

# **Antipsychotics (neuroleptics)**

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# PSYCHOSIS

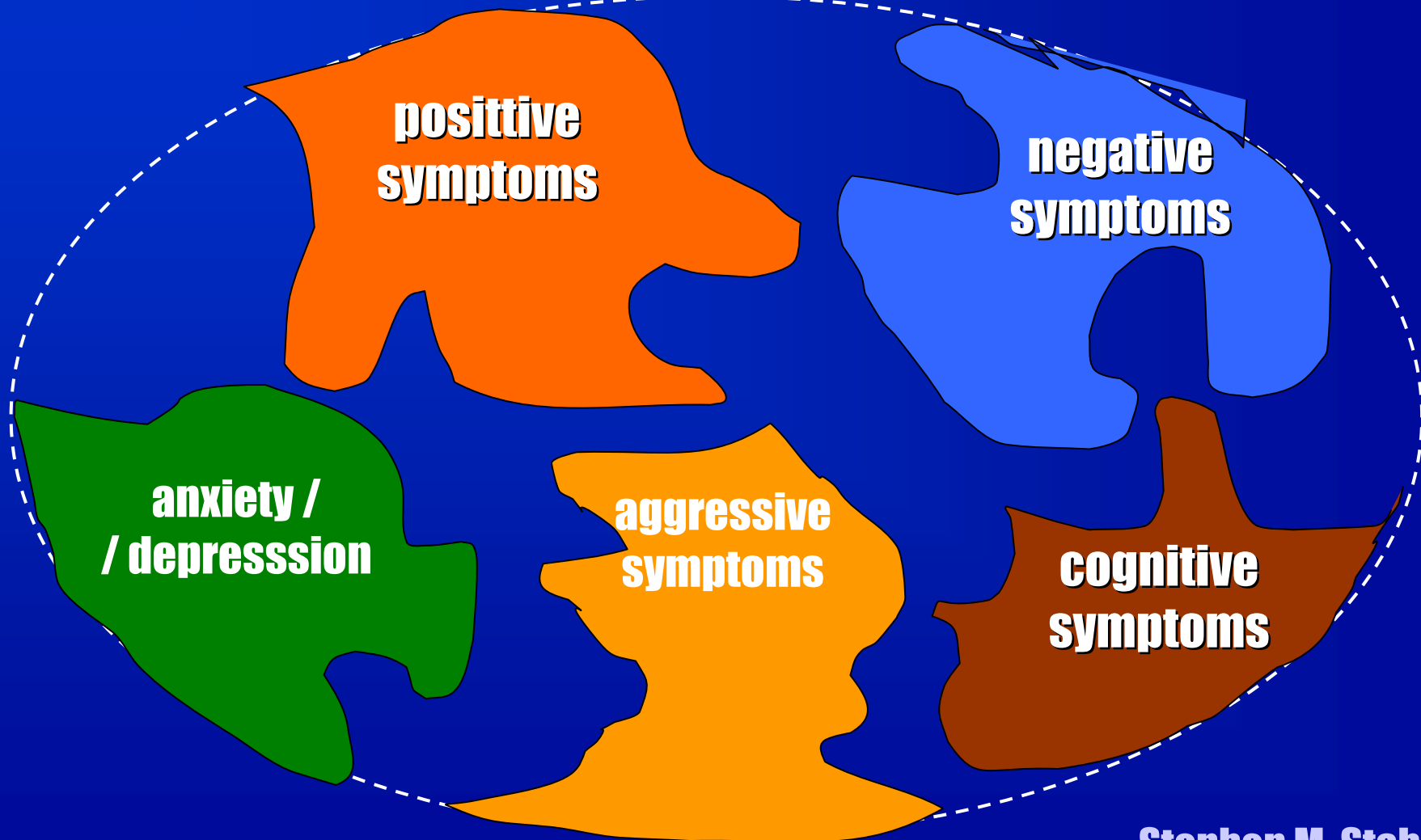
- a person's capacity, affective response to recognize reality, communicate, and relate to others is impaired

- schizophrenia,
- mania,
- depression,
- Alzheimer's dementia
- cognitive disorders



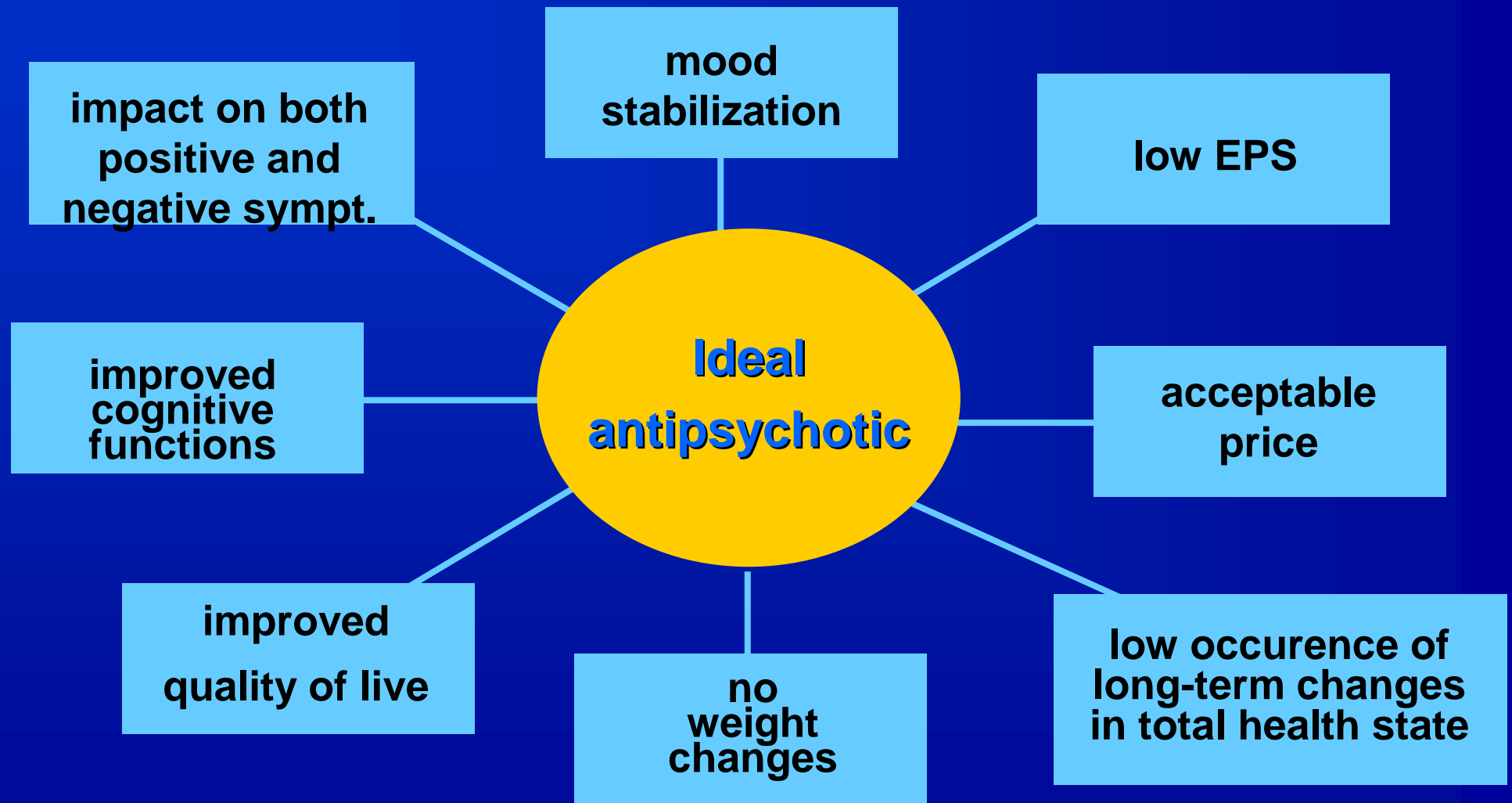
**hallucinations** (auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory, tactile)  
**delusions** (misinterpretations of perceptions or experiences)

# SCHIZOPHRENIA



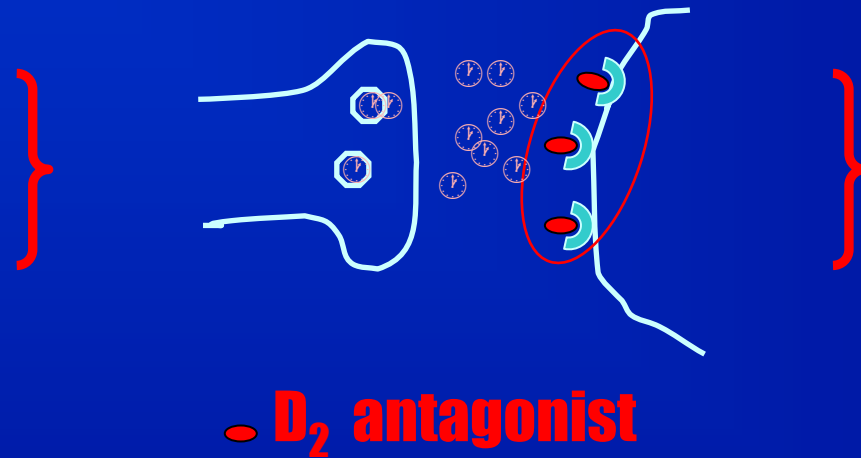
Stephen M. Stahl, 2000

# Ideal antipsychotic drug effects



# Blocking of postsynaptic dopamine receptors D<sub>2</sub>

in psychosis



SUPPRESSION  
OF POSITIVE  
SYMPTOMS

"Dopaminergic hypothesis of schizophrenia"

# Dopamine receptor subtypes

**DA r.** – partly sensitive to Adrenaline and Noradrenaline, too

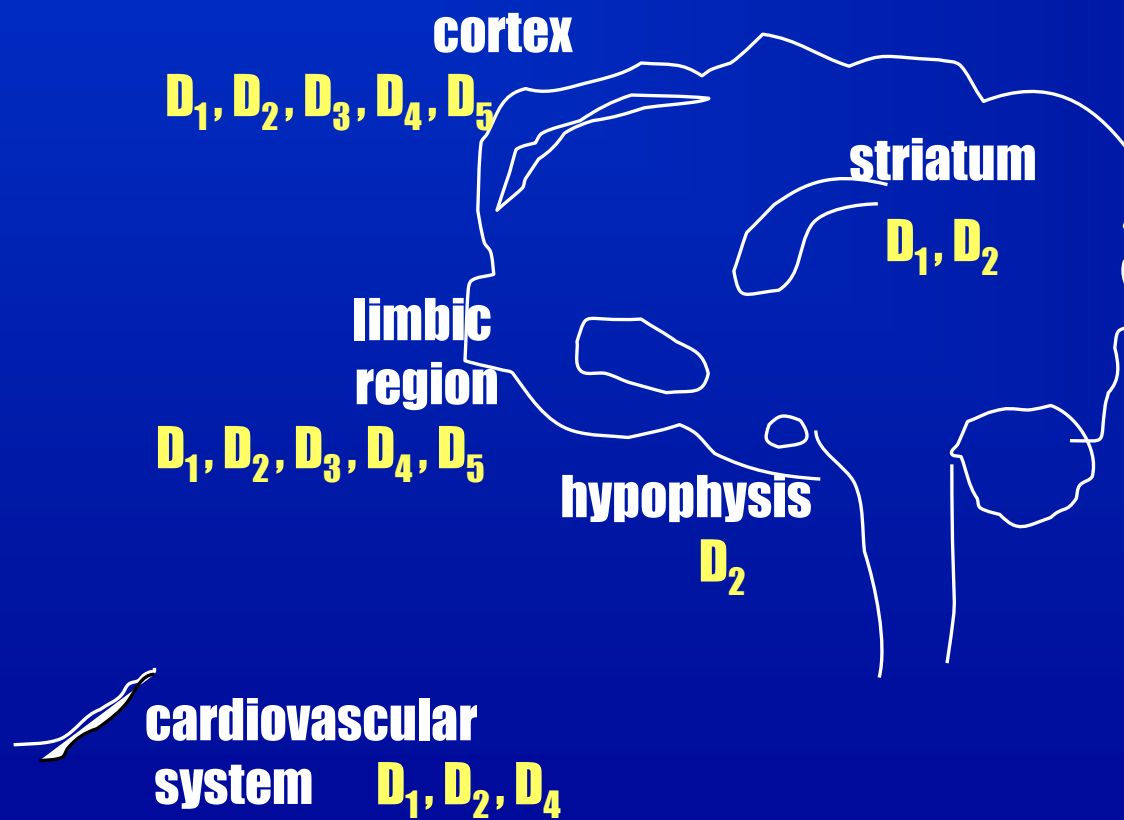
## Family D1:

