

Pharmacology of Antiepileptics

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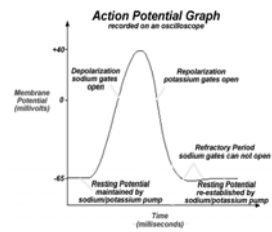
Topics to be Covered

- ◆ Mechanism of neuronal excitability and epileptogenesis
- ◆ Pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of antiepileptics
- ◆ Antiepileptic drug-drug interaction/ adverse effects

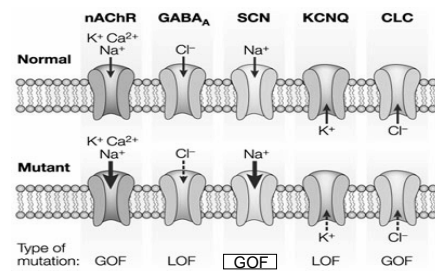


Mechanisms of neuronal excitability

- ◆ Voltage sensitive Na⁺ channels
- ◆ Voltage sensitive K⁺ channels
- ◆ Receptor-ion channel complexes
 - GABA-Cl⁻ channel complex
 - Excitatory amino acid receptor-cation channel complexes
 - Glutamate
 - Aspartate



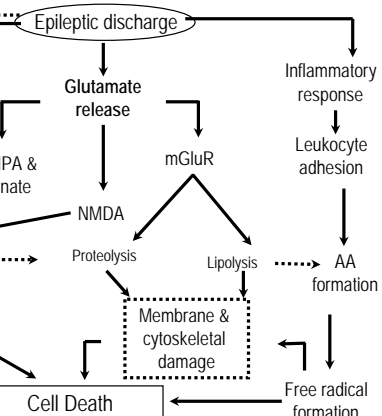
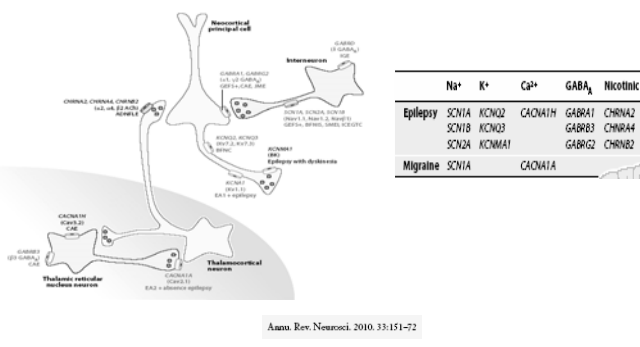
Gain and Loss of Function in Mutated Ion Channels



Nature Reviews | Neuroscience
 VOLUME 5 | MAY 2004 |



Epileptic Channelopathies



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Pathology of Excitatory Neurotoxicity from Epilepsy

- ◆ **Neuronal loss**
 - Pyramidal cells
 - Dentate granule cells
 - Inhibitory interneurons
- ◆ **Neuronal damage**
 - Reduced arborization of dendritic tree
 - Reduced GABA receptors
 - Reduced NMDA receptors
- ◆ **Neuroplasticity**
 - Upregulation of NMDA receptors
 - Downregulation of GABA receptors
 - Sprouting of dentate granule cell axon

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Pathophysiological events in traumatic brain injury

Nat Rev Neurol. 2010 July; 6(7): 393-403

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A schematic illustration of BBB breakdown-induced brain response

Within hours following BBB breakdown **albumin diffuses into the brain's extracellular space, binds to astrocytic TGFβ receptors** and induces transcriptional change resulting in the transformation of astrocytes.

Potential candidate changes include down-regulation of Kir4.1 and Glutamate transporters, connexins and glutamine synthase with up-regulation of proinflammatory cytokines

Epilepsy Res 2009; 85(0): 142-9

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Potentially proepileptic alterations of functional properties of activated astrocytes in epileptic tissue

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Main mechanisms of antiepileptics

- ◆ Modulation of voltage-dependent ion channels
- ◆ Enhancement of synaptic inhibition
- ◆ Inhibition of synaptic excitation
- ◆ Modulation of neurotransmitter release

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Mechanism of Action of AEDs at Excitatory Synapse

Some Anti-seizure Prolonged the Inactivation of the Na⁺ Channels, Thereby Reducing the Ability of Neurons to Fire at High Frequencies

