

# Continuation of Lecture 5. Liver metabolism

- **Avoiding liver enzyme metabolism** - also called first pass metabolism. elimination of drug after hydroxylation process
- Change the administration from “oral” to
  - Intravenous injection goes directly into the blood stream, different bioavailability
  - Intramuscular injection
  - Sublingual underneath the tongue
  - Inhalation
  - Rectal suppositories
- Need to adjust dosage

- Examples

- Nitroglycerin

- Aspirin

- Propranolol

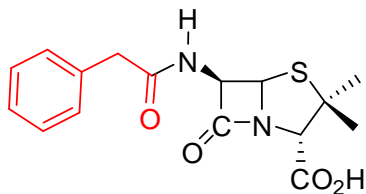
anti-anginal serious heart problems  
underneath the tongue

analgesic can be used rectally  
bolus - works much  
faster than oral

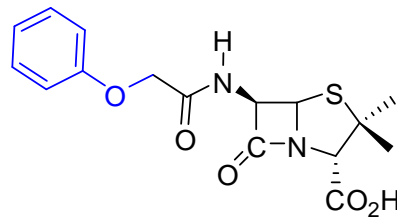
beta blocker

# Other “metabolisms”

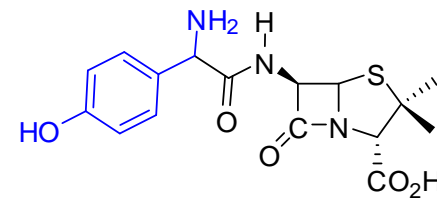
- Drugs (compounds) that are not acid stable do not survive stomach acidity.
  - Not useful as orally taken drugs, unless they can be formulated so that they pass through the stomach and then are absorbed in the intestines.
- Classic example: Penicillin antibiotics.



Pen G  
ORALLY INACTIVE  
INJECTION.



most common  
Pen V  
ORALLY ACTIVE



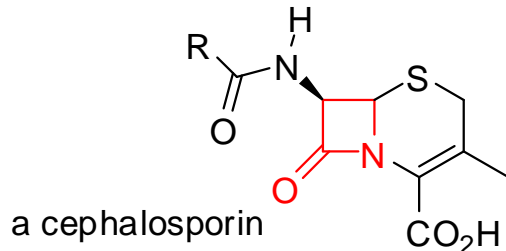
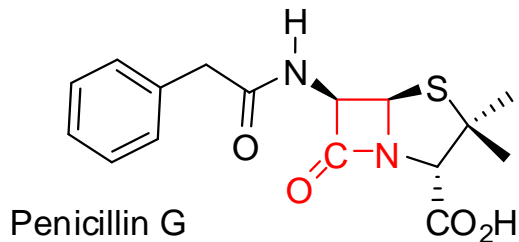
Amoxycillin  
ORALLY  
ACTIVE

what's the difference? why is one of them orally inactive and the other two aren't? study the activity of these compounds, as a chemist you would recognize the 4 membered C ring, the important part of the pharmacology of these compounds. Relatively unstable, carbonyl grp, amide bond which tends to break. When the bond breaks, the activity is completely gone. Pen G must be decomposed in stomach acid must more readily than the others.

# Penicillins and acid stability

- All beta-lactam anti-biotics (penicillins and cephalosporins) are have some acid sensitivity

common anti biotics



## beta lactam ring

- required for anti-biotic activity
- is incorporated into the bacterial cell wall
  - creates a flaw in the cell wall, breaks the wall, cell dies
  - prevents further growth of the cell wall

