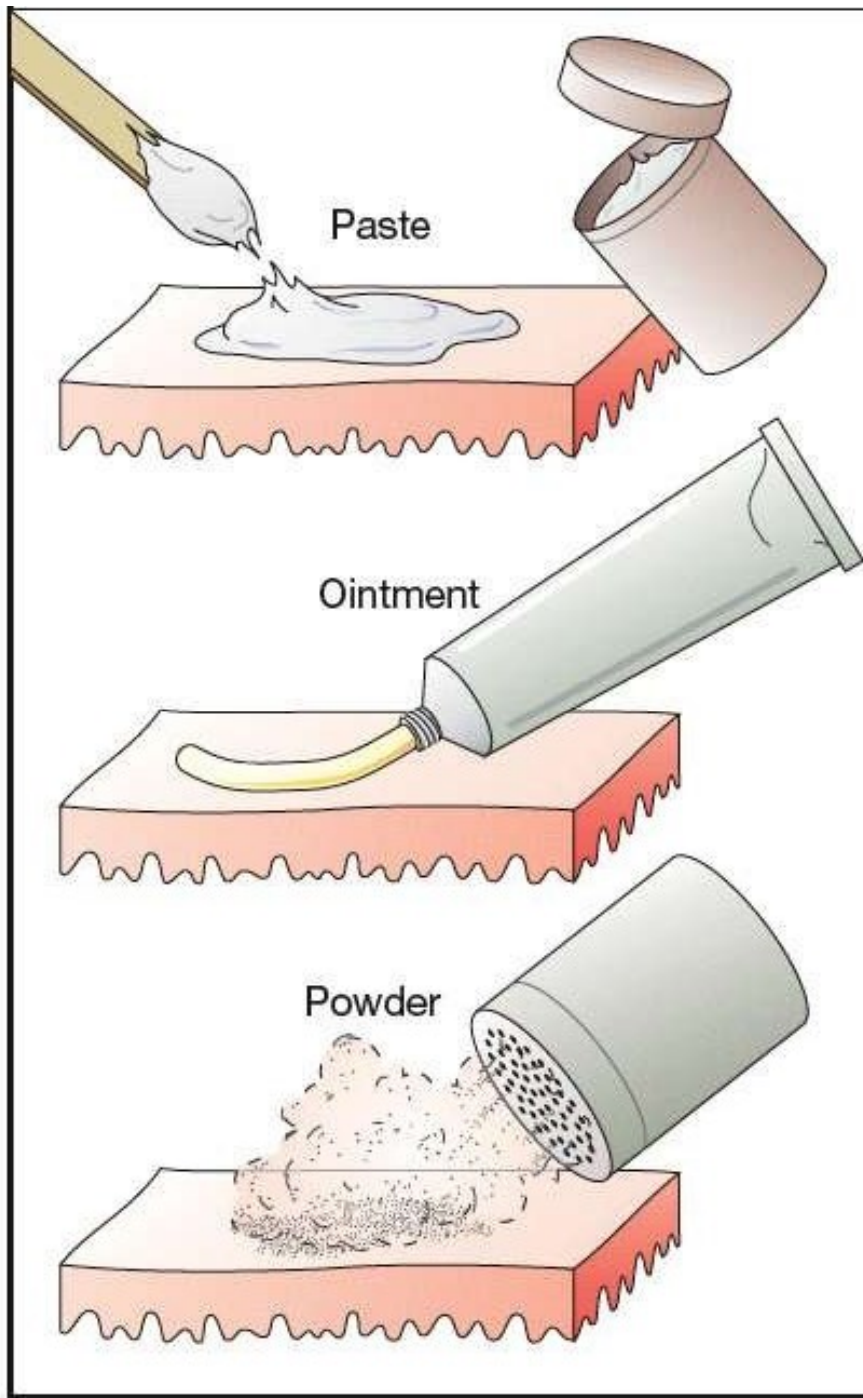
# Cutaneous Membrane = Skin

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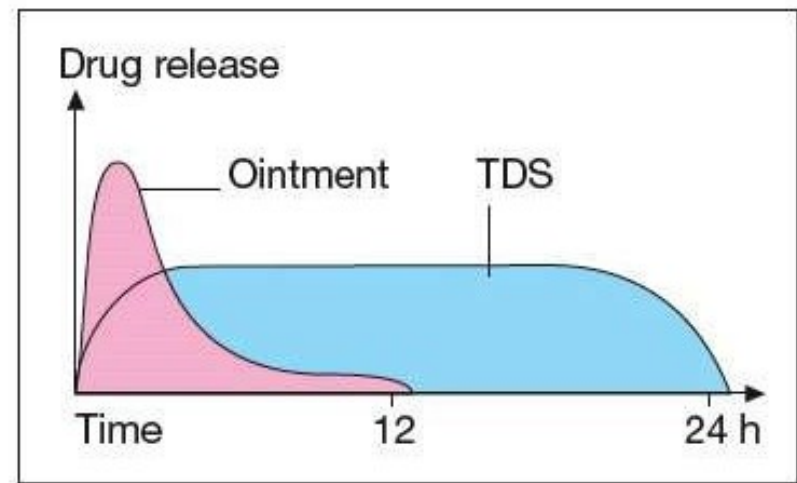
## Skin (1)



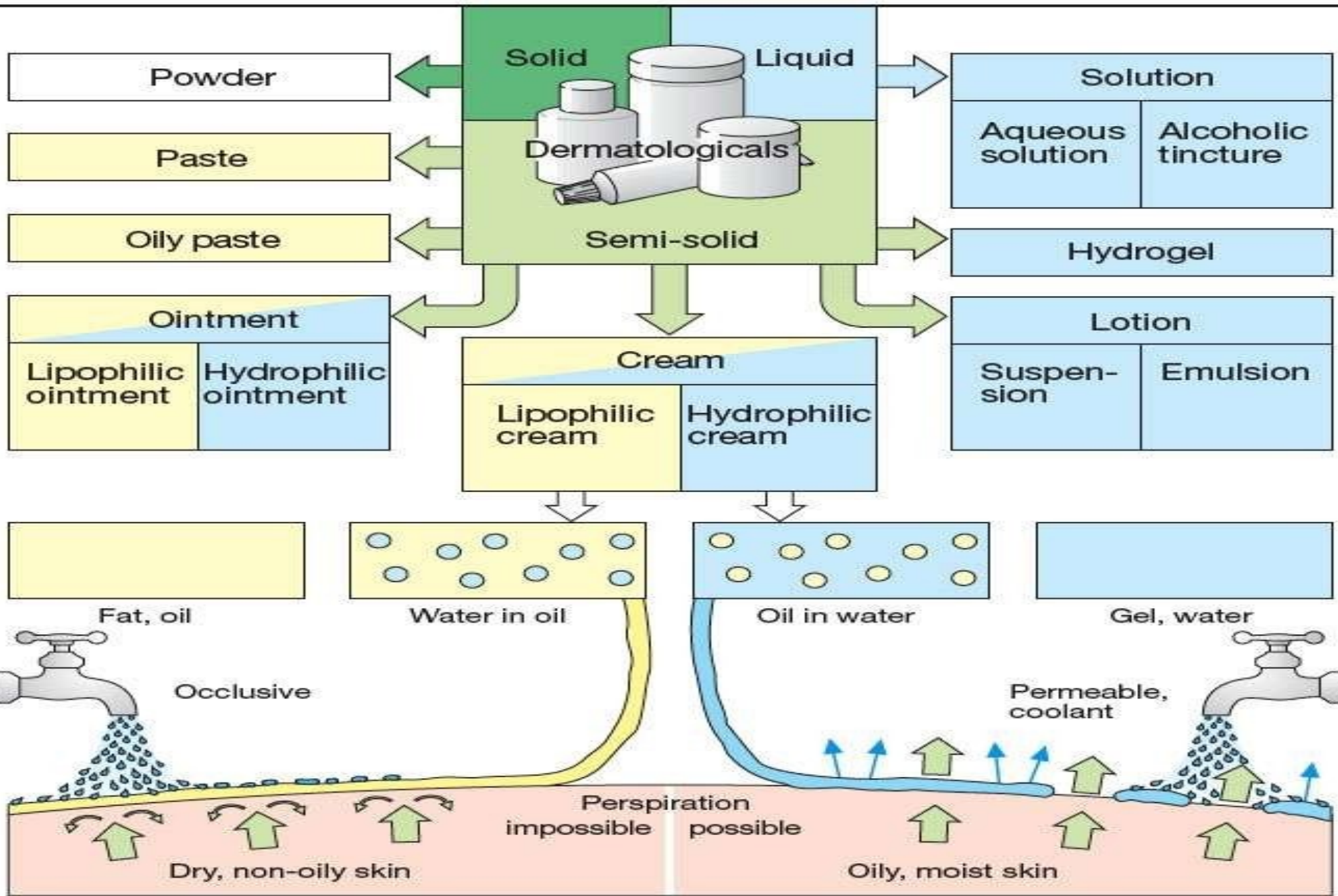
Figure



Transdermal delivery system (TDS)