**D<sub>1,5</sub>** - coupled to adenylylcyclase → ↑ cAMP – **excitatory influence**

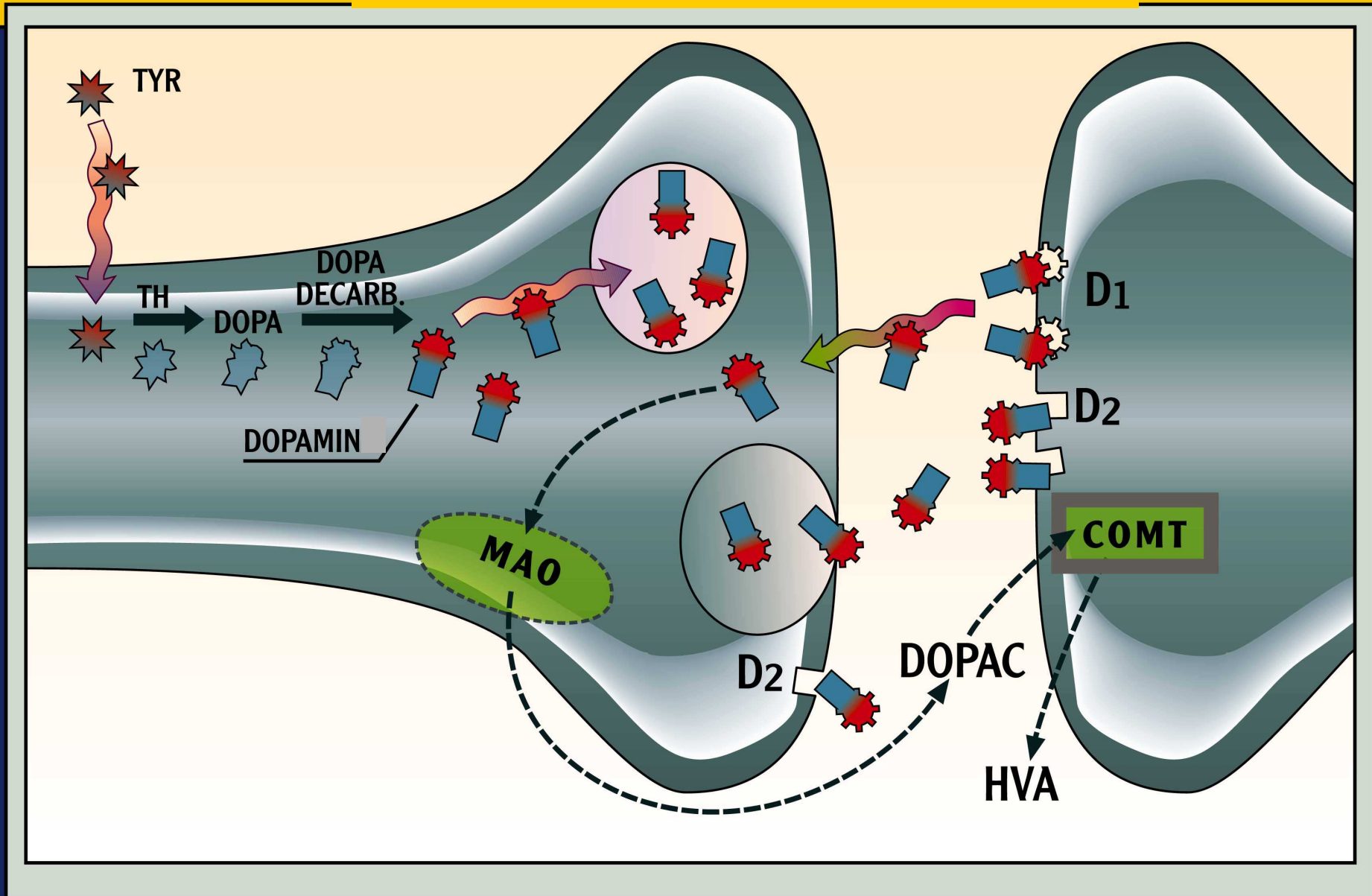
## Family D2:

