Ephedrine

Ephedrine is an indirect sympathomimetic that works to release stored catecholamines, such as norepinephrine, from sympathetic neurons. This drug is an agonist at α and β adrenergic receptors. It has effects similar to, but less potent than epinephrine. It is indicated for use in rhinitis, hypotension and urinary incontinence.



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Mechanism of Action

Alpha Agonist
Afro Dragonist
Ephedrine has α agonist activity. Ephedrine works to release stored catecholamines and is an indirect general agonist. This drug works to constrict smooth muscle of resistance blood vessels, such as those in the skin and splanchnic beds, causing increased peripheral resistance and venous return.

Beta Agonist
Beta-fish Dragonist
Ephedrine acts on both ?₁ and ?₂ adrenergic receptors and acts to increase heart rate and contractility. Furthermore, it increases lipolysis and renin release, while causing vasodilation. Drugs acting on ? receptors also decrease uterine tone, lead to ciliary muscle relaxation and increase aqueous humor production.

Indications

Rhinitis
Runny-nose
Ephedrine is indicated for nasal decongestion.

Hypotension
Hippo-BP
Ephedrine is indicated for orthostatic hypotension, due to the α₁ agonist effect of increased blood pressure.

Urinary Incontinence
Urine In-continents
Ephedrine can be used to treat urinary incontinence, as it works to constrict urinary sphincters and vasoconstricts renal arteries.

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