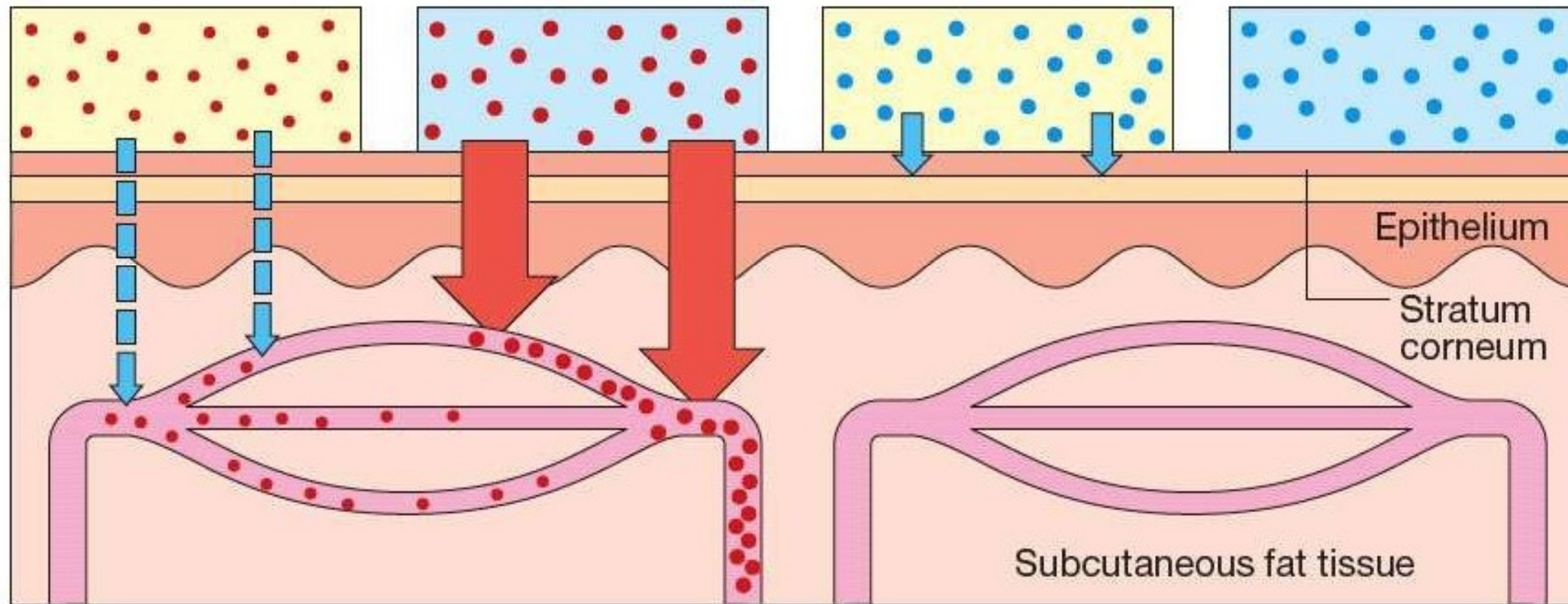
**Dermatologicals as skin protectants**

Lipophilic drug  
in lipophilic  
base

Lipophilic drug  
in hydrophilic  
base

Hydrophilic drug  
in lipophilic  
base

Hydrophilic drug  
in hydrophilic  
base



Epithelium

Stratum  
corneum

Subcutaneous fat tissue

## Dermatologicals as drug vehicles

# Dermatologic Vehicles

Important considerations in selection of a vehicle include:

- The solubility of the active agent in the vehicle
- The rate of release of the agent from the vehicle
- The ability of the vehicle to hydrate the stratum corneum, thus enhancing penetration
- The stability of the therapeutic agent in the vehicle
- Interactions of the vehicle, stratum corneum, and active agent.

Depending upon the vehicle, drugs are classified as: tinctures, wet dressings, lotions, gels, aerosols, powders, pastes, creams, and ointments

The ability of the vehicle to retard evaporation from the skin is least in tinctures and greatest in ointments.

# Dermatologic Vehicles Cont,d

Acute inflammation with oozing, vesiculation, and crusting is treated with drying preparations (tinctures, wet dressings, and lotions).

Chronic inflammation with xerosis, scaling, and lichenification is treated with lubricating preparations (creams and ointments).

Tinctures, lotions, gels, and aerosols are convenient for application to the scalp and hairy areas.

Emulsified creams are used in intertriginous areas without causing maceration.

# Antibacterial Agents

Topical corticosteroids do not inhibit the effects of co-administered antibiotics.

In the treatment of secondarily infected dermatoses, combination therapy is superior to corticosteroid therapy alone.

Antibiotic-corticosteroid combinations are useful in diaper dermatitis, otitis externa, and impetiginized eczema.

The pathogens in surgical wounds are those resident in the environment; information about regional drug resistance is important.

# Antibacterial Agents Cont,d

Antibacterial agents include:

- Bacitracin & gramicidin
- Polymyxin B, neomycin and gentamicin
- Topical antibiotics in acne

# Bacitracin & Gramicidin

Bacitracin and gramicidin are peptide antibiotics, active against gram-positive organisms such as streptococci, pneumococci, and staphylococci.

Most anaerobic cocci, neisseriae, tetanus bacilli, and diphtheria bacilli are also sensitive.

Bacitracin is compounded in an ointment base alone or in combination with neomycin, polymyxin B, or both.

Bacitracin is poorly absorbed through the skin, so systemic toxicity is rare but allergic contact dermatitis is frequent.

# Polymyxin B, Neomycin and gentamicin

Polymyxin B is a peptide antibiotic effective against gram-negative organisms. All gram-positive organisms are resistant.

Neomycin and gentamicin are active against gram-negative organisms.

Gentamicin generally shows greater activity against *P aeruginosa* than neomycin.

Neomycin causes sensitization, particularly in eczematous dermatoses or if compounded in an ointment vehicle.



# Topical Antibiotics in Acne

Currently, four antibiotics are so utilized: clindamycin, erythromycin, metronidazole, and sulfacetamide.

The effectiveness of topical therapy is less than that achieved by systemic administration of the same antibiotic.

Topical therapy is suitable in mild to moderate cases of inflammatory acne.

Clindamycin has activity against *Propionibacterium acnes*.

**Erythromycin:** the mechanism of action of topical erythromycin in inflammatory acne vulgaris is unknown.

# Topical Antibiotics in Acne Cont,d

Adverse local reactions to erythromycin solution include a burning sensation at the time of application and drying and irritation of the skin.

The topical water-based gel is less drying and may be better-tolerated.

**Metronidazole:** Topical metronidazole is effective in the treatment of acne rosacea. The mechanism of action is unknown.

Topical use during pregnancy and by nursing mothers and children is not recommended.

Adverse local effects of the water-based gel formulation (MetroGel) include dryness, burning, and stinging.

# Topical Antibiotics in Acne Cont,d

Caution should be exercised when applying metronidazole near the eyes to avoid excessive tearing.

**Sodium Sulfacetamide:** The mechanism of action is thought to be inhibition of *P acnes* by competitive inhibition of *p*-aminobenzoic acid utilization.

4% of topically applied sulfacetamide is absorbed so its use is contraindicated in patients having hypersensitivity to sulfonamides.