Open Na⁺ Inactivated Na⁺

carbamazepine phenytoin topiramate lamotrigine valproate zonisamide

Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics 12th Edition 2011

Mechanism of Action of AEDs at Inhibitory Synapse

Figure 1 | Proposed mechanisms of action of currently available AEDs at excitatory and inhibitory synapses. a) Currently available antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) are thought to target several molecules at the excitatory synapse. These include voltage-gated Na⁺ channels, synaptic vesicle glycoprotein 2A (SV2A), the α2δ subunit of the voltage-gated Ca²⁺ channel, AMPA (α-amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole propionic acid) receptors, and NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) receptors. Many of the AEDs can modulate voltage-gated Na⁺ channels. This would be expected to decrease depolarization.

Some Antiepileptics Enhanced GABA Synaptic Transmission

vigabatrin valproate tiagabine benzodiazepines barbiturates

Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics 12th Edition 2011

Narrow-Spectrum Drugs: Partial or Secondarily Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures

- ◆ Carbamazepine
- ◆ Gabapentin
- ◆ Lacosamide
- ◆ Oxcarbazepine
- ◆ Phenobarbital
- ◆ Phenytoin
- ◆ Pregabalin
- ◆ Primidone
- ◆ Tiagabine

Broad-Spectrum Drugs: Partial and Generalized Seizures

- ◆ Lamotrigine
- ◆ Levetiracetam
- ◆ Topiramate
- ◆ Valproate
- ◆ Zonisamide
- ◆ Rufinamide

Topiramate : Multiple Mechanisms of Action

Site	Action
Voltage-activated Na ⁺ channels	Limits sustained repetitive firing via state-dependent blockade of Na ⁺ channels
GABA _A receptor subtype(s)	Potentiates GABA-mediated inhibition at GABA _A site not modulated by benzodiazepines or barbiturates
Glutamate receptor subtype (kainate & AMPA)	Blocks glutamate-mediated neuroexcitation with no apparent effect on NMDA receptor activity
Ca ²⁺ channel subtypes	Mild reduction of amplitude of high voltage-activated Ca ²⁺ currents
Carbonic anhydrase	Inhibits Type II and IV CA

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Mechanism of Action of Lamotrigine

•Stabilises neuronal membranes
•Inhibits dependent voltage-sensitive Na⁺ channels
•Modulates presynaptic release of excitatory amino acid neurotransmitters : Glutamate
•Inh. GSK3β (glycogen synthase kinase is a regulatory role in neuronal apoptosis)

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Synaptic Vesicle Protein 2A as a Target for Levetiracetam

- ◆ Levetiracetam binds reversibly, saturably, and stereospecifically to SV2A
- ◆ SV2 may regulate vesicular exocytosis
- ◆ Levetiracetam binds to SV2A leading to decreased transmitter release
- ◆ Levetiracetam does not bind to its two isoforms SV2B or SV2C

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LEV Effects on Voltage-Gated Ion Currents

Effect	Concentration	Application time	Tissue	Reference
Na⁺ currents				
Fast Na ⁺ currents	No effect	10µM to 1 mM	Acute up to 10 min	Cultured neocortical neurons Zona et al. 2001
	No effect	100µM	Acute	Acutely isolated CA1 neurons Madsen et al. 2003
	No effect	1-500µM	Probably acute	Acutely isolated striatal neurons Costa et al. 2006
Persistent Na ⁺ currents	No effect	10-100µM	Acute for up to 1 h	CA1 neurons in slices Nespodiansky et al. 2004
Ca²⁺ currents				
HVA	Inhibition by ~30%	32µM	Acute up to 30 min	CA1 pyramidal neurons in slices Nespodiansky et al. 2001
	Inhibition by ~18% via N-type Ca ²⁺ channel blockade	200µM	Acute	Acutely isolated hippocampal CA1 neurons Lukyanetz et al. 2002
	Inhibition by 35%, mainly via blockade of N-type and to a lower extent of P/Q-type Ca ²⁺ channels	100µM	Acute	Acutely isolated neocortical neurons Pisani et al. 2004
	Inhibition by 40% (30% N-type, 10% P-type)	Half-maximal inhibition at 22µM	Probably acute	Acutely isolated striatal neurons Costa et al. 2006
LVA	No effect on T-type Ca ²⁺ currents	32-100µM	Acute for up to 40 min	CA1 pyramidal neurons in slices Zona et al. 2001
K⁺ currents				
Delayed rectifier K ⁺ current	Inhibition by ~30%	100µM	Acute	Acutely isolated CA1 neurons Madsen et al. 2003
A-type K ⁺ current	No effect	100µM	Acute	Acutely isolated CA1 neurons Madsen et al. 2003

