ANTITUSSIVE & EXPECTORANT DRUGS

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Cough reflex



- initiates cough & expectoration
- elimination of secretions & forein particles
- induced by irritation of sensoric receptors in respiratory tract
- 2 types of cough:
- productive eliminates excessive secretion
- non-productive dry
- cough is harmful in case of post-surgery (thorax, abdominal)



enlarged lymphatic nodes

www.wrongdiagnosis.com

Sites of cough induction

- intrinsic
- pharynx
- larynx
- tracheobronchial space
- alveoli
- external
- mediastinum structures
- oesophagus
- increased heart volume (congestive disease, valvular diseases, etc.)

Representatives of different categories

Antitussives, Expectorants, & Mucolytics



ANTITUSSIVE DRUGS

- given to stop or cough reduction
- opioids & non-opioids
- used only in dry cough

Mechanism of action - opioids

- inhibit cough reflex by inhibiting cough center in the brain (medulla):
- > codeine
- > hydrocodone
 - > pholcodine
 - > dextromethorphan





Mechanism of action – non-opioids



- inhibit cough reflex by preventive inhibition at site of irritation:
- benzonatate
- butamirate



markmiller5.typepad.com_

Indications of antitussives

- exclusively for inhibition of cough reflex, if the cough is dry &/or harmful:
- dry, irritating &
 exhausting cough
- after surgery
- in lung cancer



Side effects of antitussives

opioids

sedation, nausea, vomiting, constipation, urine retention

benzonatate

nausea, Gl upset, constipation, headache, sickness, drowsiness, sedation



EXPECTORANT DRUGS Accumulation of mucus





Expectorant drugs Mechanisms of action

- direct stimulation of the secretory glands in respiratory tract
- **()** production & secretion of fluid in respiratory tract
- loosening & thinning the respiratory tract secretions
- reduction of thickness, adherence & superficial strain of mucus
- disintegration & reduction of viscosity of secretions
- alleviate drainage of airways

Mechanism of action – direct stimulation



glycerol iodidepotassium iodide



www.chillnite.com_

Mechanism of action – reflex stimulation

 drugs irritate GIT
 bronchial secretion ↑ reflexively as a result of irritation (n.vagus):

guaifenesin



GUAIFENESIN COUGH SYRUP

www.medicalsupplybiz.com/home.php?cat=10

Indications of expectorants

- cough inhibition & relief of expectoration in:
- colds
- moderate bronchial irritation
- bronchitis, laryngitis, pharyngitis
- 🔺 flu
- 🔹 sinusitis
- bronchial asthma
- emphysema
- other respiratory diseases





Common side effects

• guaifenesin

a nausea, vomiting, stomach irritation

• glycerol iodide

GI irritation, rash, thyroid enlargement

• potassium iodide

nausea, vomiting, bad taste

MUCOLYTICS

- act directly on mucus
- eliminate viscous secretion
- facilitate easier elimination



Bromhexine, ambroxole

- ambroxole is a bromhexine derivative
- effective mucolytics & mucokinetics
- depolymerize mucopolysacharides:
- directly
- by lysosomal enzyme release
- disturb structure of filaments in viscous sputum

• side effects:

- Iacrimation
- nasal discharge
- stomach irritation
- hypersensitivity



N-acetylcysteine Mechanism of action







N-acetylcysteine Characteristics

- directly applicable into airways (bronchoscopy)
- suitable for mucus removal before other endoscopic procedures (e.g. in urology)

• used also:

- as an antidote in paracetamol intoxication (free radical scavenger)
- renal protection
- interstitial lung disease
- COPD