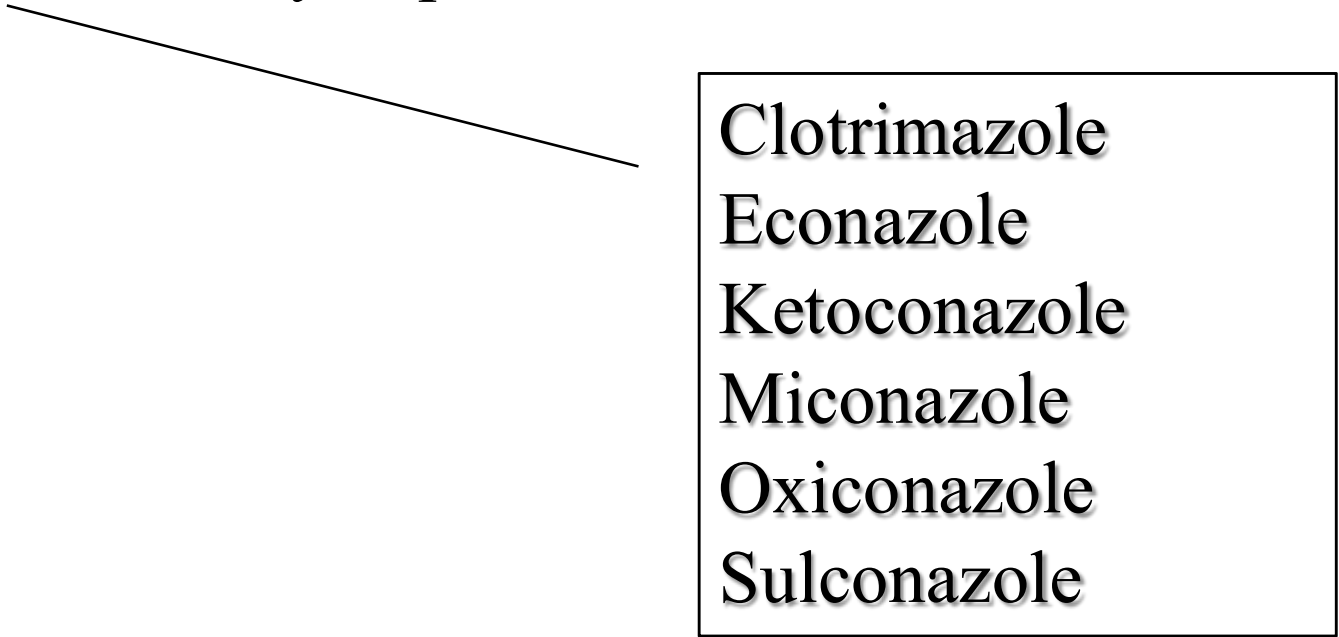
# Antifungal Agents

Antifungal agents include:

- Topical antifungal agents:
  - Topical imidazoles
  - Nystatin
- Oral antifungal agents:
  - Oral azoles
  - Griseofulvin

# Topical Imidazoles

- The topical imidazoles:
- They have a wide range of activity against dermatophytes, *Candida albicans* and *Pityrosporum orbiculare*.



Clotrimazole  
Econazole  
Ketoconazole  
Miconazole  
Oxiconazole  
Sulconazole

# Topical Imidazoles Cont,d

Once- or twice-daily application will result in clearing of dermatophyte infections in 2-3 weeks.

The medication should be continued until eradication of the organism is confirmed.

Paronychia and intertriginous candidiasis can be treated by any of these agents when applied three or four times daily.

Seborrheic dermatitis should be treated with twice-daily applications of ketoconazole until clinical clearing is obtained.

# Nystatin

- Topical nystatin is used in cutaneous and mucosal candida infections.
- It is not effective against dermatophytes.
- Oral candidiasis (thrush) is treated by holding 5 mL (infants, 2 mL) nystatin oral suspension in the mouth for several minutes four times daily before swallowing.
- An alternative therapy for thrush is to retain a vaginal tablet in the mouth until dissolved four times daily.
- Vulvovaginal candidiasis may be treated by insertion of 1 vaginal tablet twice daily for 14 days, then nightly for an additional 14-21 days.

# Oral Azoles

Tinea versicolor is very responsive to short courses of once-daily dose of 200 mg Ketoconazole.

Significant side effects of Ketoconazole include gynecomastia and hepatitis.

Caution is advised when using ketoconazole in patients with a history hepatitis.

Routine evaluation of hepatic function is advisable for patients on prolonged therapy.



# Oral Azoles Cont,d

The newer azole derivatives for oral therapy include fluconazole and itraconazole.

Fluconazole has a half-life of 30 hours. daily doses of 100 mg are sufficient for candidiasis; alternate-day doses are sufficient for dermatophytes.

The half-life of itraconazole is similar to fluconazole, with therapeutic concentrations remaining in the skin for 28 days.

Itraconazole should not be given to patients with ventricular dysfunction (can cause heart failure).

Routine evaluation of hepatic function is recommended for patients receiving itraconazole for onychomycosis.

# Oral Azoles Cont,d

- Administration of oral azoles with midazolam or triazolam potentiate hypnotic effects of these agents.
- Administration with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors causes a significant risk of rhabdomyolysis.
- Administration of the oral azoles with midazolam, triazolam, or HMG-CoA inhibitors is contraindicated.

# Griseofulvin

Griseofulvin is effective orally against dermatophyte infections. It is also effective against candida and *P orbiculare*.

The adult dosage of the micronized ("microsize") form of the drug is 500 mg daily in single or divided doses with meals.

Griseofulvin is most effective in treating tinea infections of the scalp and glabrous skin.

Infections of the scalp respond in 4-6 weeks, and infections of glabrous skin respond in 3-4 weeks.

Griseofulvin is derived from a penicillium mold, and cross-sensitivity with penicillin may occur.

On prolonged therapy, routine evaluation of the hematopoietic, hepatic and renal systems is advisable.

# Immunomodulators

Tacrolimus and pimecrolimus are macrolide immunosuppressants that have shown significant benefit in atopic dermatitis.

Both agents inhibit T-lymphocyte activation and prevent degranulation of mast cells by antigen-IgE complexes.

Both agents are indicated for mild to moderate atopic dermatitis.

Neither medication should be used with occlusive dressings.

# Ectoparasiticides

Ectoparasiticides include:

- Permethrin
- Lindane (Hexachlorocyclohexane)
- Crotamiton
- Sulfur & Malathion.

# Permethrin

Permethrin is toxic to *Pediculus humanus*, *Pthirus pubis*, and *Sarcoptes scabiei*.

Residual drug persists up to 10 days following application.

permethrin 1% cream rinse is applied undiluted to affected areas of pediculosis for 10 minutes and then rinsed off with warm water.

For the treatment of scabies, a single application of 5% cream is applied to the body from the neck down, left on for 8-12 hours, and then washed off.

# Lindane (Hexachlorocyclohexane)

Lindane is available as a shampoo or lotion.

10% of a dose applied to the forearm is absorbed and concentrated in fatty tissues, including the brain.

For pediculosis capitis or pubis, 30 mL of shampoo is applied to dry hair on the scalp or genital area for 4 minutes and then rinsed off.

No additional application is indicated unless living lice are present 1 week after treatment.

For scabies a single application is applied to the entire body from the neck down and left on for 8-12 hours, and then washed off.

Patients should be retreated only if active mites can be demonstrated, and never within 1 week of initial treatment.

# Crotamiton

Crotamiton is available as a cream or lotion.

Crotamiton, is a scabicide with some antipruritic properties.

For scabies two applications are applied from the chin down at 24-hour intervals, with a cleansing bath 48 hrs. after the last application.

Crotamiton is can be used as an alternative to lindane.



# Sulphur & Malathion

Sulfur remains a possible alternative drug for use in infants and pregnant women.

The usual formulation is 5% precipitated sulfur in petrolatum.

Malathion is available as a 0.5% lotion that should be applied to the hair when dry; 4-6 hours later, the hair is combed to remove nits and lice.

# Agents Affecting Pigmentation

Hydroquinone, mequinol and monobenzene reduce hyperpigmentation on the skin.

These compounds inhibit tyrosinase, interfering with the biosynthesis of melanin.

Topical hydroquinone & mequinol result in temporary lightening, but monobenzene causes irreversible depigmentation.

Monobenzene may cause hypopigmentation at sites distant from the area of application.

# Agents Affecting Pigmentation Cont,d

- Trioxsalen and methoxsalen are psoralens used for the repigmentation of depigmented macules of vitiligo.
- Psoralens must be photoactivated by long-wave-length ultraviolet light in the range of 320-400 nm (UVA) to produce a beneficial effect.
- The risks of psoralen photochemotherapy are cataracts and skin cancer.

# Sunscreens

Contain chemical compounds that absorb ultraviolet light

- Topical medications against sunlight include:

- Sunscreens:

- Sunshades:

Contain opaque materials such as titanium dioxide that reflect light

- The three classes of compounds used in sunscreens are:

- *p*-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) and its esters
- The benzophenones
- The dibenzoylmethanes

# Sunscreens Cont,d

Sunscreens are designed to absorb ultraviolet B (UVB) wavelength (from 280 to 320 nm).

UVB is the range responsible for most of the erythema and tanning associated with sun exposure.

Chronic exposure to light in this range induces aging of the skin and photocarcinogenesis.

Para-aminobenzoic acid and its esters are the most effective available absorbers in the B region.

# Sunscreens Cont,d

The benzophenones include oxybenzone, dioxybenzone, and sulisobenz

The benzophenones absorb from 250 to 360 nm, but their effectiveness  
the UVB erythema is less than that of PABA.

The dibenzoylmethanes include Parasol and Eusolex.

The dibenzoylmethanes absorb wavelengths throughout the ultraviolet A  
range (320 to 400 nm), with maximum absorption at 360 nm.

Patients sensitive to UVA include: those with cutaneous lupus erythemato  
and drug-induced photosensitivity.

In these patients, dibenzoylmethane-containing sunscreen may provide  
improved photoprotection.