**D<sub>2,3,4</sub>** - coupled to phosphodiesterase (cAMP degradation)  
→ ↓ cAMP - **inhibitory influence**

# Distribution of dopamine receptors

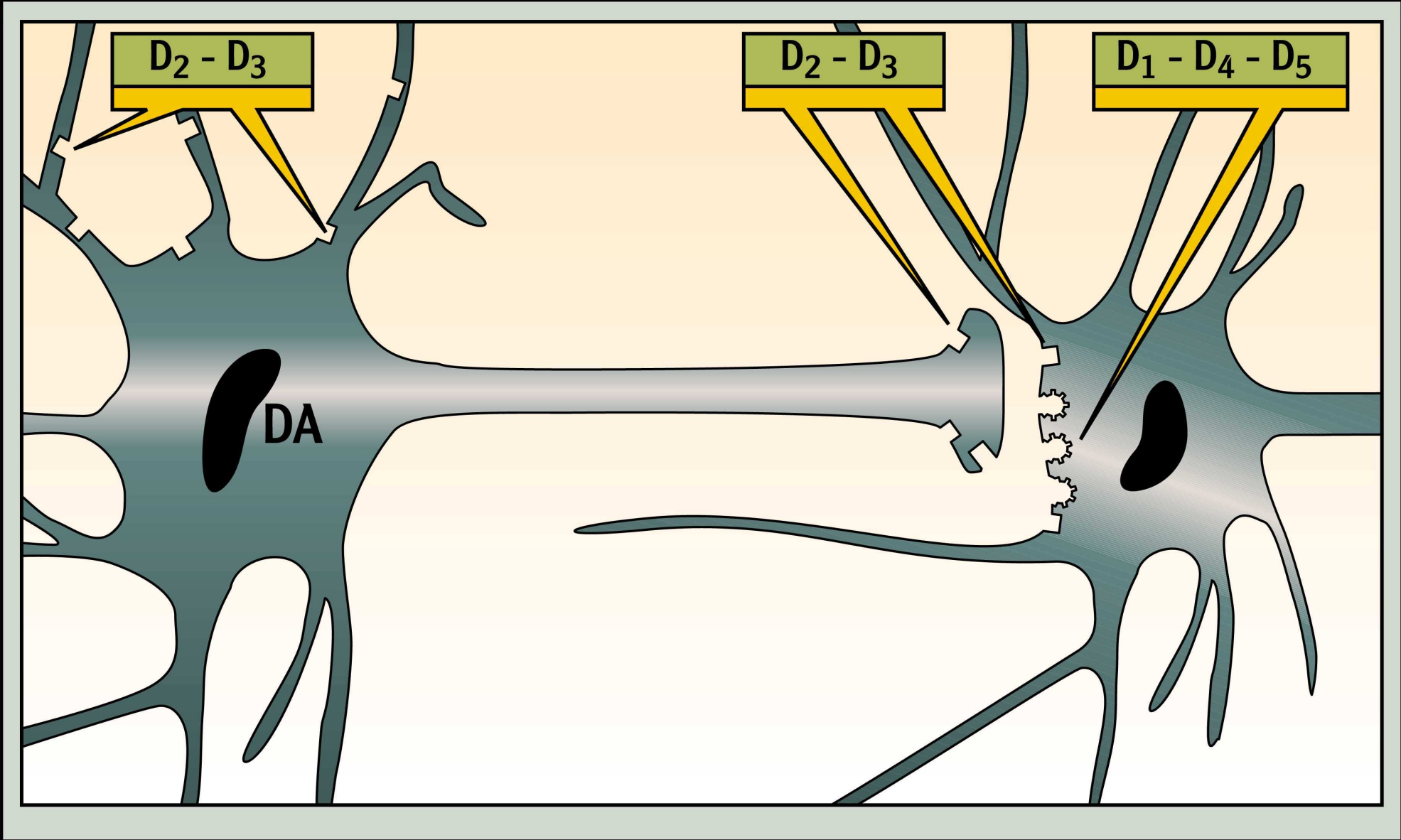


# Dopaminergic neurotransmission

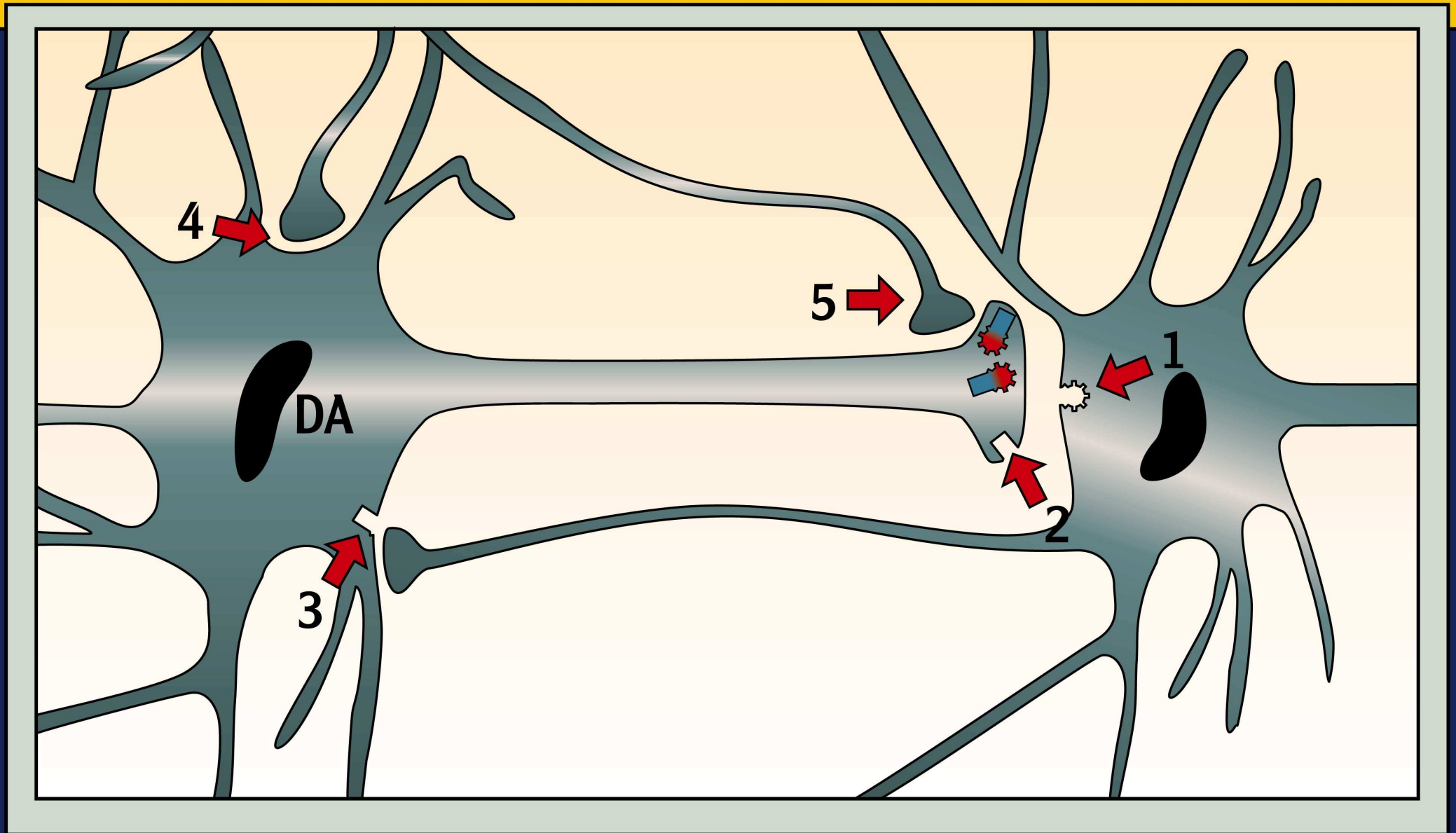




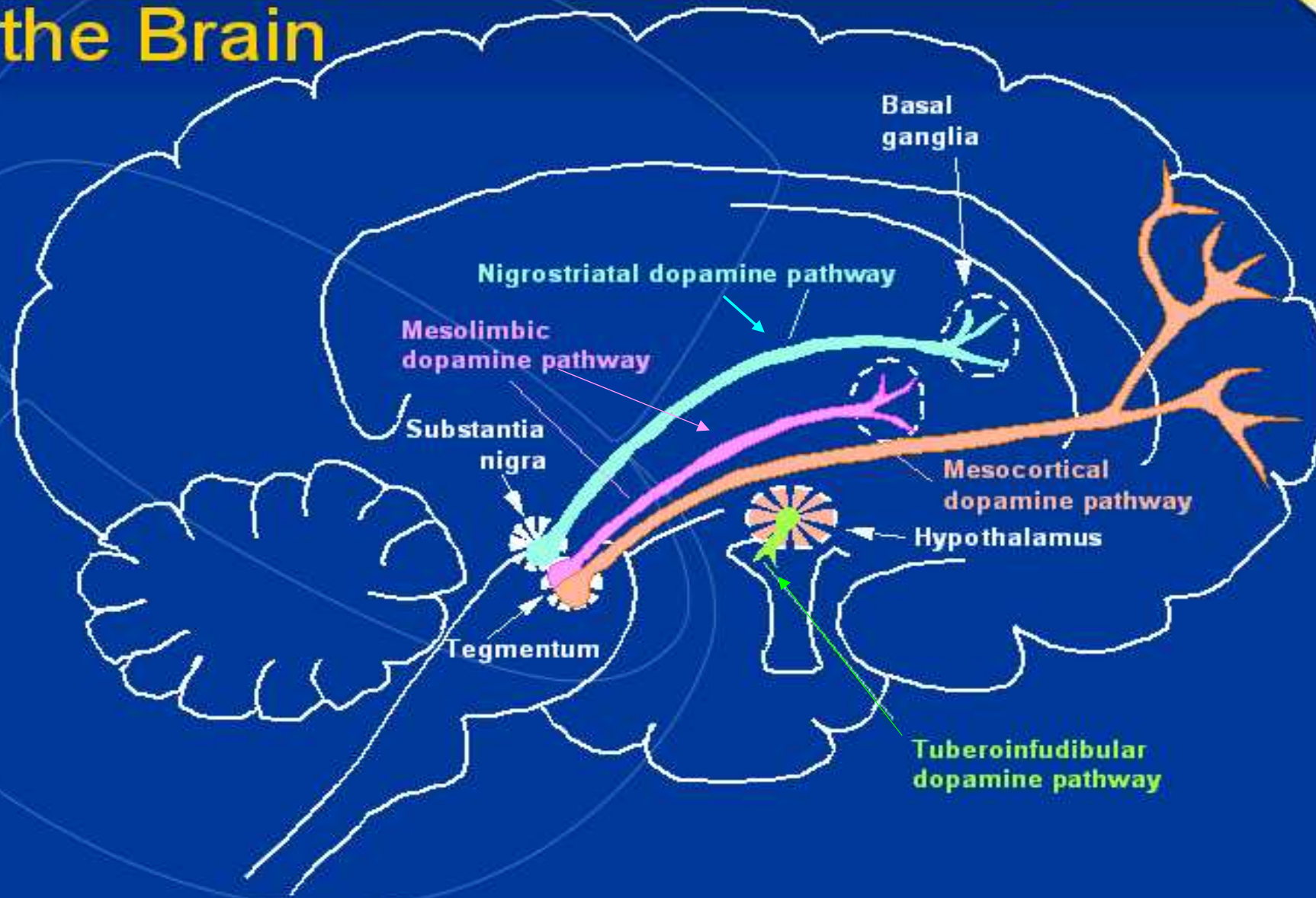
# Dopamine receptors



# Possible modulation of dopaminergic transmitter functions



# The 4 Dopaminergic Pathways of the Brain



## 4 DAergic brain pathways

**NIGROSTRIATAL (subt. nigra – basal ganglia)**  
**control of movements**

**MESOLIMBIC (midbrain VTA – ncl. accumbens)**  
**positive symptoms, euphoria**

**MESOCORTICAL (midbrain – limbic cortex)**  
**negative symptoms,  
cognitive side effects**

**TUBEROINFUNDIBULAR**

**(hypothalamus – anterior pituitary gland)**  
**control of prolactin secretion**

# MAIN SYMPTOMS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

## POSITIVE SYMPTOMS

**delusions**

**hallucinations**

**disorganised speech**

**disorganized behaviour**

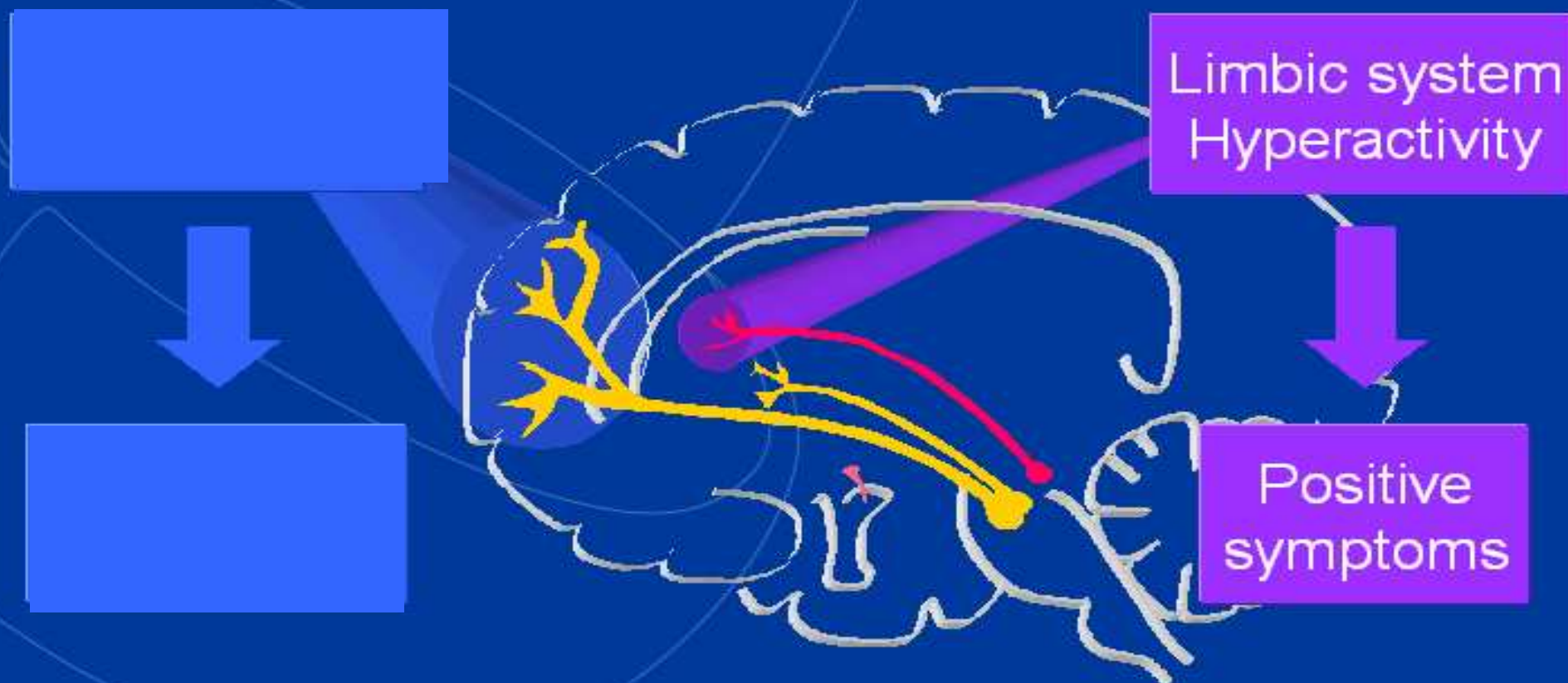
**catatonic behaviour**



# The Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia



Mesofrontal and Mesolimbic Dopamine Pathways



# MAIN SYMPTOMS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

## POSITIVE SYMPTOMS

**delusions**

**hallucinations**

**disorganised speech**

**disorganized behaviour**

**catatonic behaviour**

## NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS

**affective flattening** (restriction of emotional expression)

**alogia**

**avolition** (general lack of desire, motivation, difficulty, or inability to initiate and persist in goal-directed behaviour )

**anhedonia** (lack of pleasure)

**attention impairment**



# The Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia

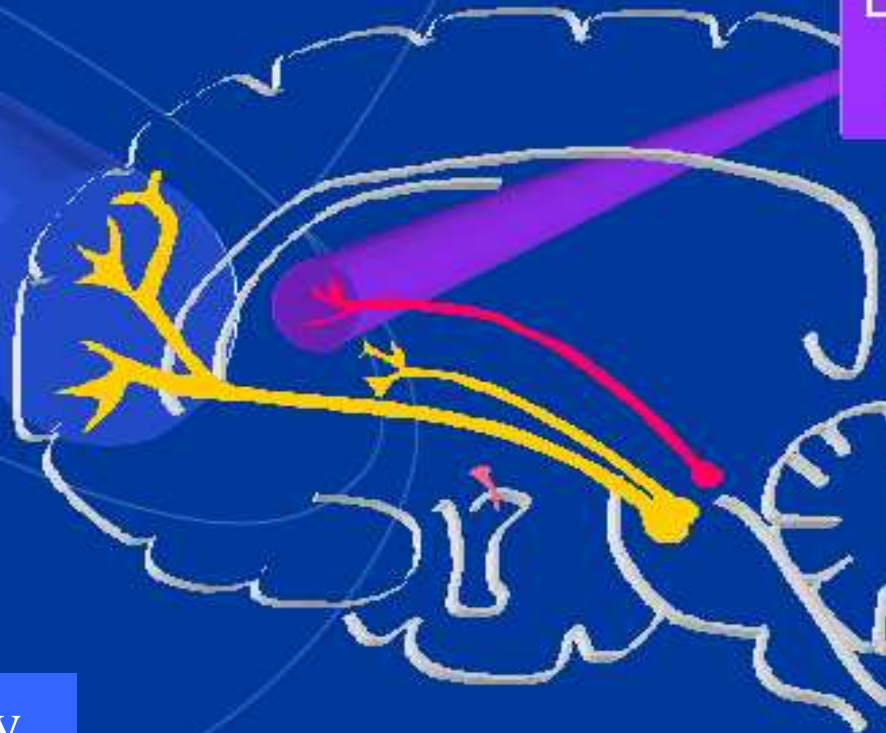
## Mesofrontal and Mesolimbic Dopamine Pathways