## Highly strained four member ring

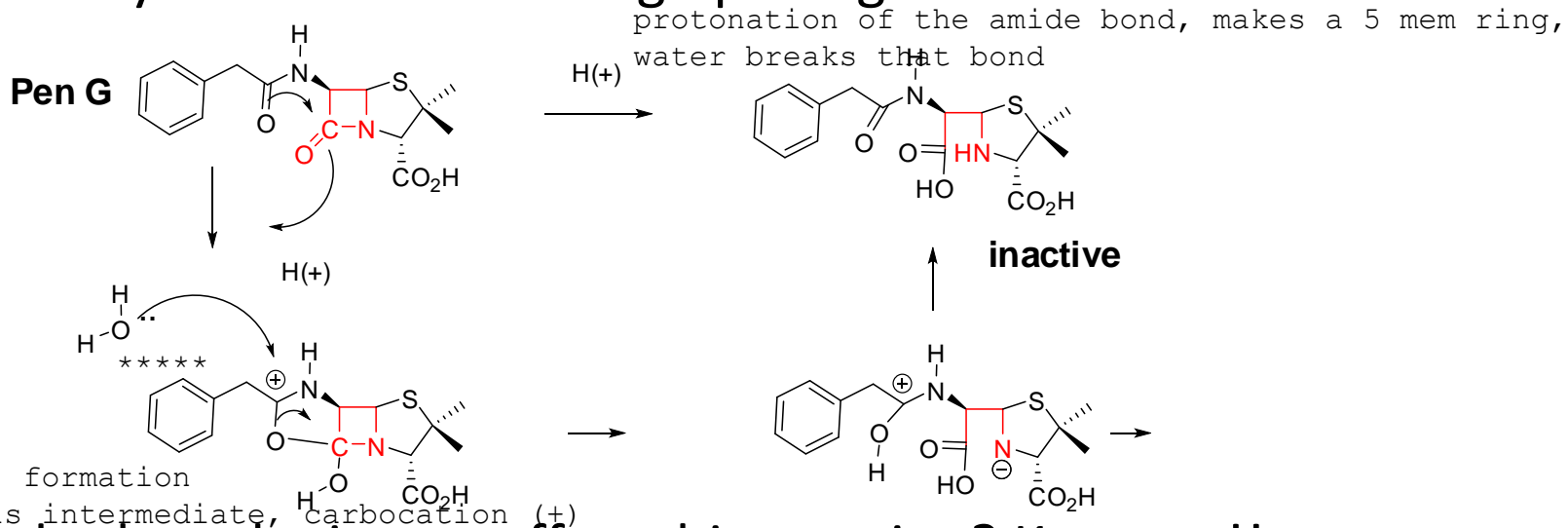
- REACTIVE TO BOTH ACIDIC AND BASIC CONDITIONS

The  $\beta$ -lactam ring is opened- Loss of anti-biotic activity

as a medicinal chemist, you investigate what happens when you treat these molecules with acid, etc... what is the key? the key in breaking the beta lactyl ring, ...

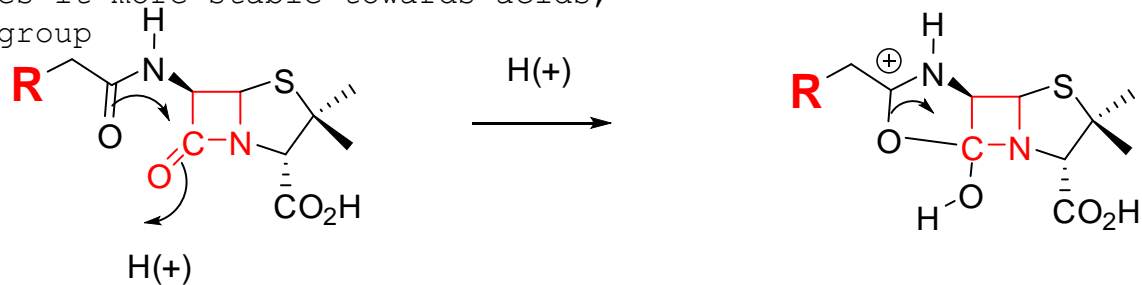
# Explanation

- Acid catalyzed beta lactam ring opening



- How do the substiutents affect this reaction? Key step!!

\*\*\*\*\*any substiuent added that favors formation of (+) charge makes it more stable towards acids, EWG - electron withdrawing group is used



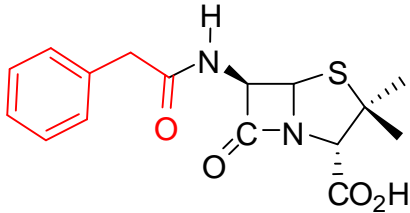
- Conclusion:

- An electron withdrawing R group will disfavour formation of the intermediate and increase the acid stability of the lactam ring