# Sunscreens Cont,d

The sun protection factor (SPF) of a given sunscreen is a measure of its effectiveness in absorbing erythrogenic ultraviolet light.

It is determined by measuring the minimal erythema dose with and without the sunscreen in a group of normal people.

The ratio of the minimal erythema dose with sunscreen to the minimal erythema dose without sunscreen is the SPF.

Fair-skinned individuals who sunburn easily are advised to use a product with an SPF of 15 or greater.

# Acne Preparations

- **Retinoic acid** (tretinoin), is the acid form of vitamin A. It is an effective topical treatment for acne vulgaris.
- Several analogs of vitamin A (eg, isotretinoin), are effective orally in various dermatologic diseases.
- Its action in acne is due to decreased cohesion between epidermal cells and increased epidermal cell turnover.
- This results in the expulsion of open comedones and the transformation of closed comedones into open ones.
- Topical retinoic acid is applied initially in a concentration sufficient to induce slight erythema with mild peeling.



# Acne Preparations Cont,d

Topical retinoic acid should be applied to dry skin only, and care should be taken to avoid contact with the corners of the nose, eyes, mouth, and mucous membranes.

During the first 4-6 weeks of therapy, hidden comedones appear and it seems that the acne has been aggravated by the retinoic acid.

With continued therapy, the lesions will clear, and in 8-12 weeks optimal clinical improvement occurs.

The effects of **tretinoin** on keratinization and desquamation offer benefits for patients with photodamaged skin.

# Acne Preparations Cont,d

Prolonged use of tretinoin increases collagen synthesis and thickness of the epidermis, so diminishes fine lines and wrinkles.

This drug may increase the tumorigenic potential of ultraviolet radiation.

Patients using retinoic acid should avoid sun exposure and use a protective sunscreen.

**Isotretinoin (Accutane)** is used in the treatment of severe cystic acne that is recalcitrant to standard therapies.

Isotretinoin may act by inhibiting sebaceous gland size and function.

Teratogenicity is a significant risk in patients taking isotretinoin.

# Acne Preparations Cont,d

Women **must** use an effective form of contraception for 1 month before, throughout therapy, and for one menstrual cycle following discontinuance of treatment.

A serum pregnancy test **must** be obtained within 2 weeks before therapy, and therapy should be initiated on the second or third day of the next menstrual period.

# Acne Preparations Cont,d

Benzoyl peroxide is an effective topical agent in the treatment of acne vulgaris.

It is converted to benzoic acid within the epidermis and dermis.

It is active against *P acnes* and has peeling and comedolytic effects.

Care should be taken to avoid contact with the eyes and mucous membranes.

# Corticosteroids

- The antimitotic effects of corticosteroids on epidermis accounts for their action in diseases with increased cell turnover (psoriasis).
- Corticosteroids are only minimally absorbed following application to normal skin.
- Only 1% of a dose of hydrocortisone applied to the ventral forearm is absorbed.
- occlusion with a plastic wrap enhances penetration, yielding a tenfold increase in absorption.

# Corticosteroids Cont,d

- Corticosteroid penetration varies and compared with the forearm hydrocortisone is absorbed:
  - 0.14 times as well through the plantar foot arch
  - 0.83 times as well through the palm
  - 3.5 times as well through the scalp
  - 6 times as well through the forehead
  - 9 times as well through vulvar skin
  - 42 times as well through scrotal skin
- Penetration increases several fold in the inflamed skin (atopic dermatitis) and exfoliative diseases.

## **corticosteroids** Cont,d

Ointment bases tend to give better activity to the corticosteroid than do cream or lotion vehicles.

A tenfold increase in hydrocortisone concentration causes only a fourfold increase in the forearm absorption.

Intralesional injection of insoluble corticosteroids (eg, triamcinolone preparations) increases their penetration.

When these agents are injected into the lesion, measurable amounts are gradually released for 3-4 weeks.

# Corticosteroids Cont,d

- Adverse local effects of topical corticosteroids include:

- Atrophy
- Steroid rosacea
- Steroid acne
- Alterations of cutaneous infections
- Hypopigmentation
- Hypertrichosis
- Increased intraocular pressure
- Allergic contact dermatitis

Depressed, shiny, wrinkled "cigarette paper"-appearing skin with telangiectases and tendency to develop purpura and ecchymosis

Persistent erythema, telangiectatic vessels, pustules, and papules



# Keratolytics & Destructive Agents

Keratolytics & destructive agents include:

- Salicylic acid
- Propylene glycol
- Urea
- Podophyllum resin & podophyllotoxin
- Fluorouracil
- Aminolevulinic acid (ALA)

# Salicylic Acid

Salicylic acid has been extensively used in as a keratolytic agent.

Its mechanism of action is not understood.

Salicylic acid is keratolytic in concentrations of 3-6%.

In concentrations greater than 6%, it can be destructive to tissues.

Particular care must be exercised when using the drug on the extremities of diabetics or patients with peripheral vascular disease.

# Propylene glycol

Propylene glycol is used alone as a keratolytic agent in 40-70% concentrations, with plastic occlusion, or in gel with 6% salicylic acid.

It is also an effective humectant and increases the water content of the stratum corneum.

It develops an osmotic gradient, increasing hydration of the outer layer by drawing water out from the inner layers.

# Urea

Urea in a compatible cream vehicle or ointment base has a softening and moisturizing effect on the stratum corneum.

It makes creams and lotions feel less greasy and decreases the oily feel of drugs.

Urea is also keratolytic by altering prekeratin and keratin, leading to increased desquamation and solubilization.

As a humectant, urea is used in concentrations of 2-20% in creams and lotions.

As a keratolytic agent, it is used in 20% concentration in hyperkeratosis of palms and soles.

Concentrations of 30-50% applied to the nail plate have been useful in softening the nail prior to avulsion.

# Podophyllum Resin & Podophyllotoxin

The major use of podophyllum resin is in the treatment of condyloma acuminatum.

A 25% concentration of podophyllum resin in compound tincture of benzoin is used for condyloma acuminatum.

Application should be restricted to wart tissue only.

Podophyllotoxin is a cytotoxic agent with specific affinity for the mitotic spindle.

Normal assembly of the spindle is prevented, and epidermal mitoses are arrested.

The patient should wash off the preparation 2-3 hours after the initial application.

## Podophyllum Resin & Podophyllotoxin ---Contd

- If up to five applications have not resulted in resolution, other methods should be considered.
- Use during pregnancy is contraindicated in view of possible cytotoxic effects.
- Pure 0.5% podophyllotoxin (podofilox) is used for genital condylomas.

# Fluorouracil

- Fluorouracil is used topically for actinic keratoses.
- The response begins with erythema, vesiculation, erosion, superficial ulceration, necrosis, and finally reepithelialization.
- Fluorouracil should be continued until the stage of ulceration and necrosis (in 3-4 weeks) and then stopped.
- The healing process continues for 1-2 months after therapy is discontinued.
- Excessive exposure to sunlight during treatment increases the intensity of the reaction and should be avoided.

# Aminolevulinic Acid (ALA)

- Aminolevulinic acid (ALA) is an endogenous precursor of photosensitizing porphyrin metabolites.
- When topical ALA is applied, protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) accumulates in the cell.
- When exposed to light of appropriate wavelength and energy, the PpIX produces a photodynamic reaction.
- This reaction results in the formation of cytotoxic superoxide and hydroxyl radicals.
- Photosensitization by ALA and illumination with a blue light photodynamic therapy illuminator (BLU-U) is the basis for ALA therapy.



# **Aminolevulinic Acid (ALA) Cont,d**

A 20% topical solution of ALA is used in the treatment of actinic keratoses.

It is followed by blue light photodynamic illumination 14-18 hours later.

Patients must avoid exposure to sunlight or bright indoor lights for at least 40 hours after ALA application.

# Antipruritic Agents

Topical doxepin 5% cream (Zonalon) may provide significant antipruritic activity in atopic dermatitis.

Its mechanism may relate to the potent H<sub>1</sub>- and H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonist properties.

Percutaneous absorption is variable and may result in significant drowsiness in some patients.

Because of its anticholinergic effect, topical use is contraindicated in urinary retention or narrow angle glaucoma.

# Trichogenic & Antitrichogenic Agents

Topical minoxidil (Rogaine) is effective in reversing the progressive miniaturization of scalp hairs in androgenic alopecia.

Vertex balding is more responsive to therapy than frontal balding.

The mechanism of action of minoxidil on hair follicles is unknown.

The effect of minoxidil is not permanent, and cessation of treatment will lead to hair loss within 6 months.

Oral finasteride (Propecia) blocks the production of dihydrotestosterone which is responsible for androgenic alopecia.

Oral finasteride, 1 mg/d, promotes hair growth and prevents further hair loss in many men with androgenic alopecia.