Frontal cortex  
Hypoactivity



Negative  
symptoms

mesocortical pathway



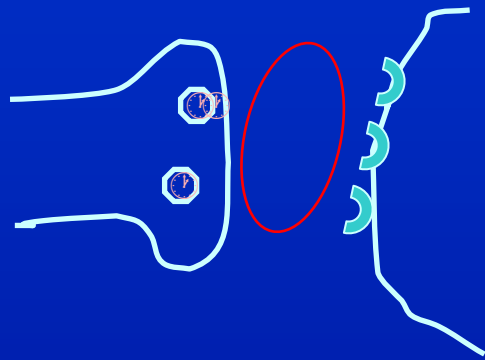
Limbic system  
Hyperactivity



Positive  
symptoms

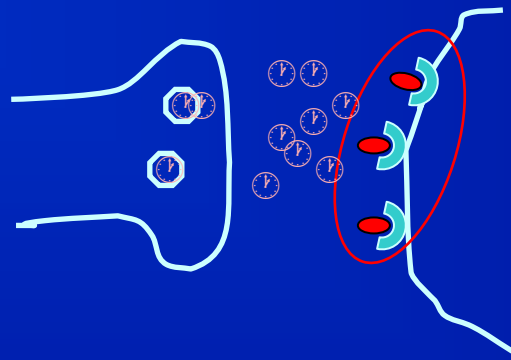


# ?? Causes of hypoactivity of mesocortical DAergic pathway ??



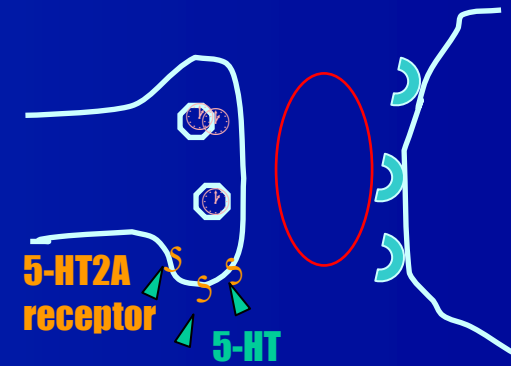
🕒 dopamine

**Primary deficit  
of dopamine**



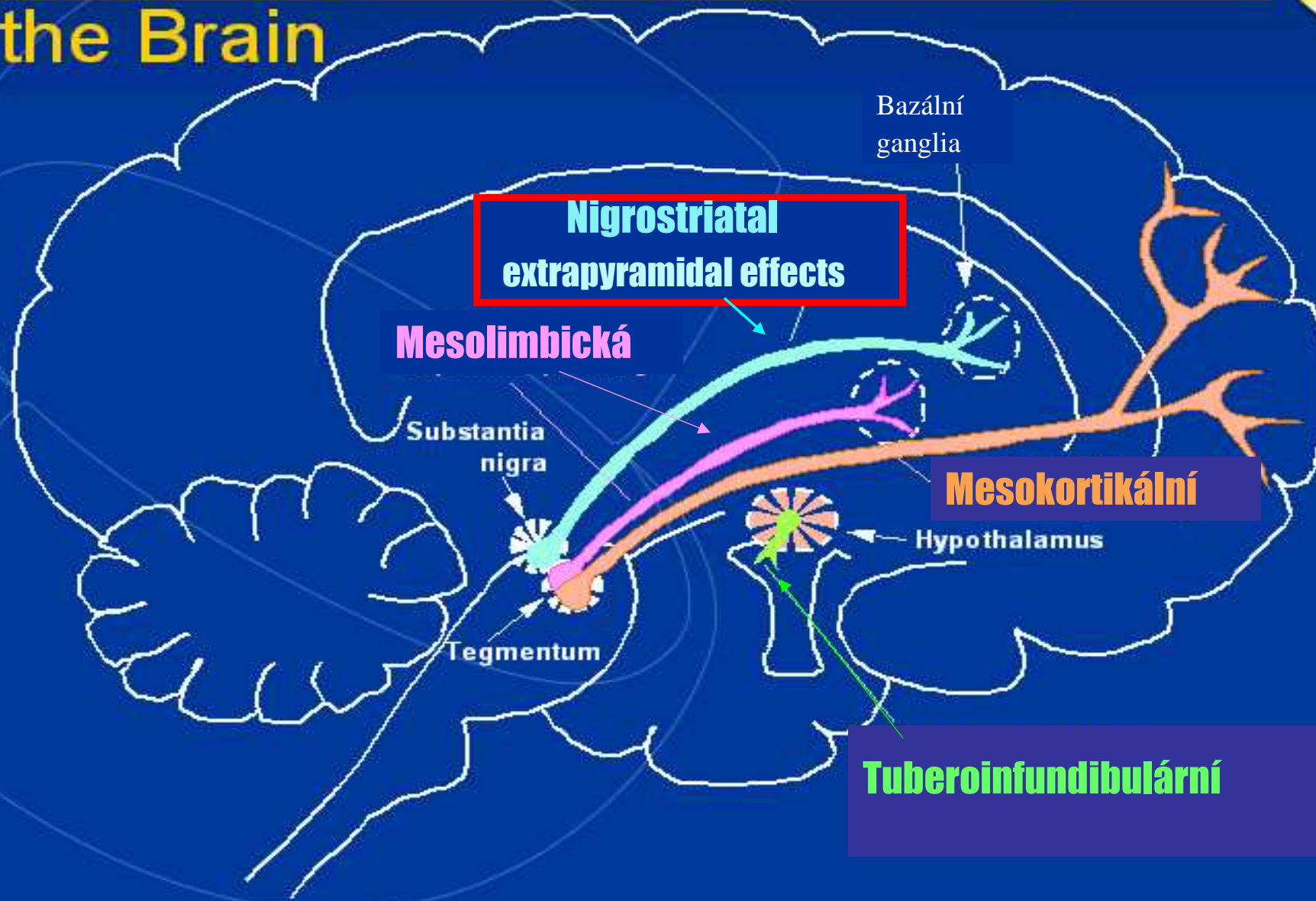
● D2 antagonist

**Blockade  
of D2 receptors**

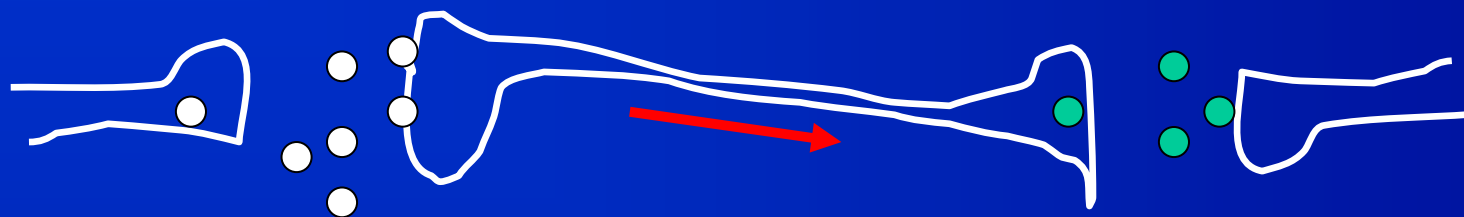


**Secondary deficit  
of dopamine**

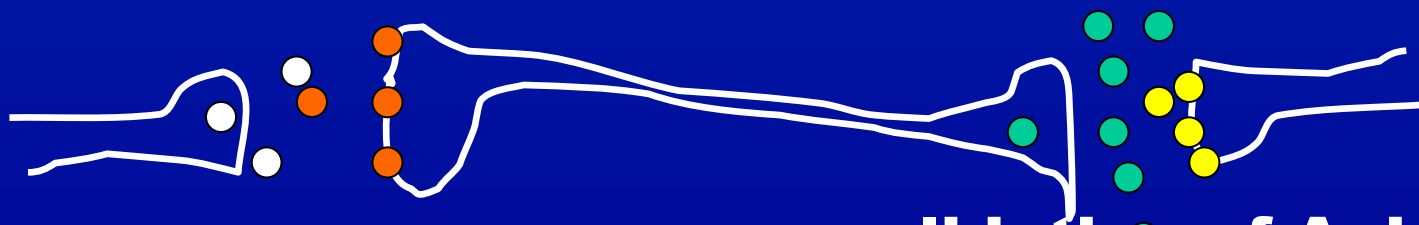
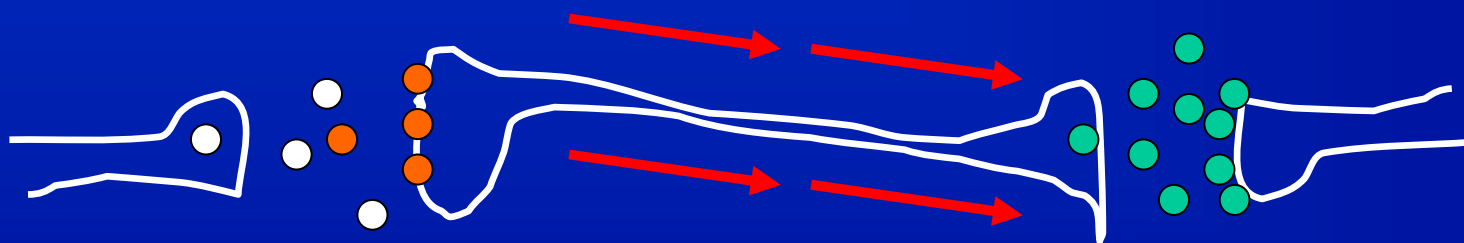
# The 4 Dopaminergic Pathways of the Brain



**nigrostriatal pathway → DA inhibits Ach activity**



**blockade of DA function → Ach hyperactive**

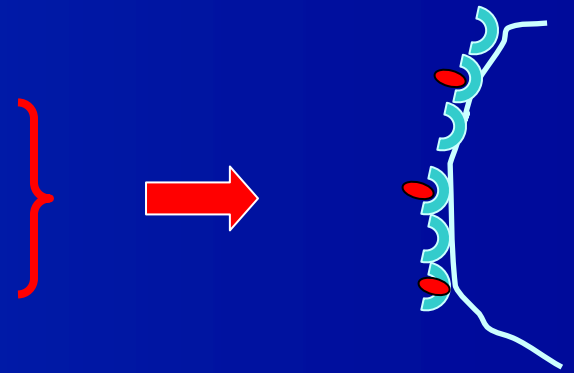
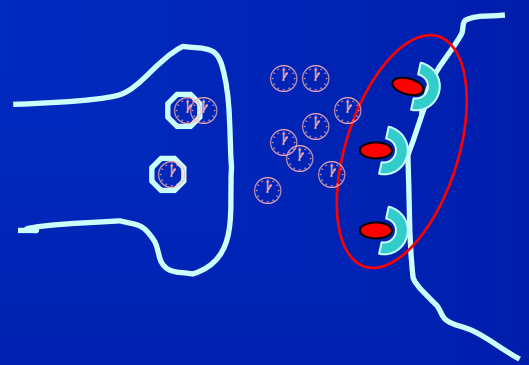


**consolidation of Ach hyperactivity**

**Nigrostriatal dopaminergic pathway**

**EPS**

**Tardive dyskinesia**

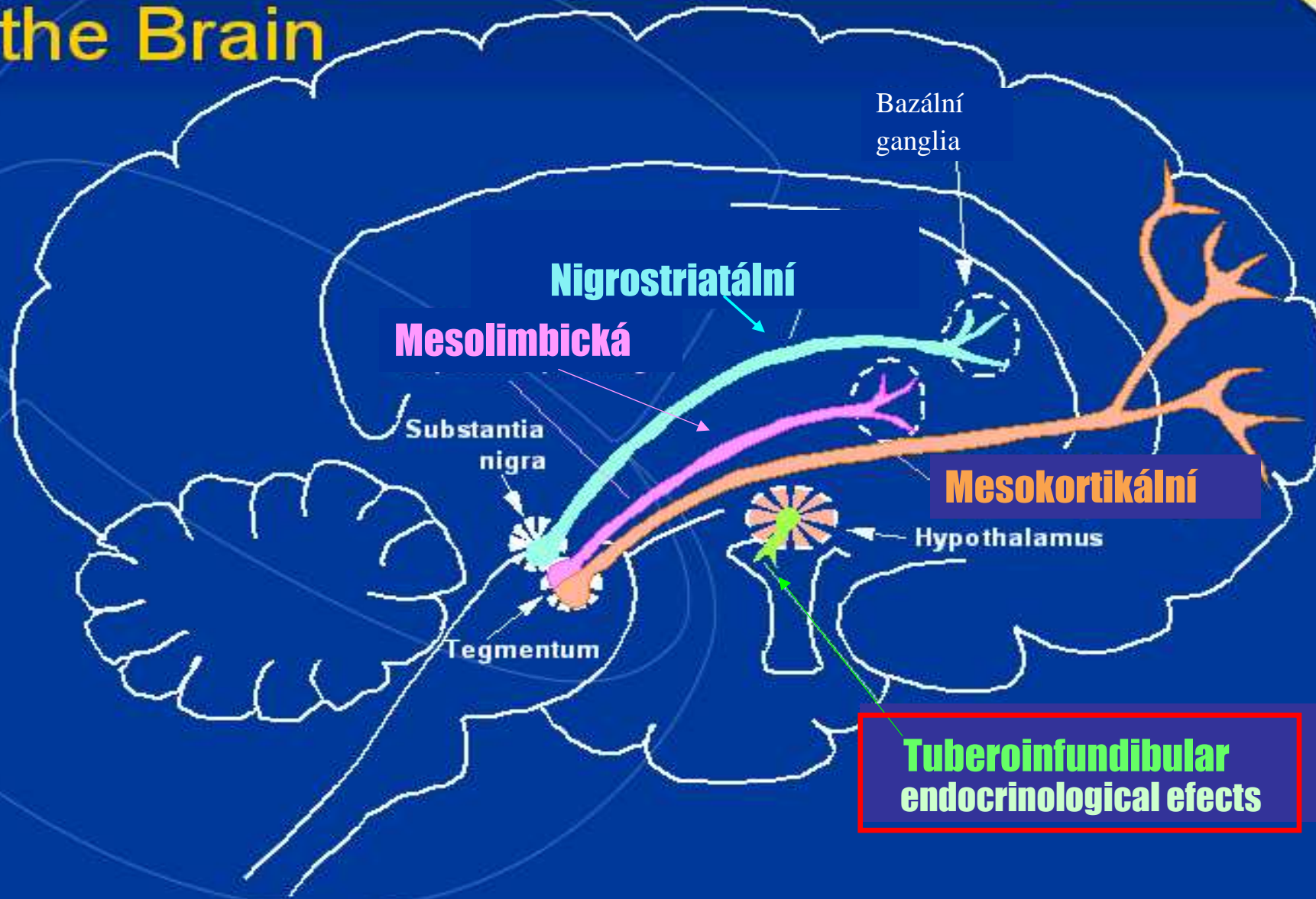


**D2 antagonist**

**Blockade of D2 recept.  
in nigrostriatal  
pathway**

**D2 receptor up-regulation**

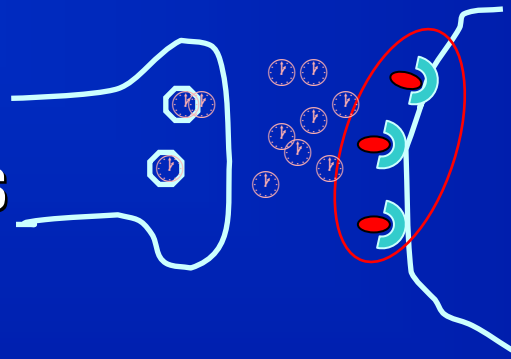
# The 4 Dopaminergic Pathways of the Brain





