# UNIT 4: Drugs acting on Endocrine system

- 1. Nomenclature, Stereochemistry and metabolism of steroids
- **2.** Sex hormones: Testosterone, Nandralone, Progestrones, Oestriol, Oestradiol, Oestrione, Diethyl stilbestrol.
- 3. Drugs for erectile dysfunction: Sildenafil, Tadalafil.
- 4. Oral contraceptives: Mifepristone, Norgestril, Levonorgestrol
- 5. Corticosteroids: Cortisone, Hydrocortisone, Prednisolone, Betamethasone,Dexamethasone
- 6. Thyroid and antithyroid drugs: L-Thyroxine, L-Thyronine, Propylthiouracil, Methimazole.



# Chapter 11. Steroidal Hormone

Steroids are the most important class of biological active molecules, which show variety of biological actions. The major therapeutic classes of steroids are the following:

- ✓ Anti-inflammatory agents: Cortisone
- ✓ Sex hormones: Estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone
- ✓ **Oral contraceptives**: Norethisterone
- ✓ Cardiac steroids: Digitoxigenin
- ✓ **Diuretics:** Spironolactone
- ✓ Antibiotics: Fusidic acid
- ✓ Vitamin D precursor: Ergosterol

## **11.1. STRUCTURE AND NOMENCLATURE**

Steroidal Ring (made up of 17 carbon atoms) consists of 4 fused rings: 3 cyclohexyl rings (A, B, C) which also called as perhydro phenanthrene ring and 1 cyclopentyl ring (D).



Cyclopentanoperhydrophenanthrene

Steroidal Backbone



#### Cholestane Backbone (5 α- Cholestane)



Numbering system for a steroid with reference to  $5 \alpha$ - Cholestane

- heavy dark line indicates the ring juncture or backbone carbons are shown in the structure of 5α-cholestane.
- **a** indicates dash/doted attachment, groups below the plane ( $\alpha$ -confi guration) and  $\beta$  indicates solid attachment, groups above the plane of the nucleus ( $\beta$ -confi guration) and if the configuration of substituent is unknown, its bond to the nucleus is drawn as a wavy line.
- $\checkmark$  The configuration of the H at C-5 is always indicated in the name.
- Circles were sometimes used to indicate α-hydrogens and dark dots to indicate βhydrogens.
   By Rajesh Choudhary
- Compounds with 5α-cholestane belong to allo-series, while compounds derived from 5
  β-cholestane belong to the normal series.
- ✓ If the double bond is not between sequentially numbered carbons, in such cases, both carbons are indicated in the same.
- ✓ When a methyl group is missing from the side chain, this is indicated by the prefix 'nor' with the number of carbon atom, which has disappeared.

#### A. Gonane Ring (C17)



#### B. Estrane (Oestrane) (C18)



5 α Androstane or 5 β Androstane

#### D. Pregnane (C21)



**Examples:** 



## **11.2. BIOSYNTHESIS AND METABOLISM**



Figure: Synthesis and Metabolism of Hormone

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inborn\_errors\_of\_steroid\_metabolism#/media/File:Steroidogenesis.svg

## **11.3. STEREOCHEMISTRY OF STEROIDS**

The 3-dimentional structure of steroids are not planer in shape and they show various types of stereoisomers. Consider the following to understand the stereochemistry:

#### **Optical Isomerism:**



- Six asymmetric (chiral centre) carbon atom: 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, and 14  $\checkmark$
- Possible optical isomer =  $2^n = 2^6 = 64$  (gonane, oestrane and Androstane)  $\checkmark$



- ✓ Possible optical isomer =  $2^n = 2^7 = 128$  (pregnane, cholane, and cholestane)

#### **Geometrical Isomerism and Confirmations**

- ✓ Cis and Trans form
- **Chair and Boat form**



www.youtube.com/pharmacologyconceptsbyrajeshchoudhary www.pharmacyconcepts.in

The absolute stereochemistry of the molecule and any substituent is shown with solid ( $\beta$ ) and dashed ( $\alpha$ ) bonds; a (axial) bond is perpendicular to the plane of the molecule while equatorial bond (e) is horizontal to the plane of the molecule





- Cholestane, and pregnane can exist in two conformations, that is, chair form and boat form.
- ✓ Most of the naturally occurring saturated steroids belongs to cholestane series or coprostane series.

#### Cholestane ring



Chair confirmation is more stable than boat confirmation due to less angle strain, and hence, all cyclohexane rings in the steroid nucleus exist in the chair confirmation.



**5** β Cholestane or Coprostane Cis(A/B)-Trans(B/C)-Trans (C/D)

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