Treatment for at least 3-6 months is necessary to see increased hair growth or prevent further hair loss.

# Trichogenic & Antitrichogenic Agents Cont,d

- Continued treatment with finasteride is necessary to sustain benefit.
- Adverse effects include: decreased libido, ejaculation disorders, and erectile dysfunction.
- Pregnant women should avoid finasteride even by handling crushed tablets.

It resolve in most men who remain on therapy and in all men who discontinue finasteride

There is risk of hypospadias in a male fetus

## Trichogenic & Antitrichogenic Agents Cont,d

eflornithine is an irreversible inhibitor of ornithine decarboxylase that catalyzes the biosynthesis of polyamines.

Polyamines are required for cell division, and inhibition of ornithine decarboxylase affects the rate of hair growth.

Eflornithine is effective in reducing facial hair growth in 30% of women when applied twice daily for 6 months.

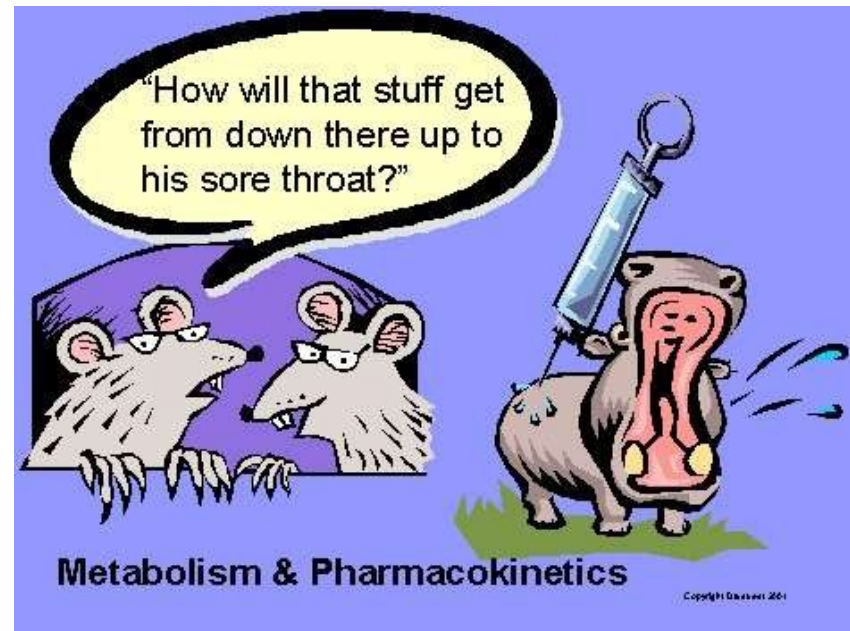
Hair growth was observed to return to pretreatment levels 8 weeks after discontinuation.

EYE

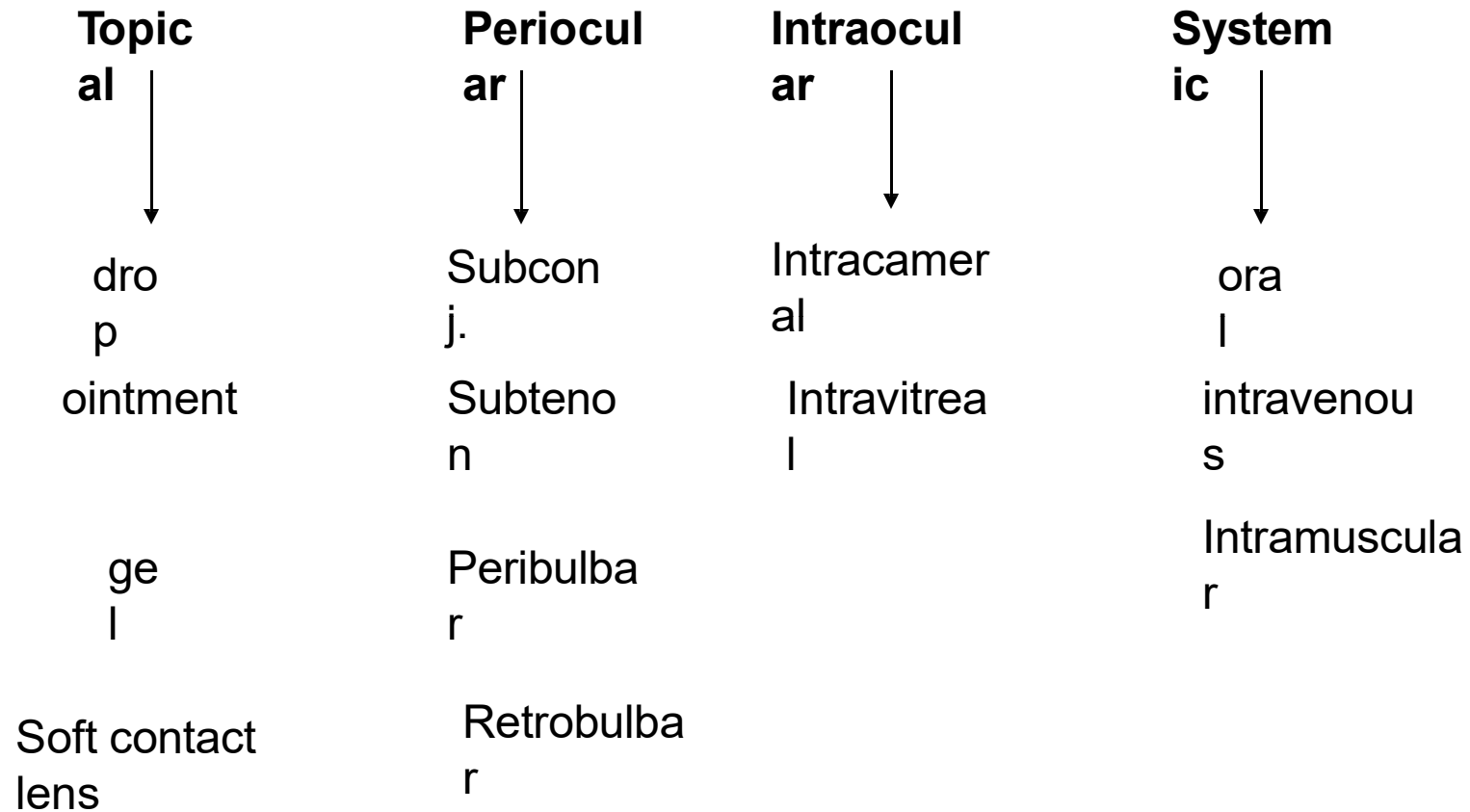
# Pharmacokinetics

is the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of the drug  
drug can be delivered to ocular tissue as:

- Locally:
  - Eye drop
  - Ointment
  - Periocular injection
  - Intraocular injection
- Systemically:
  - Orally
  - IV



# Drug Delivery in Eyes





# Factors influencing local drug penetration into ocular tissue

**Drug concentration and solubility:** the higher the concentration the better the penetration e.g pilocarpine 1-4% but limited by reflex tearing

**Viscosity:** addition of methylcellulose and polyvinyl alcohol increases drug penetration by increasing the contact time with the cornea and altering corneal epithelium

**Lipid solubility:** because of the lipid rich environment of the epithelial cell membranes, the higher lipid solubility the more the penetration

Amphipathic- epithelium/endothelium----lipophilic  
stroma---hydrophilic

# Factors influencing local drug penetration into ocular tissue

**Surfactants:** the preservatives used in ocular preparations alter cell membranes of the cornea and increase drug permeability e.g. benzylkonium and thiomersal

**pH:** the normal tear pH is 7.4 and if the drug pH is much different, this will cause reflex tearing

**Drug tonicity:** when an alkaloid drug is put in relatively alkaloid medium a proportion of the uncharged form will increase, thus more penetration

**molecular weight and size:**

# TOPICAL

**Drop (Gutta)**- simplest and more convenient mainly for day time use

1 drop=50 microlitre



conjunctival sac capacity=7-13  
micro liter ↓

even 1 drop is more than enough

## Method

hold the skin below the lower eye lid

pull it forward slightly

INSTALL 1 drop

- **measures to increase drop absorption**
  - wait 5-10 minutes between drops
  - compress lacrimal sac
  - keep lids closed for 5 minutes after instillation

# Ointments



**Increase the contact time** of ocular medication to ocular surface thus better effect

It has the disadvantage of vision blurring

The drug has to be high lipid soluble with some water solubility to have the maximum effect as ointment

# peri-ocular injections

They reach behind iris-lens  
diaphragm better than topical  
application

E.g. subconjunctival, subtenon,  
peribulbar, or retrobulbar

This route bypass the conjunctival  
and corneal epithelium which is  
good for drugs with low lipid  
solubility (e.g. penicillins)