# Tuberoinfundibular dopaminergic pathway

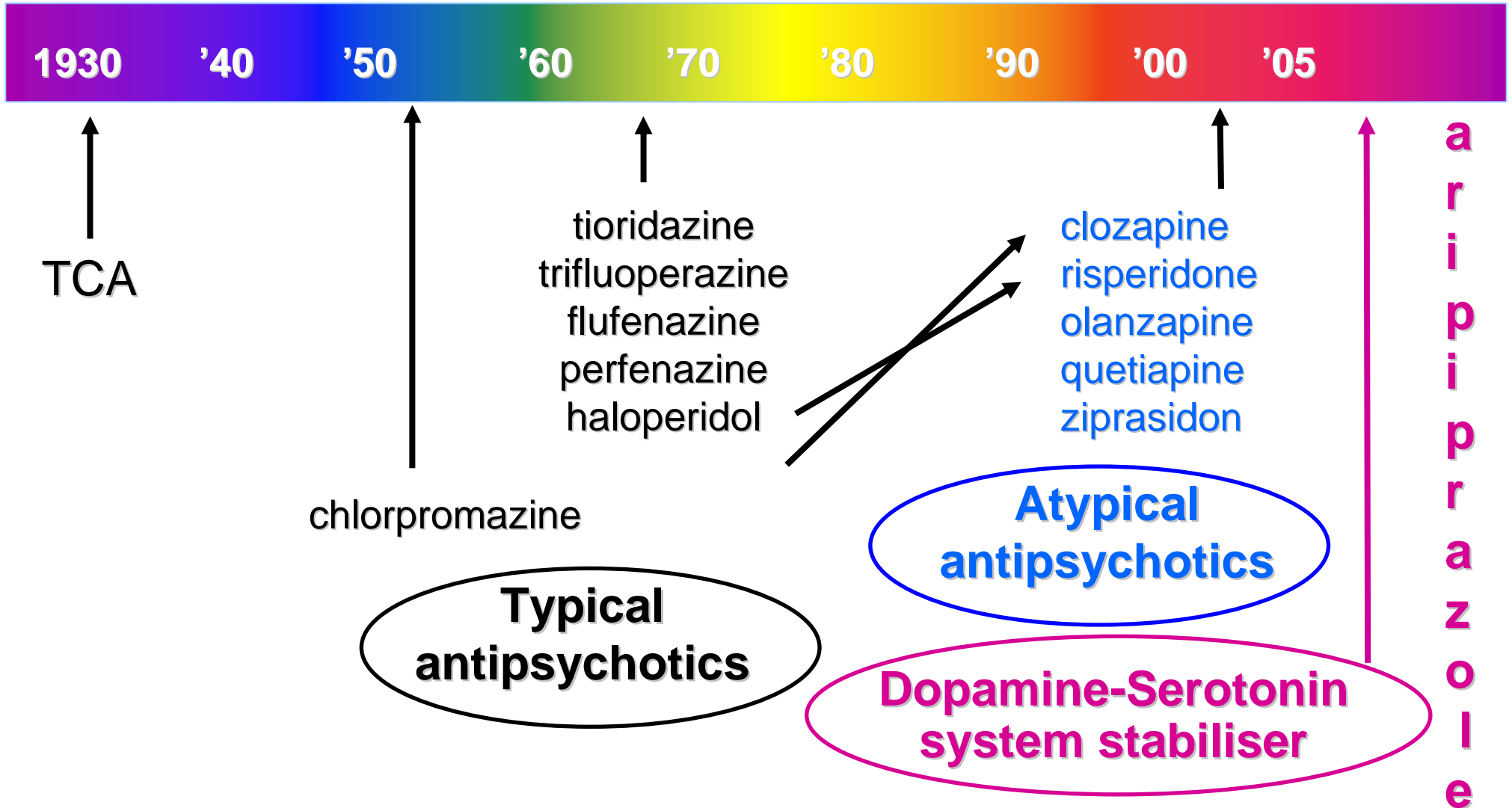
Blockade of D2 receptors



• D2 antagonist

Hyperprolactinemia

# Development of antipsychotics



## ANTIPSYCHOTICS (neuroleptics)

### Typical (I. generation)

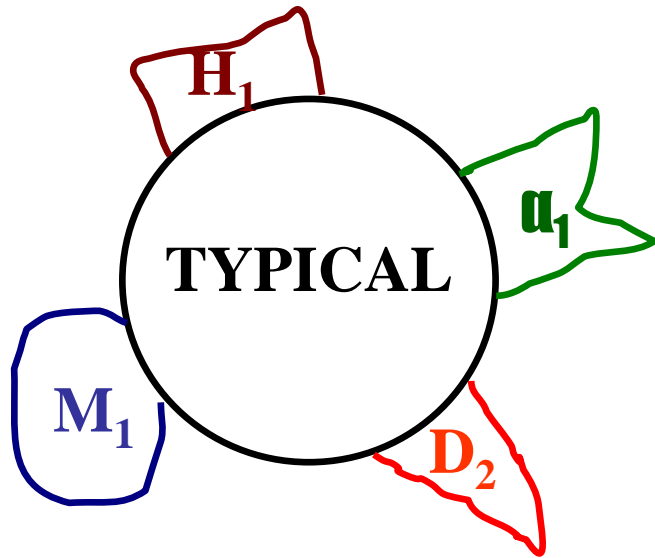
**Basic (sedative):** (*lower efficacy - doses in hundreds of mg*)  
chlorpromazine, levomepromazine, chlorprothixen,  
thioridazine, clopenthixol

**Incisive:** (*higher efficacy - doses in mg or tens of mg*)  
prochlorperazine, fluphenazine, perphenazine, pimozide,  
haloperidol, flupenthixole

**DEPOT (1x /1 – 3 weeks) – penfluridole, fluphenazine**



# ANTIPSYCHOTICS



**D<sub>2</sub> blockade = antipsychotic effects**

**M<sub>1</sub> blockade = dry mouth, diplopia,  
constipation**

**α<sub>1</sub> blockade = ↓ BP, dizziness**

**H<sub>1</sub> blockade = drowsiness, weight gain**

## ANTIPSYCHOTICS (neuroleptics)

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prochlorperazine, fluphenazine, perphenazine, pimozide,  
haloperidol, flupenthixole

**DEPOT (1x /1 – 3 weeks) – penfluridole, fluphenazine**

Adverse effects: *EPS, tardive dyskinesia, prolactinemia,  
malignant neuroleptic syndrom*

# Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrom

idiosyncratic response (20-30% mortality; in 1-2% treated patients)  
5-10 day persistence after the withdrawal of p.o. treatment,  
(3-30 days after injections)

**HYPERTERMIA; EPS** (rigidity, dysarthria, dysphoria, tremor),

**VEGETATIVE SY.** (tachycardia, ↑ BP, tachypnoe, urinary incontinence);

**DISORDERS OF BEHAVIOUR & CONSCIOUSNESS** (delirium, somnolence, comma, epileptic paroxysms);

leukocytosis, homeostatic disturbance, ↑hemocoagulation ....

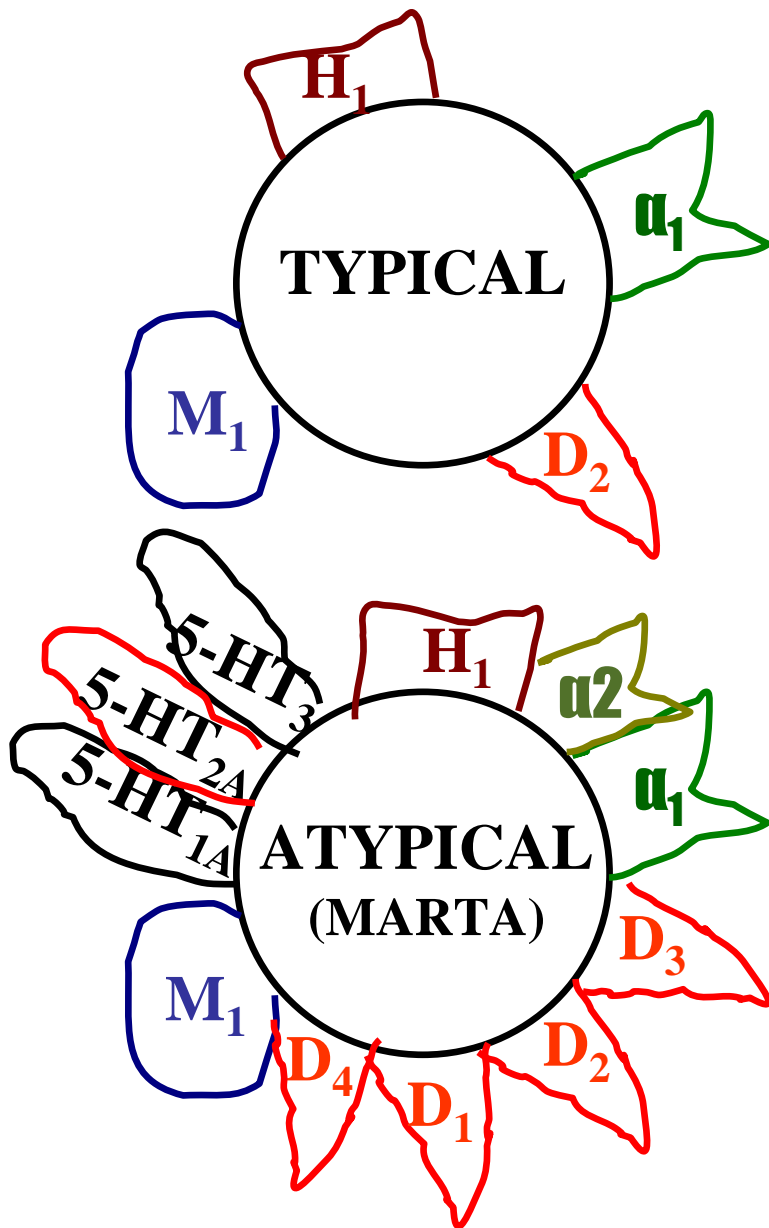
## ANTIPSYCHOTICS (neuroleptics) ... cont.

### Atypical (II. generation)

*(without EPS, tardive dyskinesia, prolactinemia, malignant neuroleptic syndrom)*

- **MARTA (Multi-Acting Receptor Targeted Agents)**  
clozapine, olanzapine, quetiapine
- **SDA (Serotonin-Dopamine Antagonist)**  
risperidone, ziprasidone, sertindole
- **D2/D3 antagonists**  
sulpiride, amisulpride
- **DSSS (Dopamine-Serotonin System Stabilizers)**  
aripiprazole

# ANTIPSYCHOTICS



D<sub>2</sub> blockade = antipsychotic effects

M<sub>1</sub> blockade = dry mouth, diplopia, constipation

α<sub>1</sub> blockade = ↓ BP, dizziness

H<sub>1</sub> blockade = drowsiness, weight gain

More selective for mesolimbic pathways

↓  
less EPS

therapeutic effects

D<sub>1,2,3,4</sub>

5-HT<sub>2A</sub>

side effects

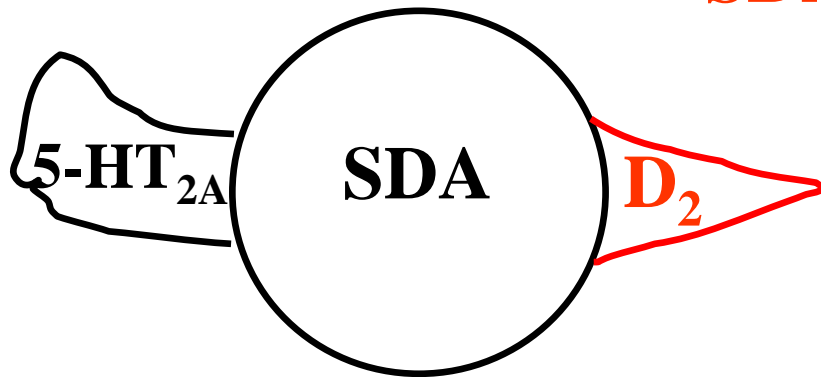
α<sub>1</sub>, α<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>, H<sub>1</sub>

