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PHARMACOLOGY - III

UNIT 1

TOPIC :

- d. Digestants and carminatives.



Digestants and Carminatives

Digestants

- Digestants are substances or drugs that help in digestion by improving the breakdown and absorption of food.
- They are used when digestive secretions or enzymes are deficient.

Uses of Digestants

- Indigestion
- Loss of appetite
- Pancreatic enzyme deficiency
- Flatulence
- Dyspepsia

Classification of Digestants

1. Enzyme Preparations

- Contain digestive enzymes.

Examples:

- Pepsin
- Pancreatin
- Diastase

2. Acidifying Agents

- Increase gastric acidity.

Examples:

- Dilute hydrochloric acid

3. Bile Salts

- Help digestion and absorption of fats.

Examples:

- Ox bile extract

Mechanism of Action & Uses

Drug/Class	Mechanism of Action	Uses
Pepsin	Digests proteins into peptides	Protein indigestion
Pancreatin	Contains amylase, lipase, protease for digestion	Pancreatic insufficiency
Diastase	Converts starch into sugars	Carbohydrate indigestion
Dilute HCl	Increases stomach acidity	Hypochlorhydria
Bile salts	Improve fat digestion and absorption	Fat malabsorption

Important Digestants

1. Pepsin

Mechanism

- Breaks proteins into smaller peptides in acidic medium.

Uses

- Indigestion
- Weak digestion

Adverse Effects

- Gastric irritation (rare)

2. Pancreatin

Mechanism

- Provides pancreatic enzymes for digestion of fats, proteins, and carbohydrates.

Uses

- Pancreatic enzyme deficiency
- Chronic pancreatitis

Adverse Effects

- Nausea
- Mouth irritation

Carminatives

→ Carminatives are drugs that relieve flatulence and abdominal discomfort by expelling gas from the gastrointestinal tract.

Uses of Carminatives

- Flatulence
- Abdominal bloating
- Indigestion
- Stomach discomfort

Classification of Carminatives

Natural Carminatives

- Peppermint oil
- Fennel oil
- Cardamom
- Ginger
- Clove oil

Synthetic Carminatives

- Simethicone

Mechanism of Action & Uses

Drug/Class	Mechanism of Action	Uses
Peppermint oil	Relaxes GI smooth muscles and expels gas	Flatulence
Ginger	Stimulates digestion and relieves bloating	Indigestion
Fennel oil	Relieves intestinal spasm	Gas and abdominal pain
Simethicone	Breaks gas bubbles in intestine	Flatulence and bloating

Important Carminatives

1. Simethicone

Mechanism

→ Reduces surface tension of gas bubbles causing easy expulsion.

Uses

- Gas
- Bloating
- Abdominal discomfort

Adverse Effects

- Usually very safe
- Rare nausea

2. Peppermint Oil

Mechanism

→ Relaxes intestinal muscles and reduces spasms.

Uses

- Indigestion
- Flatulence

Adverse Effects

- Heartburn, Mild irritation

Advantages

Digestants

- Improve digestion
- Increase nutrient absorption

Carminatives

- Relieve gas and bloating
- Reduce abdominal discomfort

Disadvantages

Digestants

- Gastric irritation
- Allergy in some patients