Also steroid and local anesthetics  
can be applied this way



# Periocular

**Retrobulbar**-Optic neuritis

Papillitis

Posterior uveitis

Anesthesia

**Peribulbar**-- anesthesia

**Subconjunctival** - To achieve higher concentration

Drugs which can't penetrate  
cornea due to large size Penetrate via sclera

**Subtenon**— ant. Subtenon— disease ant to the Lens

Post Subtenon— disease posterior to the lens

**Retrobulbar**-Optic neuritis

Papillitis

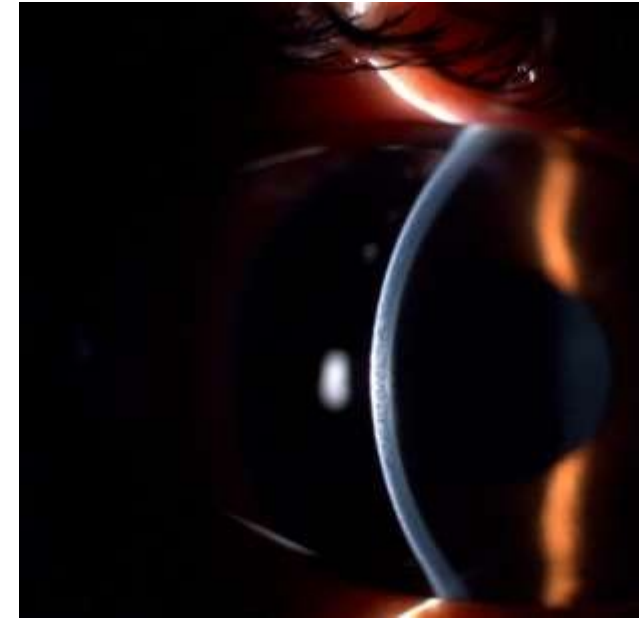
Posterior uveitis

Anesthesia

**Peribulbar**-- anesthesia

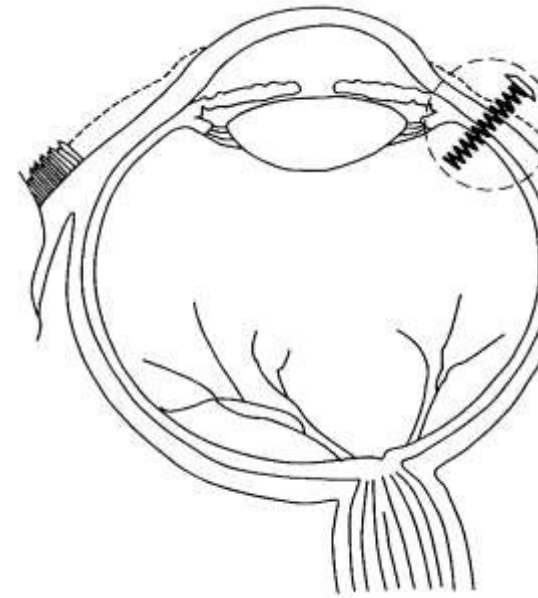
# Intraocular injections

- Intracameral or intravitreal
- E.g.
  - Intracameral acetylcholine (miochol) during cataract surgery
  - Intravitreal antibiotics in cases of endophthalmitis
  - Intravitreal steroid in macular edema
  - Intravitreal Anti-VEGF for DR



# Sustained-release devices

- These are devices that deliver an adequate supply of medication at a steady-state level
- E.g.
  - Ocusert delivering pilocarpine
  - Timoptic XE delivering timolol
  - Ganciclovir sustained-release intraocular device
  - Collagen shields





# Common ocular drugs

Antibacterials (antibiotics)

Antivirals

Antifungal

Mydriatics and cycloplegics

Antiglaucoma

Anti-inflammatory agents

Ocular Lubricants

**Ocular diagnostic drugs**

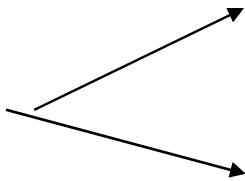
Local anesthetics

**Ocular Toxicology**

**Corticosteroids**

**NSAI**

**D**



# Antibacterial( antibiotics)

Penicillins

Cephalosporins

Sulfonamides

Tetracyclines

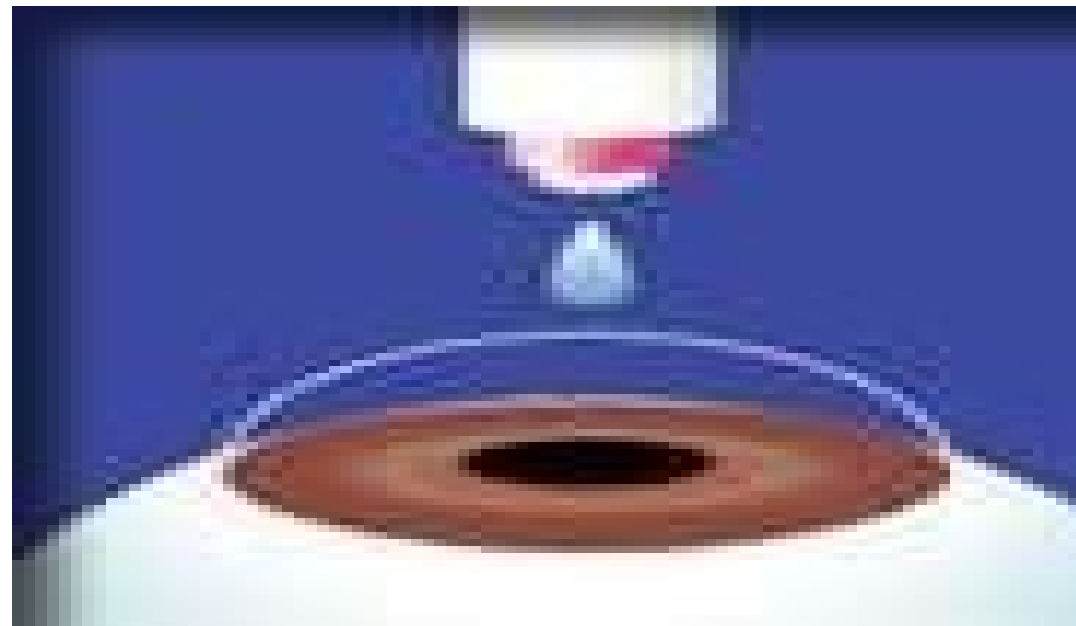
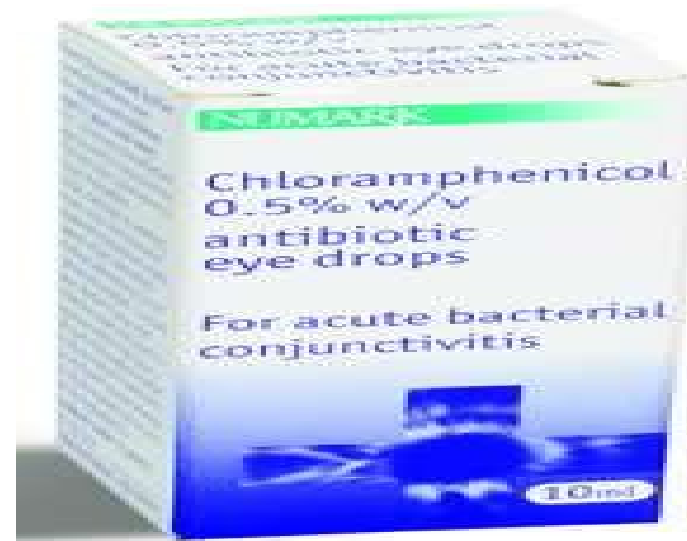
Chloramphenicol

Aminoglycosides

Fluoroquinolones

Vancomycin

Macrolides



# Antibiotics

Used **topically** in prophylaxis (pre and postoperatively) and treatment of ocular bacterial infections.

Used **orally** for the treatment of preseptal cellulitis

e.g. amoxicillin with clavulonate, cefaclor

Used **intravenously** for the treatment of orbital cellulitis

e.g. gentamicin, cephalosporin, vancomycin, flagyl

Can be injected **intravitally** for the treatment of endophthalmitis



Andrew Doan, MD  
U of Iowa 2004

Specific antibiotic for almost each organisms

**Sulfonamides**- Chlamydial infections like TRACHOMA  
INCLUSION CONJUNCTIVITIS  
TOXOPLASMOSIS

Bacterial cell wall synthesis inhibitors-

**Penicillin**

**Cephalosporins**

**i) first generation**- gm + cocci eg cephazalone

**ii) second generation** —Gm – ve and antistaphylococcal—  
cefuroxime

**iii) Third generation**— Gm –ve bacilli --ceftriaxones

**Side effects-** allergic reaction  
neutropenia  
thrombocytopenia

## **Amino glycosides**

mainly against gm negative bacilli

Bacterial protein synthesis inhibitors

Gentamycin—0.3% eye drop

Tobramycin- Pseudomonas 1% eye drop

Neomycin—0.3-0.5% eye drop

## **Tetracycline**

Inhibit protein synthesis

active against both gm<sup>+</sup> and gm<sup>-</sup>, some fungi and Chlamydia

## **Chloromphenicol**

Broad spectrum ,bacteriostatic, gm<sup>+</sup>/gm<sup>-</sup>, Chlamydia

0.5% Eye drop, ointment

**COMMONLY KNOWN AS JUKE MALAM**

# Antibiotics

**Trachoma** can be treated by topical and systemic tetracycline or erythromycin, or systemic azithromycin.

**Bacterial keratitis** (bacterial corneal ulcers) can be treated by topical fortified penicillins, cephalosporins, aminoglycosides, vancomycin, or fluoroquinolones.

