

Nonselective Beta-Blockers

Nonselective β -blockers were the first generation β -blockers and have antagonistic effects at both β_1 (heart, kidney) and β_2 receptors (lung, peripheral blood vessels and skeletal muscle) thus preventing direct sympathomimetics such as norepinephrine and epinephrine from binding to these receptors.



PLAY PICMONIC

"-lol" Suffix

Lolly

β -blockers can be remembered by having the suffix, "lol." Examples of this are metoprolol and carvedilol.

Nonselective

β_1 and β_2

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Propranolol

Propane-lolly

Propranolol was the first successfully developed β -blocker. Initially developed for use in angina pectoris and then used as an anti-hypertensive, it is not commonly used for these indications today due to its β_2 blocking effects that may lead to side effects such as bronchospasm and thus exacerbation of chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD) and asthma. Other side effects of Propranolol include depression, exacerbation of peripheral arterial disease, and masking signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia in diabetics. Propranolol is now primarily used for treatment of thyroid storm, thyrotoxicosis, essential tremor, prevention of bleeding esophageal varices, akathisia and chronic migraine prophylaxis.

Timolol

Time-mole-lolly

Timolol is a nonselective β -blocker that is the traditional first-line therapy for the reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in open-angle glaucoma and is part of the empiric therapy for acute-angle closure glaucoma. Timolol was initially shown to not be an effective systemic hypotensive agent; however, when formulated into a topical drug it was demonstrated to be extremely effective in reduction of IOP. Topical prostaglandins, however, are now a preferable initial therapy in open-angle glaucoma. The most serious possible side effects include cardiac arrhythmias and severe bronchospasms.

Nadolol

NATO-lolly

Nadolol is a nonselective β -blocker primarily used for the prevention of bleeding esophageal varices. It can also be used in the treatment of migraine headaches, adult ADHD, essential tremor and Parkinson's Disease. Its side effects include bradycardia, fatigue and bronchospasms.

Partial β ; Agonist

Partial Beta-fish Dragonist

These drugs block β -receptors; however, they also have intrinsic sympathomimetic activity (ISA) and partially activate the receptor. In high doses, they exert effects like epinephrine (increased pulse rate, increased blood pressure, bronchodilation).

Pindolol

Pin-doll-lolly

Pindolol is a β -blocker that is also a partial β -agonist. It can be used for treatment of angina pectoris and hypertension; however, is rarely done so due to its intrinsic sympathomimetic activity (ISA).

Nonselective β_1 and β_2 Blocking

[Corvette-lolly](#) and [Lab-beta-lolly](#)

These drugs nonselectively block both β_1 and β_2 receptors. Their α_1 -blocking effects give them a vasodilatory effect which potentiates the β -blocking effect to reduce blood pressure.

Carvedilol

[Corvette-lolly](#)

Carvedilol and labetalol are nonselective beta and alpha blocking drugs. Carvedilol is used in the treatment of CHF as an adjunct to conventional treatments (ACE inhibitors and diuretics). Labetolol is primarily used in the treatment of pregnancy-induced hypertension and can be used 2nd line in hypertensive emergencies.

Labetalol

[Lab-beta-lolly](#)

Labetolol is primarily used in the treatment of pregnancy-induced hypertension and can be used 2nd line in hypertensive emergencies.