## **SDA** (Serotonin-Dopamin Antagonist)

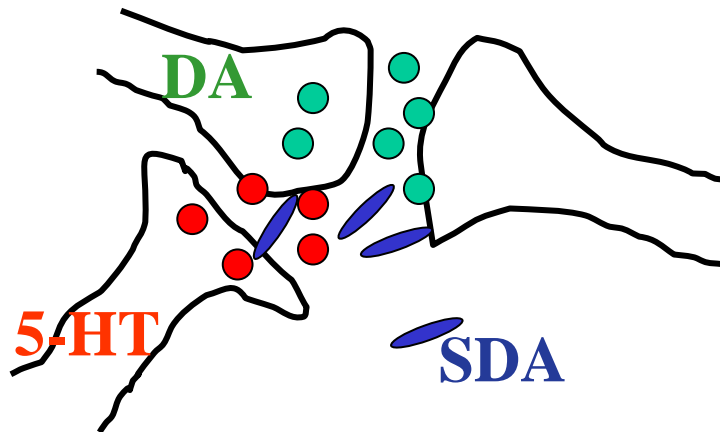
risperidone, olanzapine, sertindol, seroquel



**better effect on negative symptoms,  
less of EPS (especially at lower dosage)**



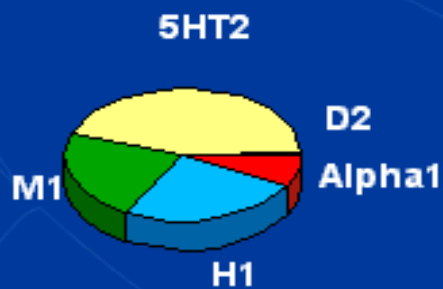
5-HT → inhibition of DA release



**5-HT r. blockade → ↑ release of DA  
= suppression of  
impact of D<sub>2</sub> blockade**

# ANTIPSYCHOTIC RECEPTOR BINDING

clozapine



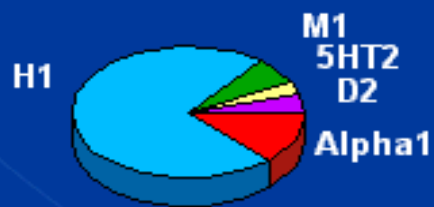
amisulpride



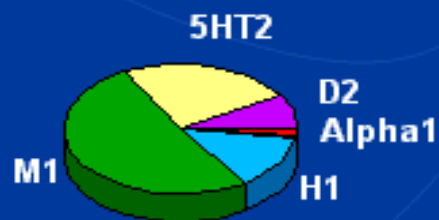
risperidone



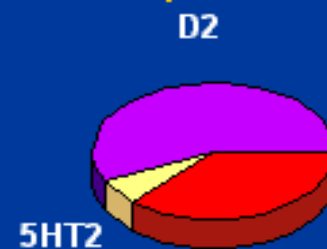
quetiapine



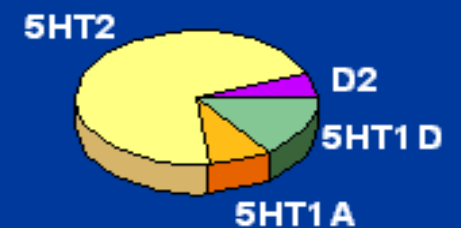
olanzapine



haloperidol



ziprasidone



From Richelson 1996; Schoemaker et al 1997; Seeger et al 1995

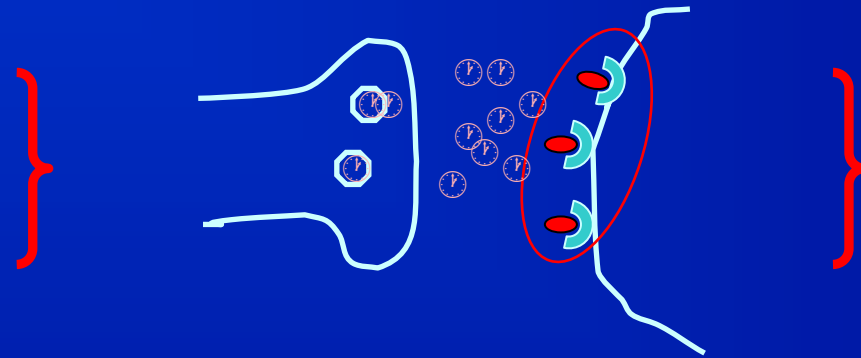
# Comparative Side Effect Profiles of the New Antipsychotics

|                         | <i>clozapine</i> | <i>risperidone</i> | <i>olanzapine</i> | <i>amisulpride</i> | <i>quetiapine</i> | <i>ziprasidone</i> |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sedation                | ++               | +                  | ++                | +/-                | +                 | +                  |
| EPS                     | -                | +                  | +                 | +                  | (+)               | +                  |
| Orthostatic hypotension | ++               | +                  | (+)               | -                  | +                 | +                  |
| Weight gain             | ++               | + (+)              | ++                | +                  | + (+)             | (+)                |
| Prolactin increase      | (+)              | ++                 | (+)               | ++                 | (+)               | +                  |
| Salivation/dry mouth    | +                | (+)                | +                 | -                  | (+)               | (+)                |
| Haematological effects  | ++               | (+)                | +                 | (+)                | (+)               | (+)                |



# D2/D3 antagonists

in psychosis

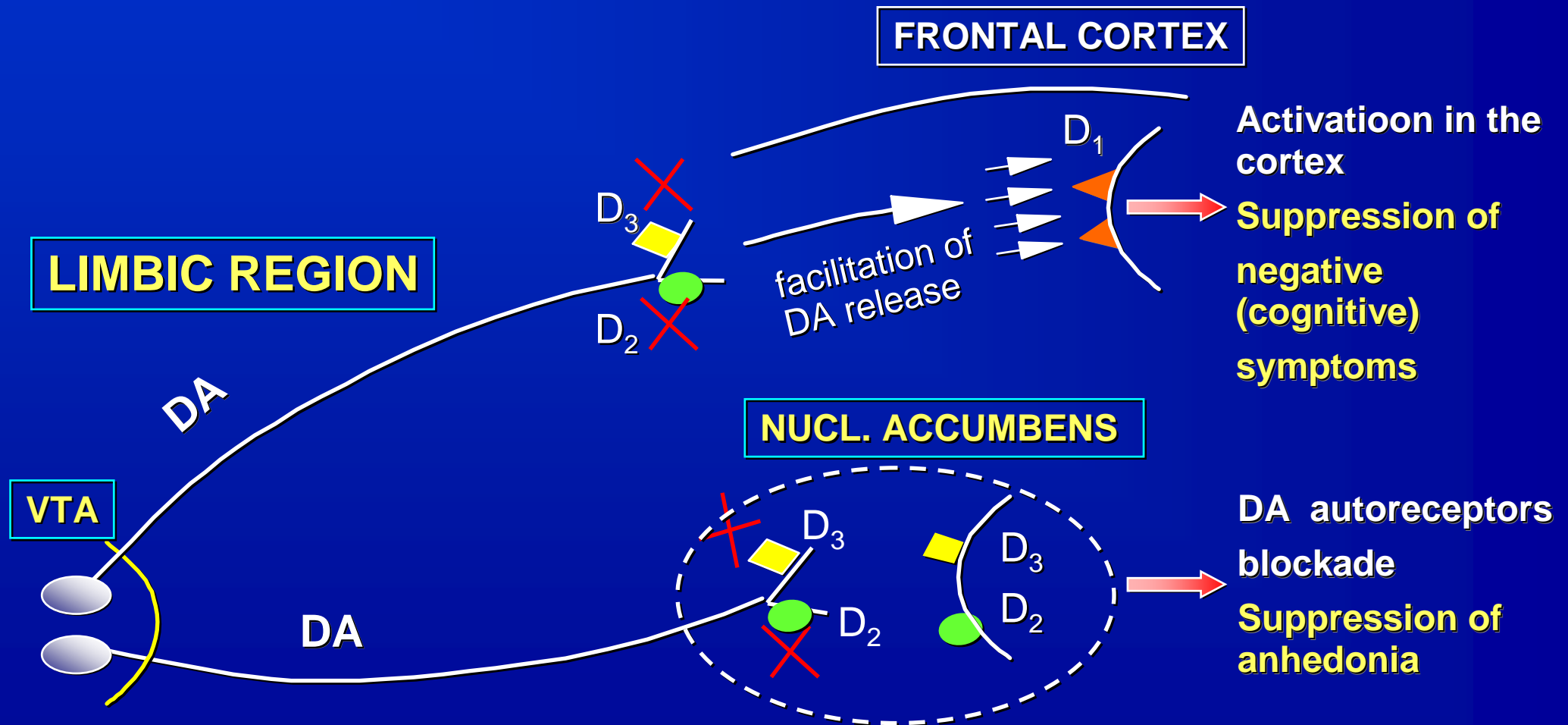


SUPPRESSION  
OF POSITIVE  
SYMPTOMS

blockade of  $D_{2,3}$  postsynaptic receptors

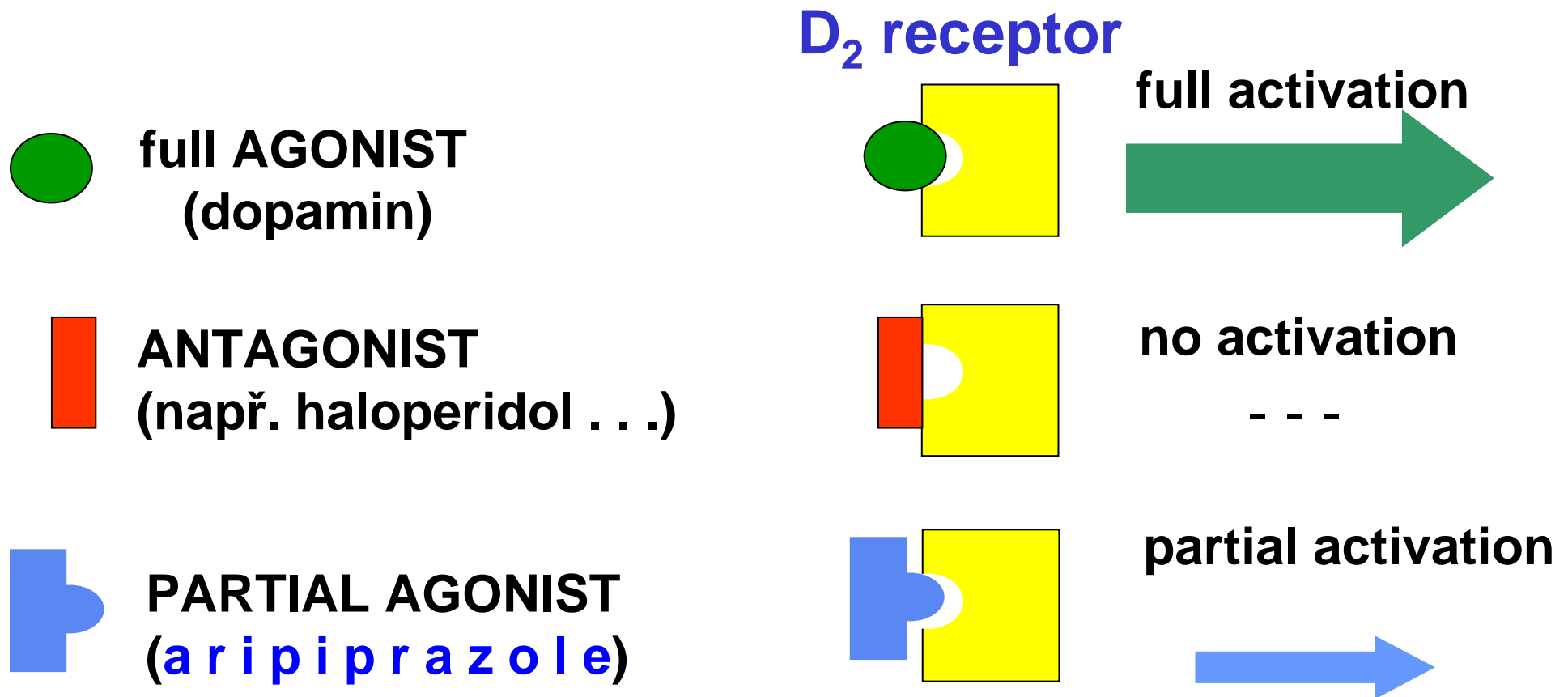
# D2/D3 antagonists

Selective blockade of D<sub>3</sub>/D<sub>2</sub> autoreceptors in the limbic region