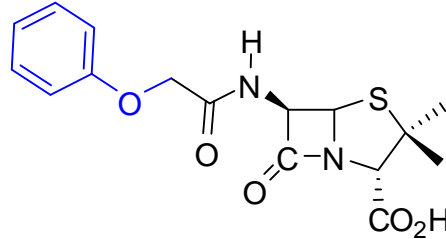
# Prediction verified by observation

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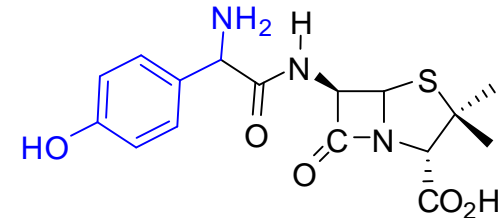
both of these are more stable to acids



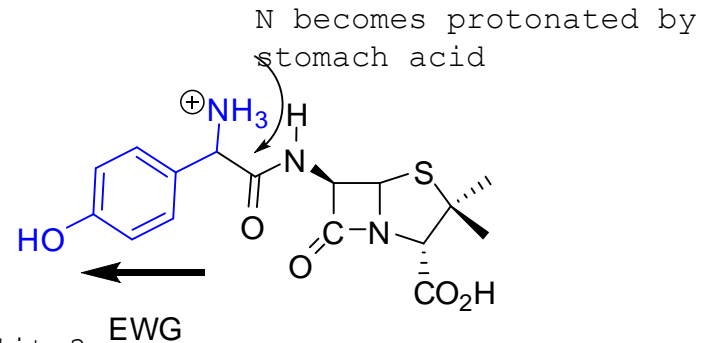
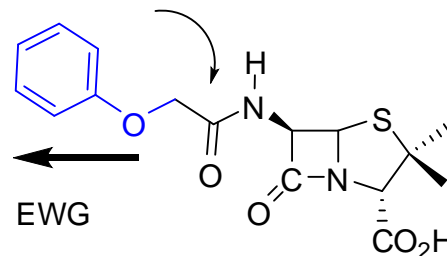
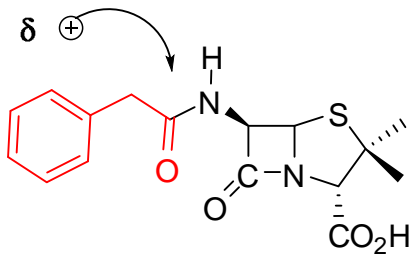
Pen G  
ORALLY INACTIVE  
INJECTION.



Pen V  
ORALLY ACTIVE



Amoxycillin  
ORALLY  
ACTIVE



carbonyl group, how do the substituents effect the stability?

EWG destabilize the  $\delta^+$   
making it less likely to get involved.

# Omeprazole -> Nexium for treatment of acid reflux

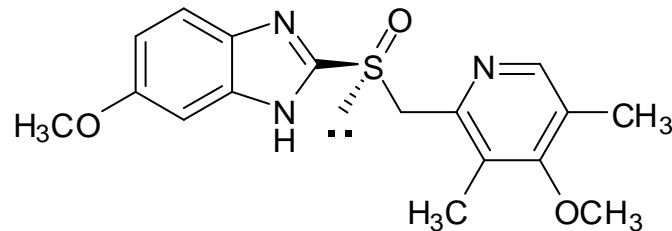
Astra-Zeneca product. Totally synthetic

- Amongst the top selling drugs world wide.

– 14.4 B\$ between 2001 and 2005

prevents excess stomach acidity.

- A proton pump pro-drug that is activated by acid



## Uses:

- Treatment of acid reflux (heartburn)
- duodenal ulcers in combination with amoxicillin

