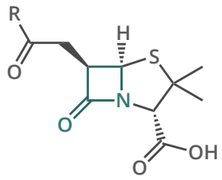
DIFFERENT CLASSES OF ANTIBIOTICS - AN OVERVIEW

Key: COMMONLY ACT AS **BACTERIOSTATIC AGENTS**, RESTRICTING GROWTH & REPRODUCTION — COMMONLY ACT AS **BACTERICIDAL AGENTS**, CAUSING BACTERIAL CELL DEATH

ß-LACTAMS

MOST WIDELY USED ANTIBIOTICS IN THE NHS



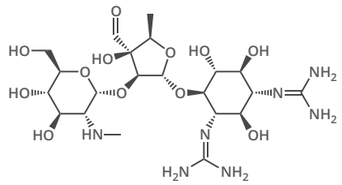
All contain a beta-lactam ring

EXAMPLES
Penicillins (shown) such as amoxicillin and flucloxacillin; *Cephalosporins* such as cefalexin.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit bacteria cell wall biosynthesis.

AMINOGLYCOSIDES

FAMILY OF OVER 20 ANTIBIOTICS



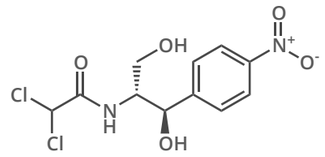
All contain aminosugar substructures

EXAMPLES
Streptomycin (shown), neomycin, kanamycin, paromomycin.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit the synthesis of proteins by bacteria, leading to cell death.

CHLORAMPHENICOL

COMMONLY USED IN LOW INCOME COUNTRIES



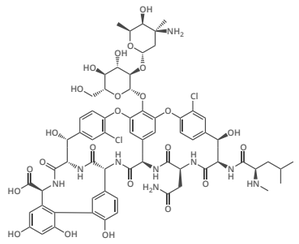
Distinct individual compound

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit synthesis of proteins, preventing growth.

No longer a first line drug in any developed nation due to increased resistance and worries about safety.

GLYCOPEPTIDES

COMMON 'DRUGS OF LAST RESORT'



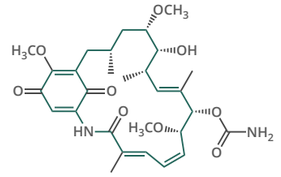
Consist of carbohydrate linked to a peptide formed of amino acids

EXAMPLES
Vancomycin (shown), teicoplanin.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit bacteria cell wall biosynthesis.

ANSAMYCINS

CAN ALSO DEMONSTRATE ANTIVIRAL ACTIVITY



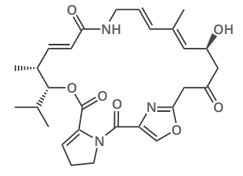
All contain an aromatic ring bridged by an aliphatic chain.

EXAMPLES
Geldanamycin (shown), rifamycin, naphthomycin.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit the synthesis of RNA by bacteria, leading to cell death.

STREPTOGRAMINS

TWO GROUPS OF ANTIBIOTICS THAT ACT SYNERGISTICALLY



Combination of two structurally differing compounds, from groups denoted A & B

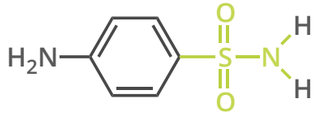
EXAMPLES
Pristinamycin IIA (shown), Pristinamycin IA.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit the synthesis of proteins by bacteria, leading to cell death.

DISCOVERY — 1930 — 1940 — 1950 — 1960 — 1970 — 1980

SULFONAMIDES

FIRST COMMERCIAL ANTIBIOTICS WERE SULFONAMIDES



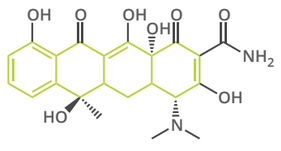
All contain the sulfonamide group

EXAMPLES
Prontosil, sulfanilamide (shown), sulfadiazine, sulfisoxazole.

MODE OF ACTION
Do not kill bacteria but prevent their growth and multiplication. Cause allergic reactions in some patients.

TETRACYCLINES

BECOMING LESS POPULAR DUE TO DEVELOPMENT OF RESISTANCE



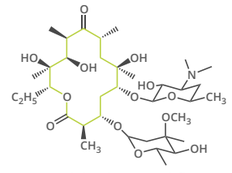
All contain 4 adjacent cyclic hydrocarbon rings

EXAMPLES
Tetracycline (shown), doxycycline, limecycline, oxytetracycline.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit synthesis of proteins by bacteria, preventing growth.

MACROLIDES

SECOND MOST PRESCRIBED ANTIBIOTICS IN THE NHS



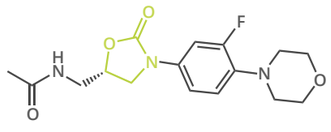
All contain a 14-, 15-, or 16-membered macrolide ring

EXAMPLES
Erythromycin (shown), clarithromycin, azithromycin.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit protein synthesis by bacteria, occasionally leading to cell death.

OXAZOLIDINONES

POTENT ANTIBIOTICS COMMONLY USED AS 'DRUGS OF LAST RESORT'



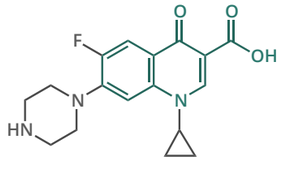
All contain 2-oxazolidone somewhere in their structure

EXAMPLES
Linezolid (shown), posizolid, tedizolid, cycloserine.

MODE OF ACTION
Inhibit synthesis of proteins by bacteria, preventing growth.

QUINOLONES

RESISTANCE EVOLVES RAPIDLY



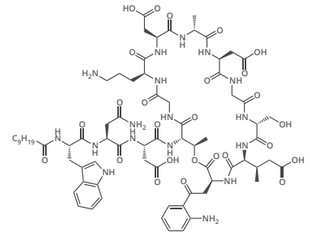
All contain fused aromatic rings with a carboxylic acid group attached

EXAMPLES
Ciprofloxacin (shown), levofloxacin, trovafloxacin.

MODE OF ACTION
Interfere with bacteria DNA replication and transcription.

LIPOPEPTIDES

INSTANCES OF RESISTANCE RARE



All contain a lipid bonded to a peptide

EXAMPLES
Daptomycin (shown), surfactin.

MODE OF ACTION
Disrupt multiple cell membrane functions, leading to cell death.

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