

Pharmacological classification

Drugs are classified according to the pharmacological action of the main active constituent or the therapeutic uses.

Merits: This system of classification can be used for suggesting substitutes of drugs, if they are not available at a particular place or point of time.

Demerits: Drugs having different action on the body get classified separately in more than one group that causes ambiguity and confusion. Cinchona is antimalarial drug because of presence of quinine but can be put under the group of drug affecting heart because of antiarrhythmic action of quinidine.

Eg.

Drugs acting on GIT-

Bitter-Gentian, Quassia, cinchona

Carminative-Dill, Mentha, Cadamon

Emetics-Ipecacuanha

Anti-amoebics-Kurchi, Ipecacaunha

Bulk laxatives-Agar, Ispaghuha, Banana

Purgatives-Senna, Castor oil

Peptic ulcer treatment-Derivative of Glycyrrhetic acid, Raw banana

Drugs acting on respiratory system-

Expectorants-Liquirice, Ipecacaunha, vasaka

Anti-expectorant-stramoniumleaves(Atropine)

Anti-tussives-Opium

Bronchodilators-Ephedra, Tea

Drugs acting on cardiovascular system-

Cardiotonics-Digitalis, Squill, Strophanthus

Cardiac depressant-Cinchona, Veratrum

Vasco-constrictors-Ergot, Ephedra

Anti-hypertensives-Rauwolfia

Drugs acting on autonomic nervous system-

Adrenergic-Ephedra

Cholinergic-Physostigma, Pilocarpus

Anti-cholinergics-Belladonna, Datura

Drugs acting on CNS-

Central analgesics-Opium

CNS stimulants-Coffee

Analeptics-NuxVomica, Lobelia, Camphor

CNS depressants-Hyoscymus, Belladonna, Opium

Hallucinogenics-cannabis,PoppyLatex

Anticancer-Vinca, Podophyllum, Camptotheca, Taxus

Antispasmodics-

Smooth muscle relaxants-Opium(Papavarine), Datura, Hyoscymus

Skeletal muscle relaxants-Curare

Antirheumatics-Aconite, Colchicum, Guggul

Anthelmintics-Quassia, Male Fern, Vidang

Immunomodulatory agents-Ashwagandha, Tulsi, Ginseng, Asparagus, Picrorrhiza, Kurroa

Drugs acting on skin and mucous membrane-Olive oil, wool fat, Beeswax, Balsam of tolu

Astringents-Myrobalan, Black catechu

Antimalarials-Cinchona, Artemisia

Local anesthetics-Coca

Immunising agents-vaccines, Sera, Toxoids, Antitoxins