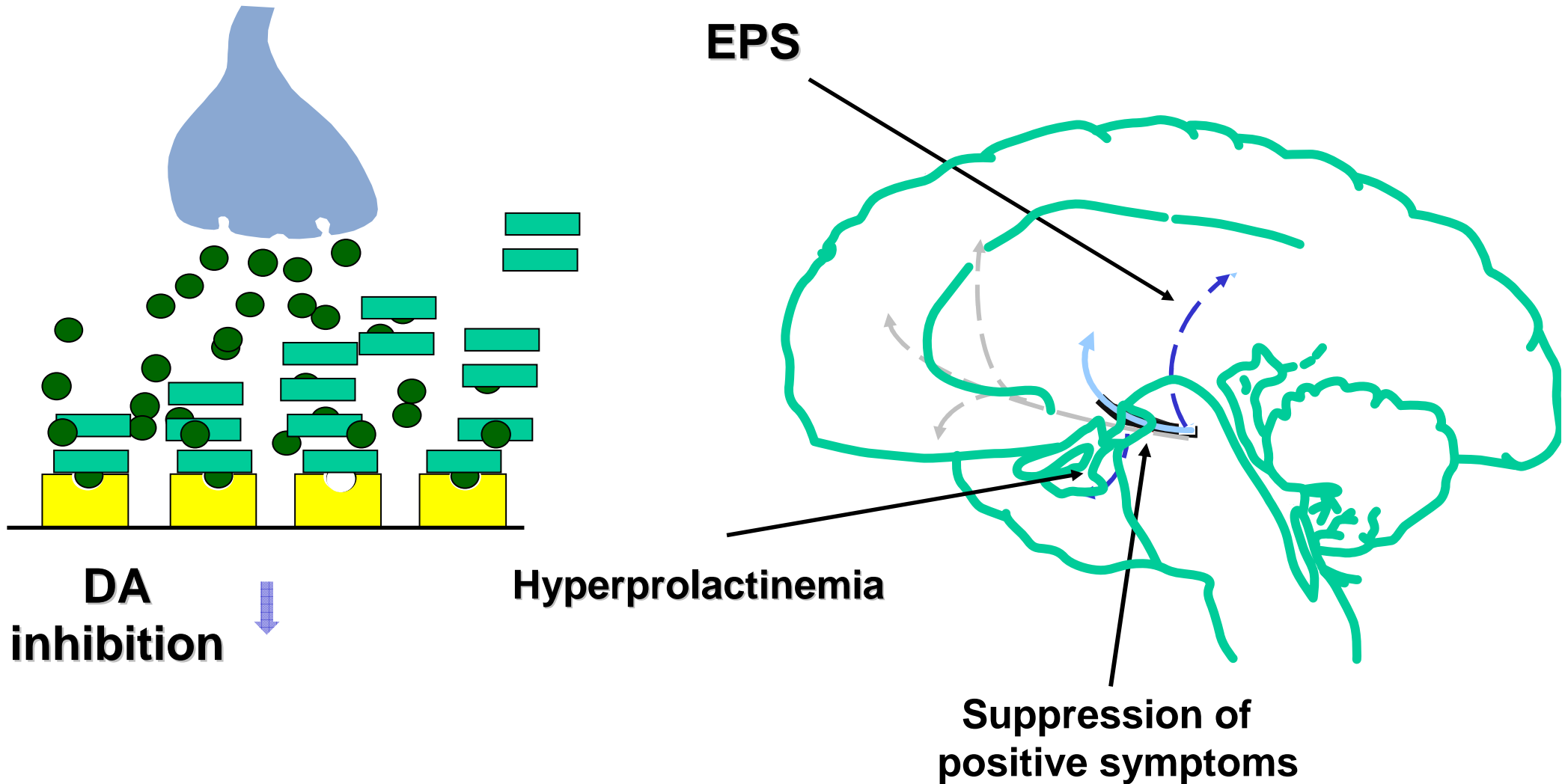


# Dopaminergic D<sub>2</sub> receptor ligands

**“INTRINSIC ACTIVITY“**  
ability of ligand to activate receptor



# Influence of dopamine antagonist on: positive symptoms and EPS



# **Pharmacological mechanisms of antipsychotics**

**There is need to suppress positive symptoms  
65 – 70%  
occupation of D2 receptors by antipsychotic.**

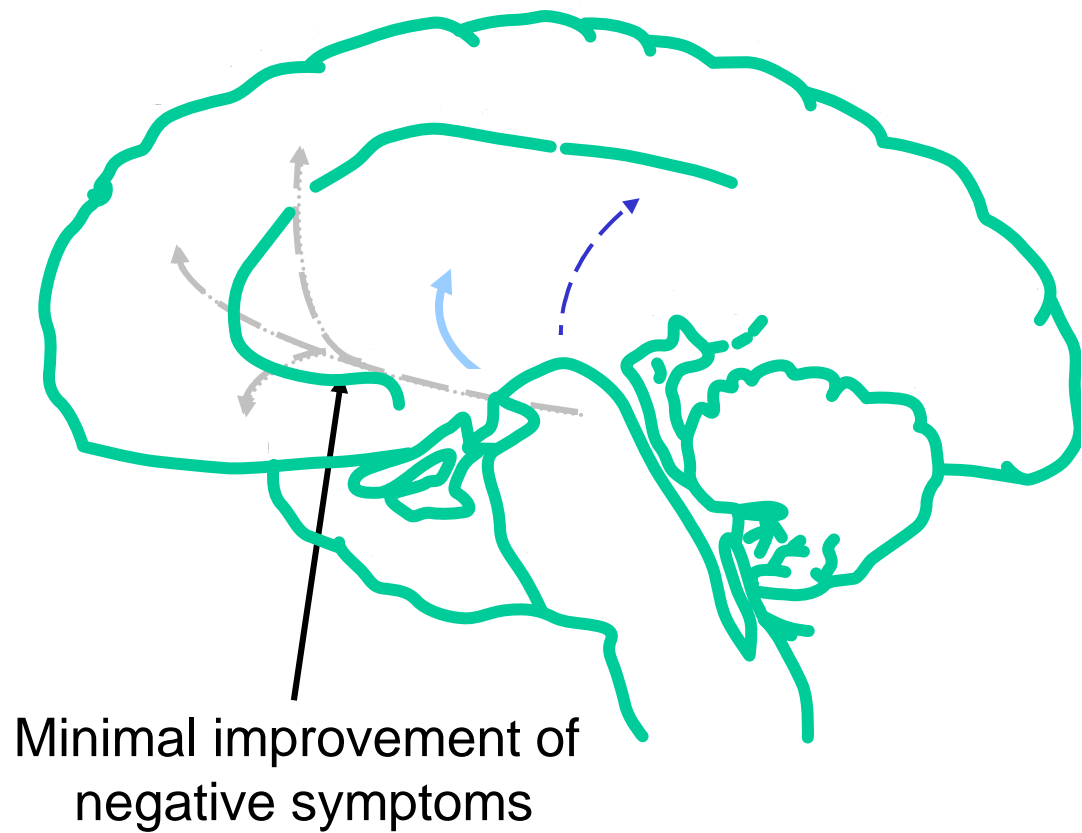
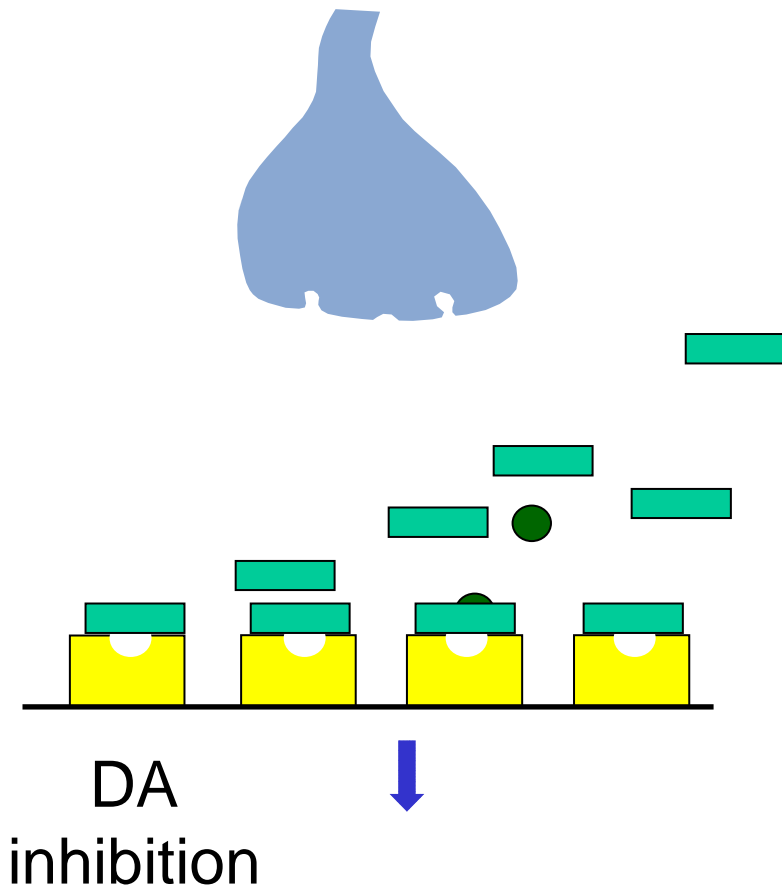
**EPS occurs  
up to 80%  
occupation of D2 receptors by antipsychotic.**

Farde L, et al.: Arch Gen Psychiatry 1992; 49:538-544

**Increase in prolactine release is dose dependent  
(occupation of D2-receptors).**

Schlegel S, et al.: Psychopharmacology (Berl) 1996; 124:285-287

# Influence of dopamine antagonist on: negative symptoms



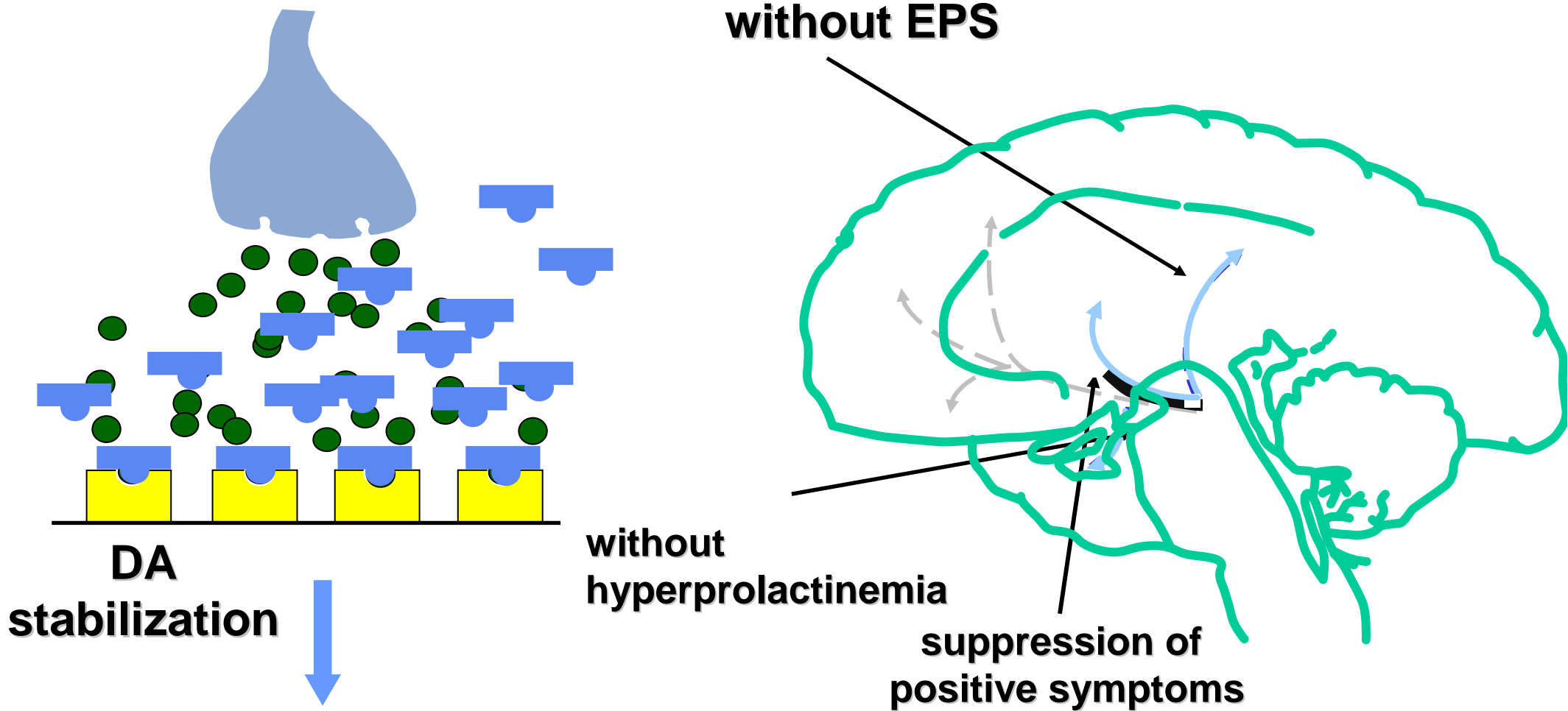
# **Pharmacological mechanisms of antipsychotics**

