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PHARMACOLOGY - III

UNIT 3

TOPIC :

- d. Antiviral drugs



Antiviral Drugs

1. Acyclovir

→ Acyclovir is an antiviral drug mainly used against herpes virus infections.

Mechanism of Action

- Acyclovir inhibits viral DNA synthesis by blocking viral DNA polymerase.

Uses

- Herpes simplex infection
- Chickenpox
- Shingles

Adverse Effects

- Nausea
- Headache
- Kidney toxicity (rare)

2. Oseltamivir

→ Oseltamivir is an anti-influenza drug used against influenza A and B viruses.

Mechanism of Action

- It inhibits neuraminidase enzyme and prevents release of new viral particles.

Uses

- Influenza prevention and treatment

Adverse Effects

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Headache

3. Zidovudine (AZT)

→ Zidovudine is an antiretroviral drug used in HIV infection.

Mechanism of Action

- It inhibits reverse transcriptase enzyme and prevents viral DNA formation.

Uses

- HIV/AIDS treatment
- Prevention of maternal-fetal HIV transmission

Adverse Effects

- Bone marrow suppression, Anemia, Weakness

4. Ribavirin

→ Ribavirin is a broad-spectrum antiviral drug.

Mechanism of Action

- It interferes with viral RNA synthesis.

Uses

- Hepatitis C
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Adverse Effects

- Hemolytic anemia, Fatigue

5. Interferons

→ Interferons are naturally occurring proteins with antiviral and immunomodulatory actions.

Mechanism of Action

- They inhibit viral replication and enhance immune response.

Uses

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Certain cancers

Adverse Effects

- Fever

- Fatigue

