

Autonomic Nervous System

Parasympathetic Nervous System:

“foot on the brake”

A. Cholinergic Agonists

-act at the parasympathetic system, at neuromuscular junction, and at the autonomic ganglia (act directly on acetylcholine receptor sites)

-acetylcholine is the prototype

-muscarinic receptors: postsynaptic parasympathetic system and CNS functions

-nicotinic receptors: ganglia and neuromuscular junctions

B. Cholinergic Receptors

<u>site</u>	<u>muscarinic action</u>	<u>nicotinic action</u>
Cardiovascular System		
blood vessels	dilation	constriction
heart rate	slowed	increased
blood pressure	decreased	increased
Glandular Secretions	increased	inhibition
Eye	pupil constriction	

C. Cholinergic Antagonists (anticholinergics)

1. Muscarine Blockers

-Atropine is the prototype

-derived from the belladonna plant (deadly nightshade) or Jimson weed

2. Ganglionic blockers