**Negative symptoms and affectivity are influenced by antipsychotics with antagonistic activity at 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptors.**

**Blockade of other receptors is source of adverse effects.**

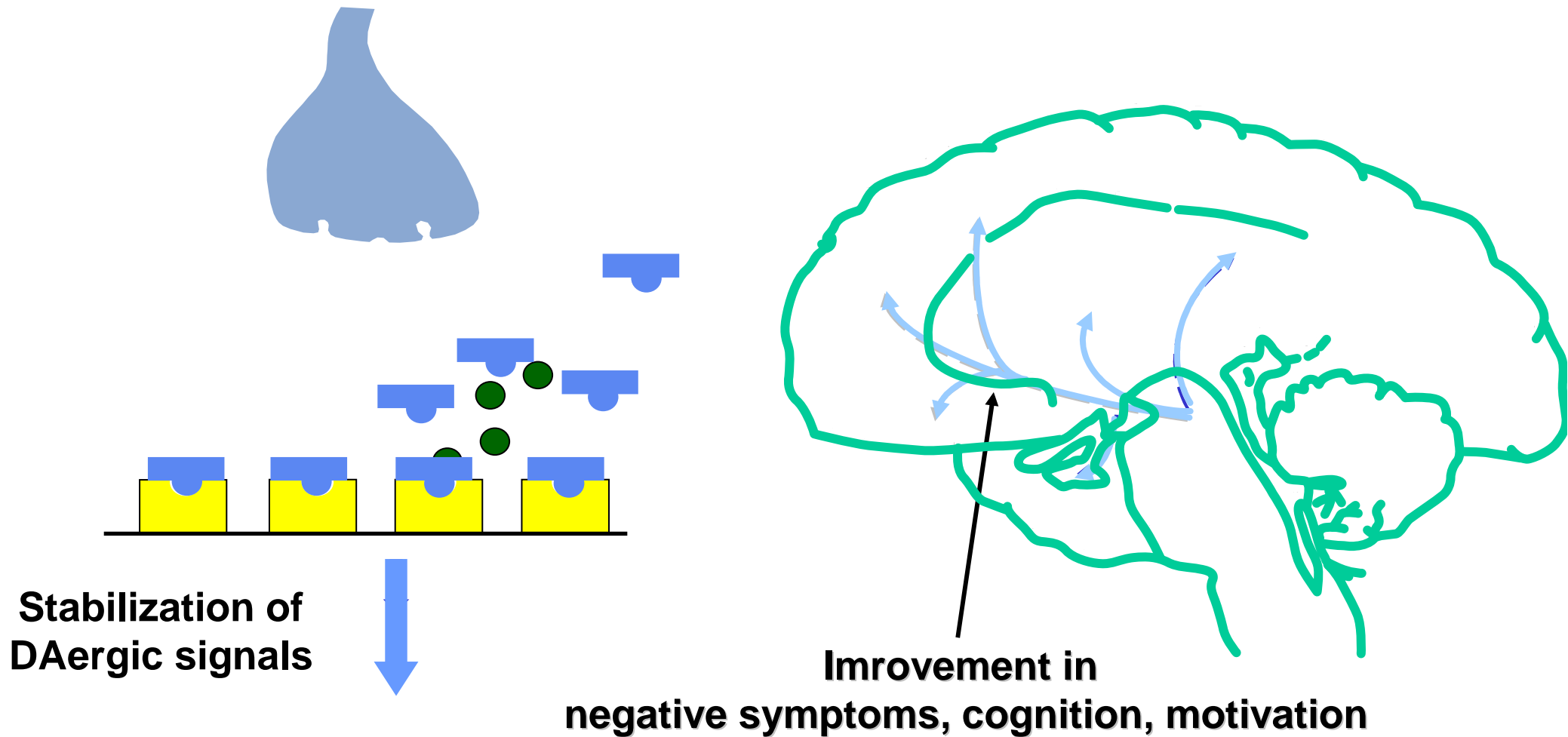
Farde L, et al.: Arch Gen Psychiatry 1992; 49:538-544

# Influence of DAergic partial antagonism on: positive symptoms and EPS





# Influence of DA partial antagonism on: negative symptoms



# Impact of receptor activities on effects of antipsychotics

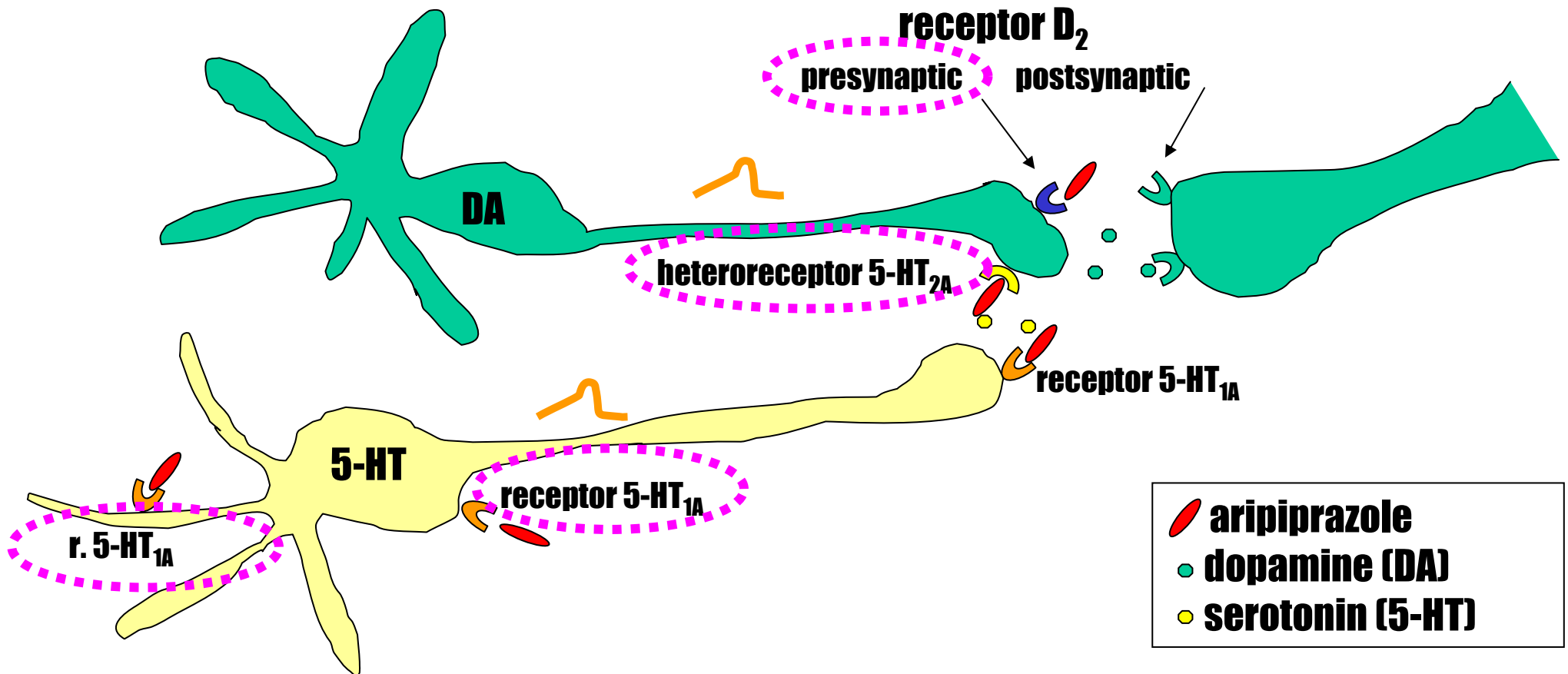
| Receptor             | Therapeutic effects   | Adverse effects                  |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>D2</b>            | positive symptoms   | EPS,<br>endocrinological effects |
| <b>5-HT2A</b>        | negative symptoms   | ??                               |
| <b>5-HT1A</b>        | negative symptoms<br>cognitive symptoms<br>anxiety/depression | ?                                |
| $\alpha_1$           | ??  | hypotension                      |
| $\alpha_2$           | ??  | antihypertensive effects         |
| <b>H<sub>1</sub></b> | sedation  | sedation,<br>weight increase     |
| <b>M<sub>1</sub></b> | suppression of EPS  | anticholinergic effects          |

# DSSS (*Dopamine-Serotonin System Stabilizers*)

## ARIPIPRAZOLE suggested mechanisms of action:

- partial agonist at  $D_2$  autoreceptors and  $5-HT_{1A}$  somatodendritic receptors
- antagonist at  $5-HT_{2A}$  heteroreceptors of dopaminergic neurons

(Burris et al., 2002; Jordan et al., 2002)



# DSSS (*Dopamine-Serotonin System Stabilizers*)

## ARIPIPRAZOLE suggested mechanisms of action:

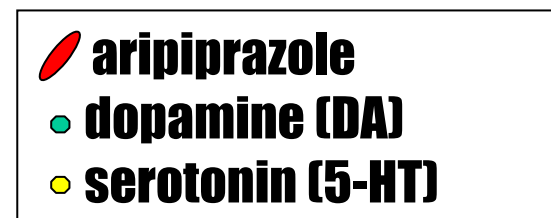
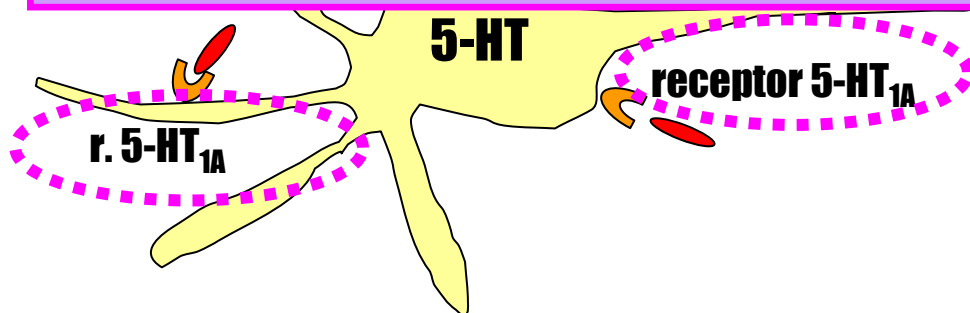
- partial agonist at D<sub>2</sub> autoreceptors and 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> somatodendritic receptors
- antagonist at 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> heteroreceptors of dopaminergic neurons

(Burris et al., 2002; Jordan et al., 2002)

- partial agonist at D<sub>2</sub> autoreceptors → inhibition of DA release

- antagonist at 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> heteroreceptors of dopaminergic neurons  
→ desinhibition of DA neurons (nigrostriatum, mesocortical region)  
→ suppression of negative symptoms of schizophrenia

→ INHIBITION OF DA RELEASE



# **ARIPIPRAZOL - main indications:**

- 1. Schizophrenia in adults and adolescents (age 13-17)**
- 2. Acute manic or mixed episodes of bipolar disorder I. (as monotherapy or with valproate in adults or adolescents of age 10-17)**
- 3. Adjunctive therapy in major depression**
- 4. Irritability associated with autistic disorder in pediatric patients (age 6-17)**
- 5. Acute agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder (intramuscularly)**

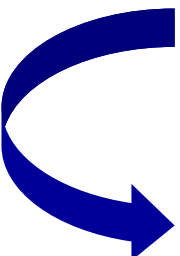
# Aripiprazole



its high affinity for D2 receptor can displace from that binding other antipsychotic with lower affinity



its partial agonistic activity can produce at least some of DAergic effects



this can explain exacerbation of psychosis in some patients on exchange of other antipsychotic pharmacotherapy to aripiprazole

# **INDICATIONS FOR ANTIPSYCHOTICS**

- **psychoses**
- **sleeping disorders**
- **anxiety**
- **Huntington disease**
- **Tourett's syndrome**
- **anesthesiology / neuroleptanalgesia**
- **nausea, vomitus**

