

Learning unit: Laxatives, antidiarrheal drugs

Impact of the learning unit:

Diarrhoea or constipation are very common disorders of gastrointestinal tract. Beside rehydration and prevention of ion dysbalance, there is presently available effective pharmacological treatment of these pathologies, which is summarized in this learning unit

Important terms

laxatives

- bulk-forming
 - roughage (psyllium)
- osmotic
 - lactulose
 - macrogol
 - sulphates
- emollients
 - docusate
 - glycerol
- stimulant
 - bisacodyl
 - picosulphate
 - senna and anthraquinones
- laxatives for specific indications
 - naloxone
- tolerance and dependence on laxatives

antidiarrheal drugs

- adsorbents
 - diosmectite
 - activated charcoal
- antimotility agents
 - loperamide
 - diphenoxylate
- intestinal antiseptic drugs
 - chloroxine
- other
 - racecadotril
- antibiotics
 - rifaximin
 - nifuroxazide
- probiocs
- prebiocs

combination of antidiarrheal drugs

Learning outcomes

Student knows basic pharmacological profile (mechanism of action, adverse effects, indications, contraindications) of the particular groups of laxatives.

Student knows basic pharmacological profile (mechanism of action, adverse effects, indications, contraindications) of the particular groups of antidiarrheal drugs.

Student knows therapeutic process and substances used for treatment of infectious diarrhoea.

Recommended study materials

Rang & Dale's Pharmacology E - Book, Humphrey Rang 8th edition, 2016, chapter 30 (pp. 375 – 378).

Study materials of the course aVLFA0822c and aVLFA0822p.

Exam questions

Special pharmacology: 55. Laxatives, antidiarrhoics, drugs of infectious diarrhoeas

“Essential” drugs: 119. lactulose, 120. aprepitant, 122. loperamide