**Bacterial conjunctivitis** is usually self limited but topical erythromycin, aminoglycosides, fluoroquinolones, or chloramphenicol can be used



# Antivirals

- Acyclovir

3% ointment 5 times-10-14 days

800mg oral 5 times 10-14 days

intravenous for Herpes zoster retinitis

- Others

Idoxuridine

Vidarabine

Cytarabine

Triflurothymidine

Gancyclovir

**INDICATIONS**

**NS**

**HZ**

**keratitis**

**Viral**

**uveitis**



# ANTIFUNGAL

## INDICATIONS

Fungal corneal ulcer

Fungal retinitis/ Endophthalmitis

## Commonly used drugs are

- **Polyenes**
  - Damage cell membrane of susceptible fungi
  - e.g. amphotericin B, natamycin, nystatin
  - side effect: nephrotoxicity
- **Imidazoles**
  - Increase fungal cell membrane permeability
  - e.g. miconazole, ketoconazole, fluconazole
- **Flucytosine**
  - Act by inhibiting DNA synthesis

# Mydriatics and cycloplegics

Dilate the pupil, ciliary muscle paralysis

## CLASSIFICATION

Short acting- Tropicamide (4-6 hours)

Intermediate- Homatropine ( 24 hours)

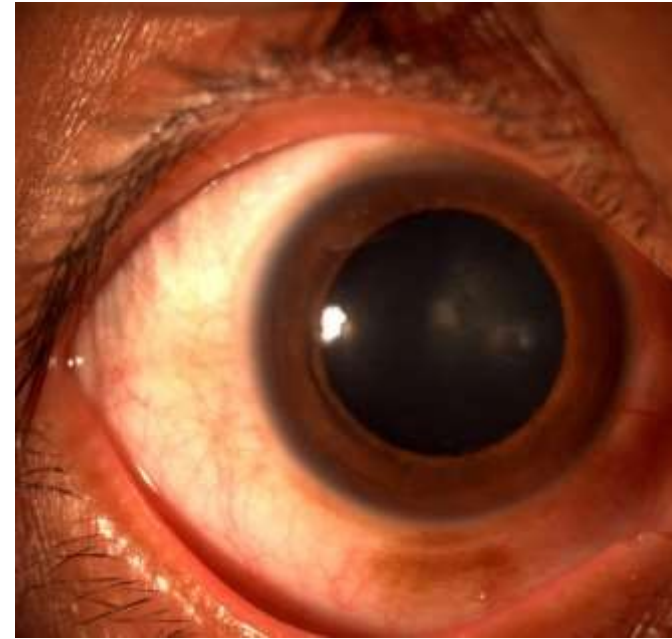
Long acting- Atropine (2 weeks)

## Indications

corneal ulcer

uveitis

cycloplegic refraction



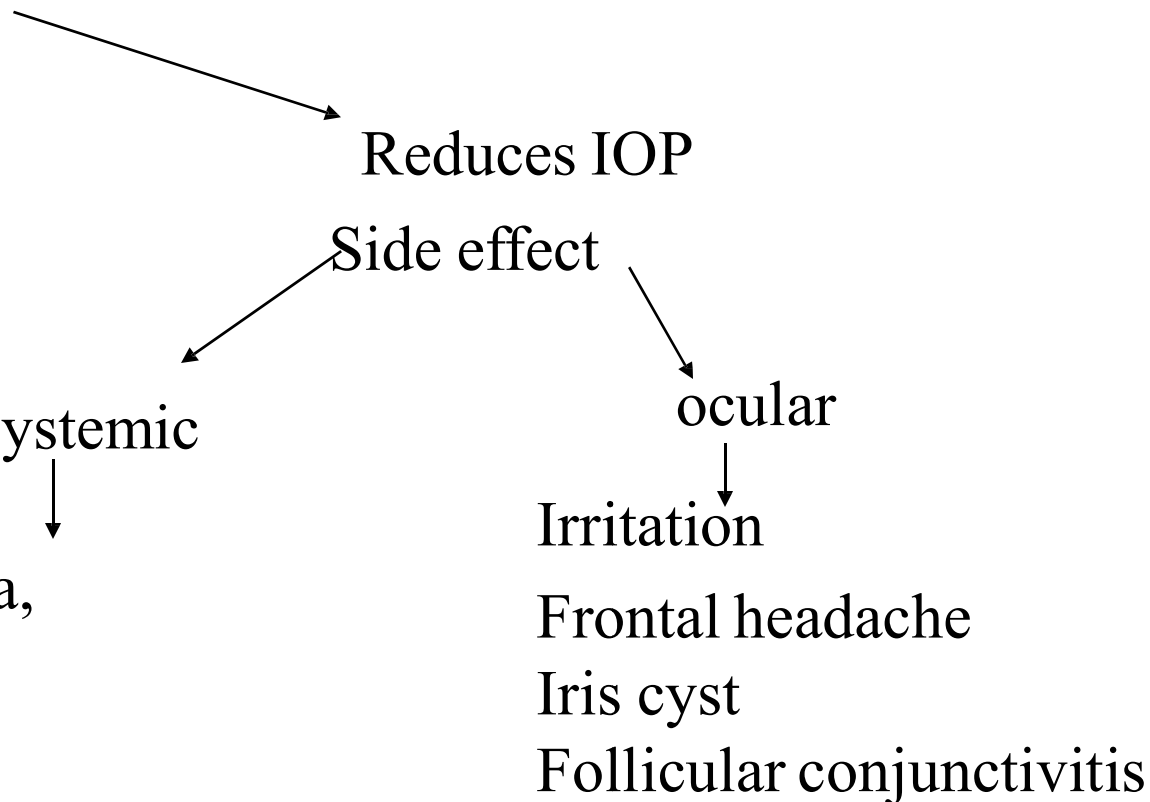
# Antiglaucoma drugs

## Beta blockers-

Selective – betaxolol

Non selective- timolol

reduces aqueous humour production



## Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors

### Systemic

Acetazoamide

### Topical

Dorzolamide

Brinzolamide

Mechanism of action---- Reduce aqueous humor formation

### Side effect

Paresthesiae

Frequent urination

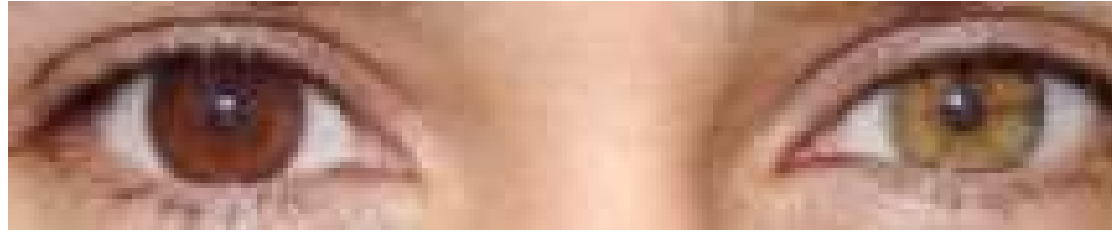
GI disturbances

Hypokalamia



**Hyperosmotic agent---** iv mannitol

when IOP is very high 60-70



**Prostaglandins**

Latanoprost (0.005% eye drop) increased aqueous out flow



Reduced IOP

side effect— conjunctival redness, iris and periocular pigmentation

hypertrichosis, darkening of iris

Anti-inflammatory

```
graph TD; A[Anti-inflammatory] --> B[corticosteroid]; A --> C[NSAID]
```

corticosteroid

NSAID

# Corticosteroids

## **CLASSIFICATION**

### **Short acting**

hydrocortisone, cortisone, prednisolone

### **Intermediate acting**

Trimcinolone, Fluprednisolone

### **Long acting**

Dexamethasone ,betamethasone

# Indications

## Topical

allergic conjunctivitis,  
scleritis,  
uveitis,  
allergic keratitis  
after intraocular and extra ocular surgeries