Ther Adv Neurol Disord. 2008 July; 1(1): 13-24

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LEV effects on ligand-gated ion currents and other targets

Effect	Concentration	Application time	Tissue	Reference
AMPA receptors	Inhibition by 10-25%	200µM	Acute	Cultured cortical neurons Caruncho et al. 2007
GABA_A receptors	Complete reversal of zinc-induced inhibition	30µM	Acute	Cultured hippocampal neurons Rigo et al. 2002
	Alleviation of run-down upon repetitive activation	0.5-100µM	Incubation for 3 h	Membrane preparations transplanted into frog oocytes Palma et al. 2007
Glycine receptors	Complete reversal of zinc-induced inhibition	Half-maximal effect at 0.04µM	Acute	Cultured hippocampal neurons Rigo et al. 2002
Ca²⁺ stores	Inhibition by ~50%	32µM	After 5 min	Cultured hippocampal neurons Angehagen et al. 2003
ryanodine-regulated Ca²⁺ release	Inhibition by 25-50%	10µM	After 5 min	PCI12 cells (rat pheochromocytoma cells) Cataldi et al. 2005
Cl⁻/HCO₃⁻ exchanger	Inhibition	10-60µM	Up to 20 min	CA3 neurons in slices Leniger et al. 2004

Ther Adv Neurol Disord. 2008 July; 1(1): 13-24

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Zonisamide mode of action

- ◆ Classified as Benzisoxazole and contains sulphonamide group
- ◆ Broad spectrum of potentially complementary modes of action
 - Inhibits sodium channels
 - Enhances GABA release
 - Blocks T-type calcium channels
 - Blocks glutamate-mediated synaptic transmission
 - Partially inhibits carbonic anhydrase
 - Free radical scavenger

Biton V. Clin Neuropharmacol 2007; 30: 230-240

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AED combinations determined by isobolographic studies in animals to have favourable effects

- ◆ CBZ : GBP, LEV, TPM, VPA
- ◆ CZP : OXC
- ◆ GBP : LEV, LTG, OXC, PB, PHT, TPM, VPA
- ◆ LEV : CBZ, OXC, PB, TPM
- ◆ LTG: FBM, GBP, TPM, VPA
- ◆ PHT: GBP, PB, VPA
- ◆ TPM: CBZ, FBM, GBP, LEV, LTG, OXC, VPA
- ◆ VPA : CBZ, ESX, GBP, LTG, PHT, TPM

Pharmaceuticals 2010, 3, 2362-2379; doi:10.3390/ph3082362

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Particularly effective antiepileptic combinations

- ◆ VPA + CBZ in focal seizure
- ◆ VPA + LTG in any seizure
- ◆ LTG + TPM in focal seizure
- ◆ VPA + ESM in Absence seizure
- ◆ CBZ + VGB in focal seizure

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AED combinations determined by isobolographic studies in animals to have unfavourable effects

- ◆ CBZ: LTG
- ◆ CZP: FBM
- ◆ **LTG: CBZ, OXC**
- ◆ OXC: FBM, LTG, PHT
- ◆ PTH: OXC

Pharmaceuticals 2010, 3, 2362-2379; doi:10.3390/ph3082362

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Epileptic patients with comorbidities

- ◆ *Migraine*: VPA, TPM
- ◆ *Bipolar mania*: CBZ, VPA
- ◆ *Bipolar depression*: VPA, LTG
- ◆ *Anxiety/insomnia/pain*: PGB
- ◆ *Agitation and mood problems in association with CNS neurologic abnormalities, such as head trauma or seizures*: VPA
- ◆ *Impulsive control*: CBZ
- ◆ *Essential tremor/Parkinson's disease*: ZNS

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Pharmacokinetic parameters and reference ranges for the AEDs