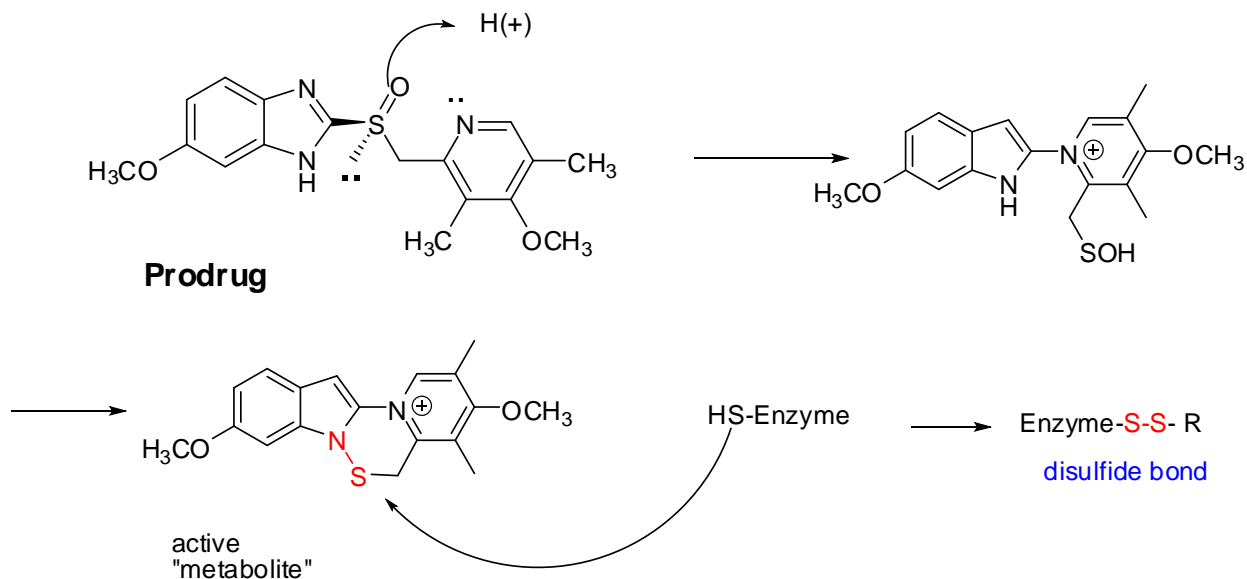
- A major cause of ulcers is a bacteria- H. pylori;
- In the combination, amoxicillin kills the bacteria and omeprazole controls the stomach acidity allowing the stomach lesions to heal. prevents hospitalization.
- Ulcers , major cause- long term use of NSAIDs

NSAIDs

using omeprazole allows your stomach to recover.

has to be activated or metabolized. very susceptible to acids, doesn't survive the stomach, ensure it survives the stomach by coating it, and then once it's in the intestine it can be absorbed, and then it can be activated in the bloodstream

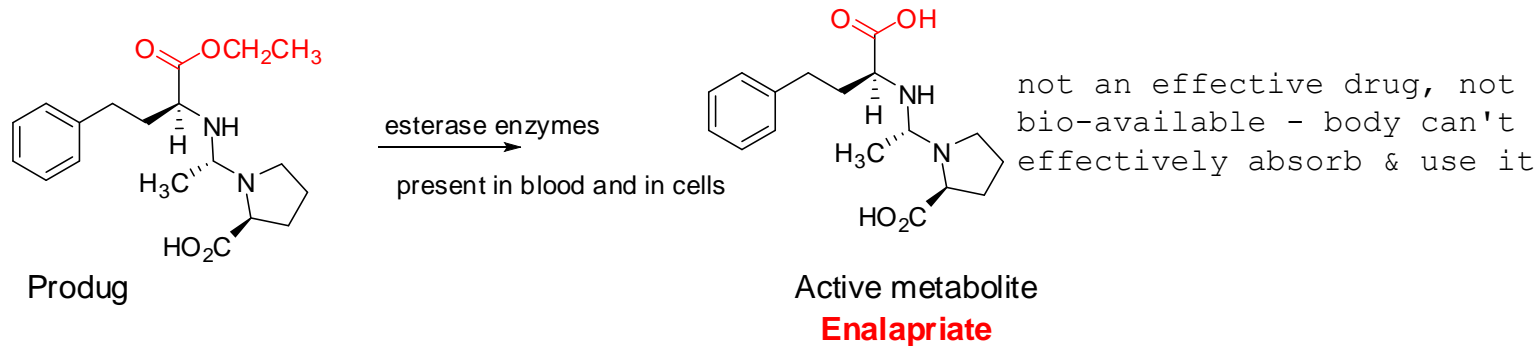
## From Pro-drug to the active principle



- Nexium/omeprazole is not stable in the stomach. It is necessary to protect it by formulation. Coating the drug to protect it until it is in the intestine.