**DO NOT GIVE STEROID IF YOU ARE SUSPECTING ACTIVE INFECTION**

side effects

**OPHTHALMIC**

Glaucoma

Cataract

Activation of infection

Delayed wound healing

## Systemic (pathology behind the LENS)

Posterior uveitis

Optic neuritis

corneal graft rejection

## SYSTEMIC

Peptic ulcer

Hypertension

Increased blood sugar

Osteoporosis

Mental changes

Activation of tuberculo

other infections



# Pre-requisite

BP

Blood sugar

Mantoux

TC,DC,ESR

CXR

# NSAIDS

## Topical use

Flurbiprofen

Indomethacine

Ketorolac

## Indications

Episcleritis and scleritis

Uveitis

CME

Pre - operatively to maintain dilation of the pupil



# Ocular Lubricants

## Indication

ocular irritations in various diseases

Dry eyes

## Commonly available commercial tear substitutes

REFRESH TEARS

TEAR PLUS

MOISOL

OCCUWET

DUDROP

# Ocular diagnostic drugs

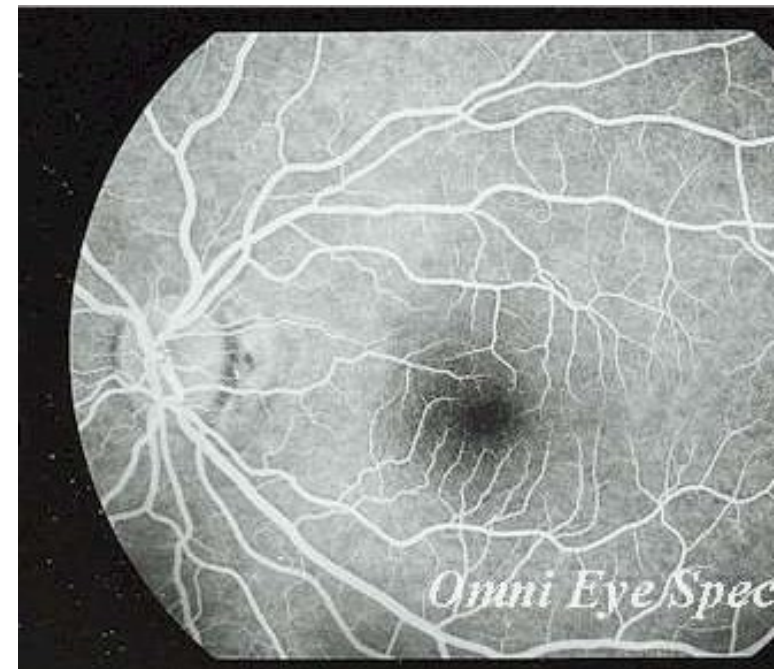
Fluorescein dye

Available as drops or strips

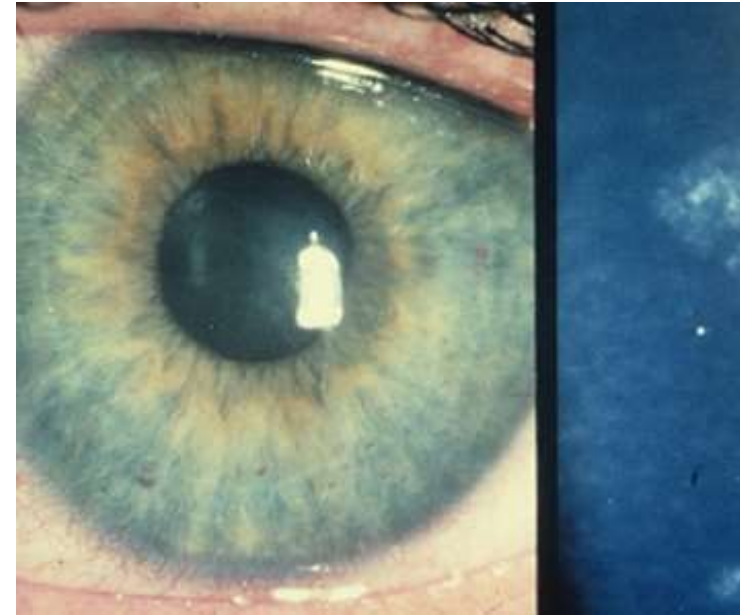
**Uses:** stain corneal abrasions,  
applanation tonometry, detecting  
wound leak, NLD obstruction,  
fluorescein angiography

**Caution:**

- stains soft contact lens
- Fluorescein drops can be contaminated by *Pseudomonas* sp.



# Ocular diagnostic drugs



- Rose bengal stain
  - Stains devitalized epithelium
  - **Uses:** severe dry eye, herpetic keratitis

# Local anesthetics

## Topical

- E.g. propacaine, tetracaine
- **Uses:** applanation tonometry, gonioscopy, removal of corneal foreign bodies, removal of sutures, examination of patients who cannot open eyes because of pain
- **Adverse effects:** toxic to corneal epithelium, allergic reaction rarely

# Local anesthetics

## Orbital infiltration

- Peribulbar or retrobulbar
- Cause **anesthesia** and **akinesia** for intraocular surgery
- e.g. lidocaine, bupivacaine



# Ocular toxicology



# Complications of topical administration

**Mechanical injury** from the bottle

e.g. corneal abrasion

**Pigmentation:** epinephrine-  
drenochrome

**Ocular damage:** e.g. topical  
anesthetics, benzylkonium

**Hypersensitivity:** e.g. atropine,  
neomycin, gentamicin

**Systemic effect:** topical  
phenylephrine can increase BP



# miodarone

- A cardiac arrhythmia drug
- Causes **optic neuropathy** (mild decreased vision, visual field defects, bilateral optic disc swelling)
- Also causes corneal vortex keratopathy (corneal verticillata) which is whorl-shaped pigmented deposits in the corneal epithelium



# Digitalis

A cardiac failure drug

Causes **chromatopsia** (objects appear yellow) with overdose

# chloroquines

E.g. chloroquine,  
hydroxychloroquine

Used in malaria, rheumatoid  
arthritis, SLE

Cause vortex keratopathy (corneal  
verticillata) which is usually  
asymptomatic but can present with  
glare and photophobia

Also cause **retinopathy** (bull's eye  
maculopathy)



# Chorpromazine

A psychiatric drug

Causes **corneal punctate epithelial opacities, lens surface opacities**

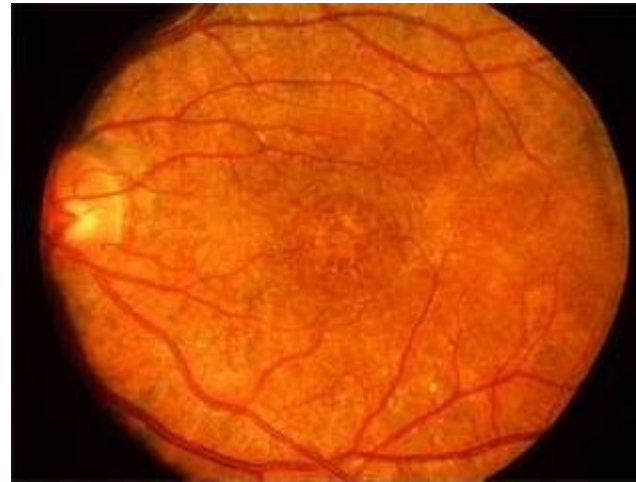
Rarely symptomatic

Reversible with drug discontinuation

# Thioridazine

A psychiatric drug

Causes a **pigmentary retinopathy** after high dosage

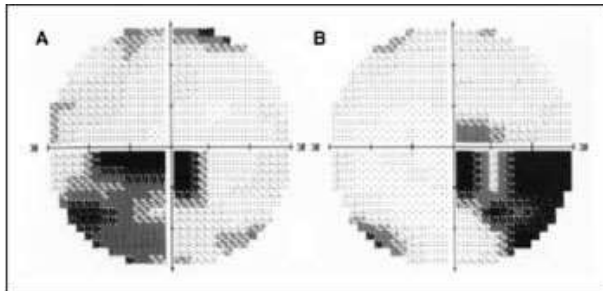
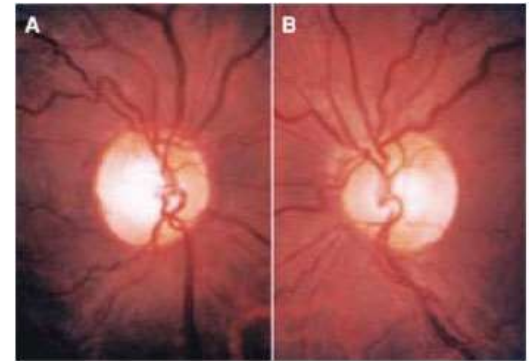


# Ethambutol

An anti-TB drug

Causes a dose-related **optic neuropathy**

Usually reversible but occasionally permanent visual damage might occur



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Thank you