Drug	Oral bioavailability	Serum protein binding	Time to peak conc. (hrs)	Serum half-life (hrs)	Reference range in serum (mg/L)
Carbamazepine	>70	75	4-8	10-20	4-10
Clonazepam	>95	85	1-2	20-26	0.005-0.07
Eslicarbazepine acetate	≥80	30	1-4	20-24	Not established
Ethosuximide	>90	0	2-4	30-50	40-100
Felbamate	>90	25	2-6	16-22*	30-60
Gabapentin	<60	0	2-3	5-9	2-20
Lacosamide	≥95	15	0.5-4	12-13	5-10
Lamotrigine	≥95	55	1-3	15-35**	3-14
Levetiracetam	≥95	0	1	6-8	12-46
Oxcarbazepine	90	40	3-6	8-15*	3-35
Phenobarbital	>95	50	4-12	90-110	10-25
Phenytoin	90	>95	4-12	6-24	10-20
Primidone	>90	20	2-4	10-20	8-12
Pregabalin	≥90	0	1-2	5-7	2.8-8.3
Rufinamide	85	50	5-6	8-12*	Not established
Stiripentol	≥90	99	1-2	Variable	4-22
Tiagabine	≥90	96	1-2	5-9*	0.02-0.2
Topiramate	≥80	15	2-4	20-30	5-20
Valproic acid	>95	>90	1-4	11-17	30-100
Vigabatrin	260	0	1-2	5-8	0.5-36
Zonisamide	265	50	2-5	50-70*	10-40

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Elimination half-life of antiepileptic drugs and time to reach steady-state

Antiepileptic	Steady State, Days	Elimination Half-life, h
Carbamazepine	2-6	Single dose: 25-65 Self-induction: 16
Phenytoin*	4-24	Low dose: 6-12 High dose: 12-60
Phenobarbital	10-25	48-96 h
Primidone	2-4	90-100
Valproic acid	2-4	9-22
	Lead dose: 24h	15
Ethosuximide	5-15	30-60
Clonazepam	6	10-30
Gabapentin	2	5-9
Lamotrigine	5-6	15-60
Tiagabine	1-2	5-8
Topiramate	4-6	12-30
Vigabatrin	2	5-8
Levetiracetam	5	7
Oxcarbazepine	1	1-2
Felbamate	4	14-23

* Pharmacokinetics are dose-dependent.

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Routes of elimination of the newer antiepileptic drugs

Drug	Renal (%)	Hepatic (%)
Gabapentin	100	0
Lacosamide	100	0
Lamotrigine	100	0
Levetiracetam	100	0
Oxcarbazepine	100	0
Pregabalin	100	0
Rufinamide	100	0
Tiagabine	100	0
Topiramate	100	0
Vigabatrin	100	0
Zonisamide	100	0

Neurologic Clinics 2010;28:843-52

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AED dosage adjustment in renal disease and dialysis

AED	% renal excretion	Adjustment required	Removed by dialysis?
Carbamazepine	Minimal	Decrease 25% if GFR <10 ml/min	No
Ethosuximide	10-20	Decrease 25% if GFR <10 ml/min	Yes
Phenobarbital	25-30	Increase dose interval by 50-100%	Yes
Phenytoin	Minimal	No	No
Primidone	20	Increase dosing interval	Yes
Valproate	Minimal	No	No
Gabapentin	100	Clearance proportional to creatinine clearance In failure, dose after dialysis	Yes
Lamotrigine	90	Decrease dose 25-50%	Yes
Topiramate	70	Decrease dose by 50%	Yes

Clin Neuropharmacol 2003;26:38-52

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Some aspects on pharmacokinetics of antiepileptic drugs in pregnancy and during lactation

	Decrease in total plasma concentration (%)	Ratio of infant/maternal plasma concentration [20]
Phenytoin	25-50*	0.1-0.6
Phenobarbital	25-50	0.3-0.5
Ethosuximide	c	0.8-1.0
Carbamazepine	<25	0.1-0.3
Valproate	25-50 ^b	0.01-0.1
Oxcarbazepine MHD	>50	0.5
Vigabatrin	c	c
Lamotrigine	>50	0.4-0.8
Gabapentin	c	0.7-1.3
Topiramate	c	0.7-1.1
Tiagabine	c	c
Levetiracetam	>50	0.8-1.3
Pregabalin	c	c
Zonisamide	25-50	0.5-0.9

MHD, monohydroxy metabolite.
*Unbound concentration declines <25%.
^bUnbound concentration often unchanged.
cPublished data lacking.

