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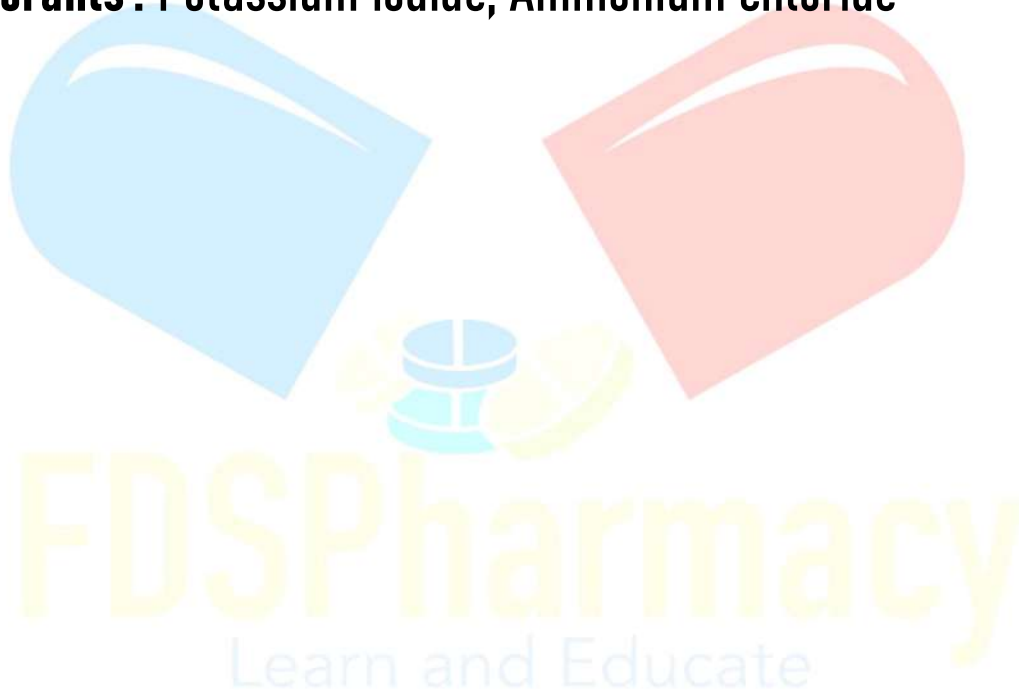
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# PHARMACEUTICAL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

## UNIT 4

TOPIC :

- **Miscellaneous compounds**
- **Expectorants : Potassium iodide, Ammonium chloride\***



# EXPECTORANTS

- Expectorants are the drugs that help in the removal of sputum (mucus) from the respiratory tract.
- They are commonly used in the treatment of cough, especially when the cough is productive (accompanied by mucus).
- Cough is a protective reflex that helps to clear the respiratory passages of mucus, irritants, or foreign substances.
- Types of Cough :

- **Dry Cough** – No mucus or sputum is produced
- **Productive Cough** – Mucus or sputum is discharged

## Classification of Expectorants

Expectorants act through two main mechanisms:

- By increasing fluidity of mucus (reducing viscosity)
- By increasing the volume of secretions

Based on these mechanisms, expectorants are classified into:

### 1. Sedative Expectorants

- Also called stomach irritant expectorants
- They act by irritating the gastric mucosa, which in turn stimulates vagal reflexes, increasing the secretion in the respiratory tract.
- They increase the volume of sputum, making it easier to expel.
- May cause mild sedation in patients.

#### Examples :

- Ammonium chloride
- Potassium iodide
- Sodium citrate
- Ipecacuanha



## 2. Stimulant Expectorants

- These act directly or indirectly on the secretory cells of the respiratory tract.
- They stimulate mucus production, making sputum more watery and less sticky.
- They help in reducing the viscosity (thickness) of sputum → making it easier to cough out.

### Examples :

- Guaifenesin
- Terpin hydrate
- Vasaka (*Adhatoda vasica*)
- Bromhexine
- Ambroxol

## Uses of Expectorants

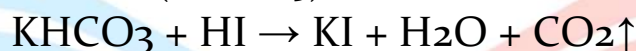
- ✓ To relieve productive cough
- ✓ In conditions like bronchitis, asthma, common cold, respiratory tract infections
- ✓ To clear mucus from bronchi and lungs
- ✓ Helps in better breathing and reduced chest congestion

# POTASSIUM IODIDE

- Chemical Formula: KI
- Molecular Weight: 166 g/mol
- Synonym: Kalii Iodidum

## Method of Preparation

Potassium iodide is prepared by reacting hydrogen iodide (HI) with potassium bicarbonate (KHCO<sub>3</sub>):



## Physical Properties

- Appears as colourless transparent crystals or white granular powder
- Odourless
- Has a bitter taste
- Hygroscopic in nature (absorbs moisture from air)
- Soluble in water and also soluble in alcohol

## Chemical Properties

- Stable in dry air but may turn yellow in moist air due to liberation of free iodine
- Acts as a source of iodide ion (I<sup>-</sup>)
- Can react with oxidizing agents to release elemental iodine (I<sub>2</sub>)

## Uses

- ✓ Expectorant  
→ Used in the treatment of chronic bronchitis and productive cough by stimulating the secretion of mucus in the respiratory tract.
- ✓ Antifungal agent  
→ Used in the treatment of fungal infections such as sporotrichosis.
- ✓ Iodine supplement  
→ Used for preventing and treating iodine deficiency and goiter.
- ✓ Saline diuretic  
→ Promotes urine production by altering electrolyte balance.
- ✓ Used in the preparation of iodine solutions like Lugol's iodine.

# AMMONIUM CHLORIDE

- Chemical Formula:  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$
- Molecular Weight: 53.49 g/mol
- Synonym: Sal Ammoniac

## Method of Preparation

Ammonium chloride is prepared by the neutralization reaction between ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) and hydrochloric acid ( $\text{HCl}$ ):



## Physical Properties

- Appears as a white crystalline powder
- Odourless
- Has a cooling, saline taste
- Highly soluble in water
- Slightly soluble in alcohol
- Hygroscopic (absorbs moisture from air)

## Chemical Properties

- On heating, it sublimes (converts directly from solid to gas)
- Slightly acidic in aqueous solution
- Compatible with many drugs and salts

## Uses

- ✓ Expectorant  
→ Used in cough syrups to promote removal of mucus by increasing bronchial secretions.
- ✓ Diuretic (Saline diuretic)  
→ Helps in promoting urine output in some cases.
- ✓ Acidifier  
→ Used to acidify urine in urinary tract infections and to treat alkalosis.
- ✓ Used in buffer solutions  
→ Especially in acid-base balance systems.
- ✓ Used in fertilizers and in textile printing and metalwork industries