

LAXATIVES (Purgative)

⇒ Laxatives are drugs that facilitate evacuation of formed stools from the bowel. They cause evacuation of watery stools.

CLASSIFICATION:

- Bulk forming Agents - Dietary fibre - Bran, Methylcellulose, Ispaghula Psyllium
- Stool softeners - Docusates (DSS), Liquid Paraffin.
- Laxatives for IBS - Lubiprostone, Linaclotide, Tenapanor.
- Osmotic purgatives - Mag. sulphate, Mag. hydroxide, Sod. sulphate
- Stimulant purgatives -
 - Diphenylmethanes - Sod. picosulfate
 - Anthraquinones - Senna, Cascara sagrada
 - 5-HT₄ Agonist - Prucalopride.

MOA:

All purgatives ↑ the water content of the faeces by:

- ① A hydrophilic or osmotic action - Retaining the electrolytes in the intestinal lumen - ↑ volume of colonic content.
- ② ↓ net AB of H₂O & electrolyte
- ③ ↑ propulsive activity as 1° action.
- ④ Inhibit Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase of villous cells
- ⑤ Stimulate Adenyl cyclase in crypt cell - ↑ H₂O secretion.
- ⑥ ↑ PG synthesis
- ⑦ ↑ NO synthesis.

Refer Kdt or Paes

CHOICE AND USE:

⇒ t/t of acute & chronic constipation.

- A patient of undiagnosed Abdominal pain colic or vomiting.
- Organic constipation due to obstruction in bowel

① Functional constipation: Constipation is infrequent production of hard stools requiring straining to pass.

→ due to: Inadequate fibre in diet, less fluid intake.

- Irregular bowel habits.
- Lack of exercise, sedentary nature of work.

• Spasmodic constipation → The stools are hard, rounded, stone like and difficult to pass.

• Atonic constipation → (sluggish bowel):

② Bedridden Patients:

③ To Avoid straining of stools:

④ Preparation of bowel for surgery, colonoscopy Abdominal X Ray.

⑤ After certain Anthelmintics.

⑥ Food / drug poisoning

→ t/t constipation in children & pregnant women lactulose

t/t of opioid-induced constipation:

→ Laxatives are the preferred drug

If patient does not respond to laxatives, opioid Antagonists like methylnaloxonium & naloxegol can be used

↓

Acting μ -opioid Antagonists

(They're devoid of central effects used to t/t opioid induced constipation in cancer patients)