Wolters Kluwer Health | OvidSP

Current Opinion in Neurology 22(1):157-161, April 2009.
DOI: 10.1097/NEO.0b013e3181832927

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Phenytoin Metabolism

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Cytochrome P450 polymorphism

- Of the old and new AEDs, only **phenytoin** and **phenobarbital** metabolism are subject to genetic cytochrome P450 (CYP450) polymorphism
- Both are metabolized by CYP2C9 and CYP2C19
- Fraction of phenobarbital that is eliminated by CYP2C9- or CYP2C19-dependent oxidation is significantly smaller (<25%) than for phenytoin

TDM 2008;30(2):173-80

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Effects of CYP 2C9/2C19 Polymorphism on Phenytoin Levels

Polymorphic metabolism of phenytoin (by CYP2C9 and CYP2C19) accounts for the commonly observed extensive individual variability in plasma level of, and adverse response to, phenytoin.

Cerebellar dysfunction—a dose-dependent overdose effect of phenytoin (manifested by nystagmus, diplopia, ataxia)—is most severe in subjects with variant CYP2C9 alleles on standard therapeutic doses of the drug.

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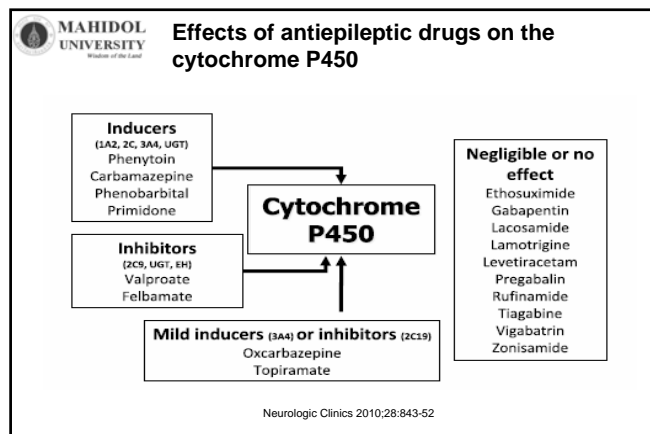
Genotype-based dose guidance of phenytoin

2C9	2C19	Suggested dose
*1/*1	*1/*1	5.5 - 7 mg/kg/d
*1/*1	*1/*2 or *3	5 - 7
*1/*1	*2/*2 or *3	5 - 6
*1/*3	*1/*2 or *3	3 - 4
*1/*3	*2/*2 or *3	2 - 3

Ther Drug Monit 2004;26(5):534-40

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Relative drug-drug interaction potential of the antiepileptic drugs

None	Low	High
Ethosuximide Gabapentin Levetiracetam Pregabalin Vigabatrin	Lacosamide Lamotrigine Oxcarbazepine Rufinamide Topiramate Tiagabine Zonisamide	Carbamazepine Felbamate Phenytoin Phenobarbital Primidone Valproate



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AED- induced osteomalacia

- ◆ AEDs (enzyme inducer) decreases bone mineral density
 - Duration of epilepsy
 - Polytherapy
 - Patients receiving enzyme inducing AEDs (phenobarbital, carbamazepine, phenytoin, primidone) had increased risk compared to those receiving valproic acid, lamotrigine, clonazepam, gabapentin, topiramate and ethosuximide.

Farhat et al. Neurology 2002;58:1348-1353

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Antiepileptic drugs in brain-tumor related epilepsy (BTRE)

- ◆ BTRE can be considered as a “drug resistant epilepsy”
- ◆ due to over-expression of genes and proteins that mediate nonspecific resistance to treatment (multidrug resistant proteins (MDR) or P-glycoprotein (P-gp))
- ◆ P-gp is the most important transport protein in pharmaco-resistant epilepsy as it is capable of carrying a large number of AEDs, including: CBZ, FBM, GBP, LEV, LTG, OXC, PB, PHT, and TPM

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Effectiveness of AED in BTRE

- ◆ 62.9% of seizure-free patients with OXC monotherapy;
- ◆ 55.6% with topiramate monotherapy;
- ◆ a responder rate from 27.4 to 100% with gabapentin, lacosamide, pregabalin, tiagabine, and zonisamide in add-on;
- ◆ 47.4–88% of seizure-free patients with levetiracetam both in mono-therapy and as add-on

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Chemotherapy and drug interactions with AEDs

