

# 18.1. CHOLINERGIC ANTAGONISTS

## 18.1.1. Introduction

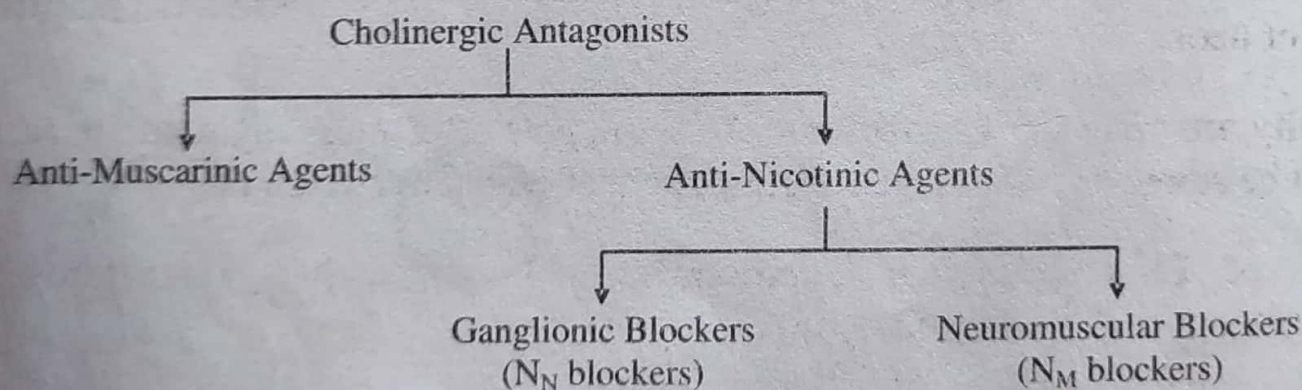
Cholinergic antagonists (or **anticholinergic** or **parasympatholytic drugs**) occupy the ACh receptors (and do not allow ACh to bind to the receptors) and prevent the actions of ACh. They are also termed as **cholinergic blocking agents**, **muscarinic antagonists**, **anti-parasympathetic agents**, **anti-muscarinic agents**, and **antispasmodics**.

Anticholinergic and cholinergic agonists act oppositely. Major anticholinergic effects include a **decrease in GI motility and salivation**, **pupil dilation** (mydriasis), and an **increase in pulse rate**.

**Decreased bladder contraction** which results in **urinary retention**, and **decreased rigidity and tremors** in association with neuromuscular excitement are some other effects. Another significant action of anti-cholinergics includes its effect as an **antidote for organophosphorous poisoning** and poisoning caused by consumption of cholinesterase inhibitors.

## 18.1.2. Classification

Cholinergic antagonists are classified as follows:



## 18.1.3. Individual Compounds

The following drugs are studied in detail:

- 1) Atropine,
- 2) Hyoscine,
- 3) Homatropine,
- 4) Propantheline,
- 5) Benztropine,
- 6) Tropicamide, and
- 7) Biperiden.