- ◆ Erlotinib, imatinib, cediranib, irinotecan, taxanes, vinca alkaloids, and teniposide are significantly metabolized by the CYP450 hepatic system
- ◆ Carbamazepine, phenobarbital, and phenytoin are enzyme inducer thus resulting in a decreased efficacy which clinically translates to a reduced survival of patients
- ◆ In this patient population, *new generation drugs such as gabapentin, lamotrigine, levetiracetam, oxcarbazepine, pregabalin, topiramate, and zonisamide are preferred* because they have fewer drug interactions and cause fewer side effects

Neurology 2010;74:1880-3

Verapamil and diltiazem vs CBZ & PHT

- ◆ 40–400% increase in carbamazepine and phenytoin possible
- ◆ Monitor serum concentrations in 7 days
- ◆ Effect of diltiazem can be reduced
- ◆ Check blood pressure

Cyclosporin and tacrolimus vs CBZ & PHT

- ◆ Concentration of cyclosporin and tacrolimus reduced
- ◆ May need a 2- to 5-fold increase in dosage
- ◆ Monitor serum cyclosporin and tacrolimus or use alternative antiepileptic

AEDs side effects and management

Common Side Effects of Antiepileptics

Carbamazepine	Dizziness, diplopia, blurred vision, ataxia, sedation , nausea, neutropenia, rash, hyponatremia
Phenytoin	Fatigue, dizziness, ataxia, nausea, confusion, gingival hyperplasia, hirsutism, osteopenia , rash
Valproate	Drowsiness, ataxia, tremor, weight gain, hair loss , thrombocytopenia, hyperammonemia, pancreatitis
Oxcarbazepine	Dizziness, diplopia, blurred vision, headache, nausea, hyponatremia
Lamotrigine	Dizziness, diplopia, blurred vision, insomnia, headache, rash
Topiramate	Drowsiness, ataxia, word-finding difficulty, difficulty concentrating, anorexia, weight loss, paresthesias , metabolic acidosis, oligohydrosis, nephrolithiasis
Levetiracetam	Fatigue, dizziness, somnolence, irritability, mood swings
Zonisamide	Drowsiness, ataxia, difficulty concentrating, anorexia, weight loss , nausea, nephrolithiasis, oligohydrosis
Pregabalin	Fatigue, dizziness , ataxia, diplopia, weight gain, edema

Serious Side Effects of Antiepileptics

Carbamazepine	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia, hepatic failure, hyponatremia
Phenytoin	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, blood dyscrasia, pseudolymphoma, lupus-like syndrome
Valproate	Hepatic failure, pancreatitis, aplastic anemia, blood dyscrasias, lupus-like syndrome, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis
Oxcarbazepine	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, hyponatremia
Lamotrigine	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, multiorgan failure, hepatic failure
Topiramate	Acute close angle glaucoma, heat stroke
Levetiracetam	Psychosis
Zonisamide	Aplastic anemia, rash, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, heat stroke

Adverse effects issues

- ◆ Sedation: PB, TPM
- ◆ Cosmetic: PHT
- ◆ Weight gain: VPA, GBP, PGB
- ◆ Weight loss: TPM, ZNS
- ◆ Reproductive function: VPA
- ◆ Behavioral: FBM, LEV
- ◆ Allergic: PHT, CBZ, PB, LTG

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Carbamazepine clinical monitoring parameters

- ◆ CBC
- ◆ BUN, Cr
- ◆ Hepatic function test (ALT/AST, Alk Phosphatase)
- ◆ Na

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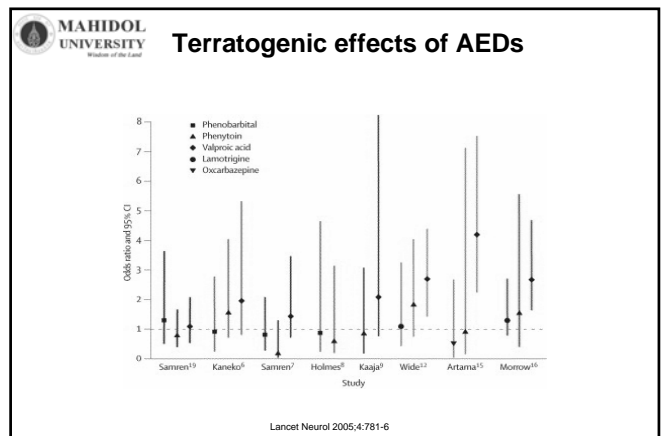
Valproate clinical monitoring parameters

- ◆ CBC with platelets
- ◆ Hepatic function at least every 2 months

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Relative cognitive effects of the antiepileptic drugs

None or Minimal	Some	Significant
Gabapentin Lacosamide Lamotrigine Levetiracetam Oxcarbazepine Pregabalin Vigabatrin	Carbamazepine Phenytoin Valproate Zonisamide	Phenobarbital Primidone Topiramate



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Anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome (AHS)

- ◆ a serious idiosyncratic, non- dose related adverse reaction caused by aromatic anticonvulsants (phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, carbamazepine and lamotrigine)
- ◆ Classic triad of *fever, rash and internal organ involvements (also lymphadenopathy)*
- ◆ Symptoms occurred within 3 months of beginning therapy (at least 7 days)
- ◆ *Fever usually precedes rash*
- ◆ Mortality approximately 21% and is directly correlated with the degree of hepatic involvement

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Spectrum of presentation of patients with anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome (AHS)

Organ involved	Presentation		
	mild	moderate	severe (organ- or life-threatening)
Skin	Exanthematous eruption	Urticarial eruption	Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis
Bone marrow	Leucopenia	Agranulocytosis	Aplastic anaemia
Liver	Mild elevations in liver function tests	Hepatitis	Fulminant hepatic necrosis
Muscle	Elevated creatine kinase level	Myositis	Rhabdomyolysis
Kidney	Haematuria	Nephritis	Acute renal failure
Heart	Pericarditis	Carditis	Congestive heart failure
Lung	Cough	Pneumonitis	Adult respiratory distress syndrome
Other	Pharyngitis, epididymitis, hypogammaglobulinaemia, pancreatitis, thyroiditis, aseptic meningitis, inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion, colitis		

Drug Safety 1999;21:489-501

Management of patients with anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome

Patients with non-life-threatening or non-organ-threatening disease

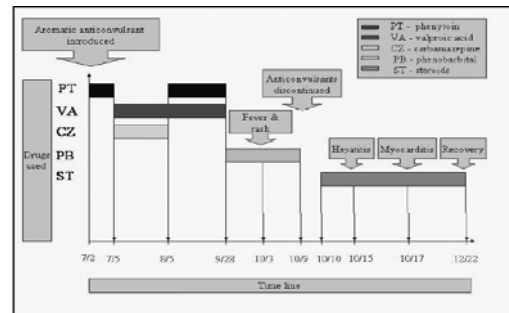
Discontinue anticonvulsant
Supportive therapy (e.g. antihistamines, topical corticosteroids)
Obtain complete blood count, liver function tests, urinalysis, serum creatinine, baseline thyroid function tests, other tests based on symptom presentation
Skin biopsy, if blistering or pustular eruption
Advise patient regarding potential for cross-reactivity
Counsel family members and first degree relatives regarding increased risk
Advise patient to obtain a MedicAlert

Patients with life-threatening or organ-threatening disease

All above measures *plus*
Use of oral prednisone or pulse methylprednisolone
Intravenous immunoglobulin

Drug Safety 1999;21:489-501

Time-line of events (development of AHS, myocarditis and clinical recovery) in relation to the use of anticonvulsants and steroids



Can J Clin Pharmacol 2005;12:33-40

Pharmacogenetics of carbamazepine-induced severe cutaneous drug reaction

Neurology Asia 2008; 13 : 15 – 21

Association of HLA-B*1502 allele and carbamazepine-induced severe adverse cutaneous drug reaction among Asians, a review

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IV AED Adverse Effects

	DZP	PHT	FOS	PB	VPA	LEV
Respiratory depression	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Impaired consciousness	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Neuropsychiatric symptoms	yes	no	no	yes	Yes, rare (hyperammonemic encephalopathy)	yes
Hypotension	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Cardiac arrhythmia	no	yes	yes	no	no	no
Infusion-site reactions	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no

Drugs that reduced seizure threshold

- ◆ TCAs, bupropion
- ◆ Clozapine and high dose low potency antipsychotics
- ◆ INH, imipenem and other analogs, penicillins
- ◆ High dose ChEIs (donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine)
- ◆ Nicergoline and other ergot derivatives
- ◆ CNS stimulants
- ◆ Theophylline