# ACE inhibitors

- **Angiotensin C**onverting **E**nzyme inhibitors
  - Used to treat hypertension.
- ACE raises blood pressure –ACE inhibitors prevent this
- Enalapril ( Vasotec) amongst the most effective ACE inhibitors



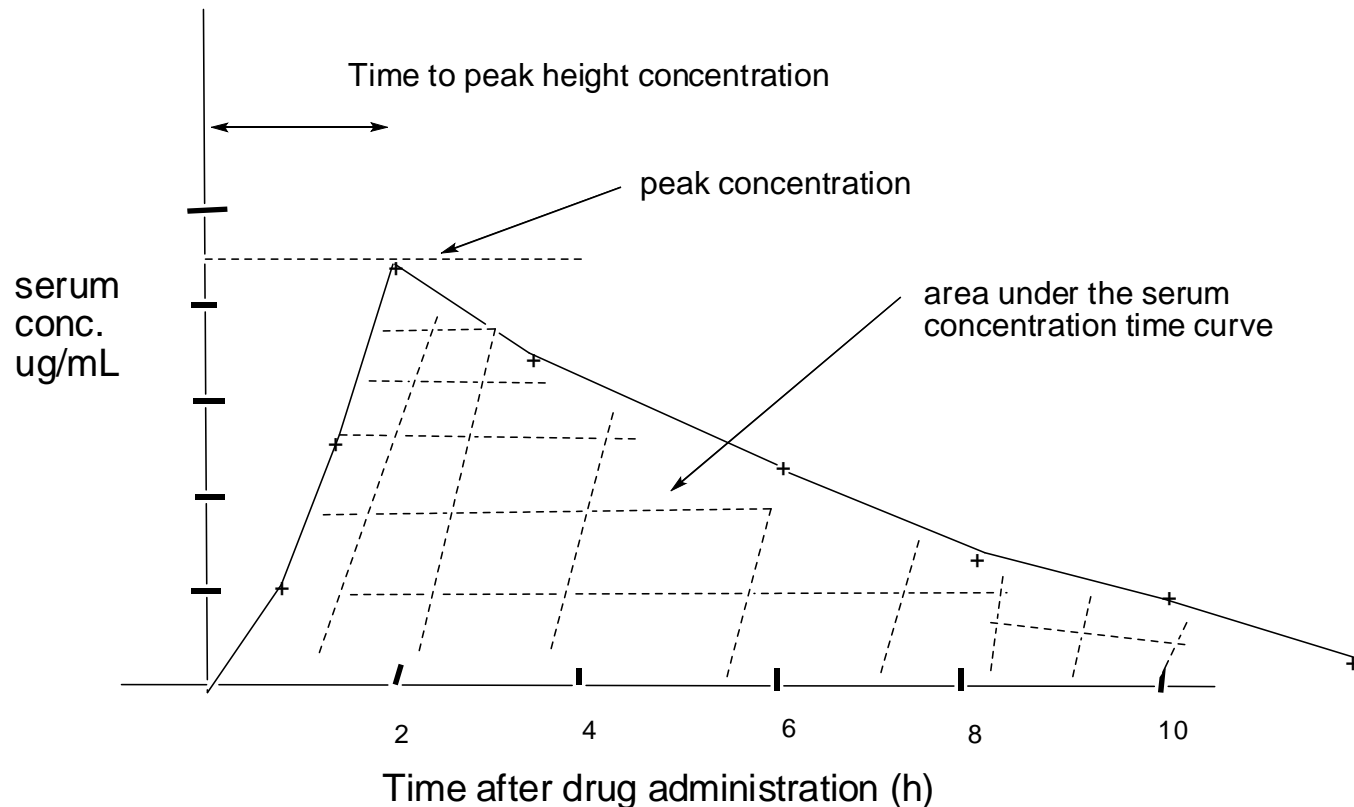
- **Enalaprilate is the effective drug. Not orally bio-available** –too polar and not absorbed. Effective via injection!
- **Converting the di-acid into the monoacid – ethyl ester** making it lipid soluble **reduced polarity.** The compound is absorbed into the blood stream and then converted into the active drug. allowing it to become orally available.

# Definitions

- **Bioavailability-**
  - The rate and extent to which an active drug ingredient is absorbed and becomes available at the site of action
  
- **Bioequivalence-**
  - Refers to a comparison of the bioavailability of the active ingredient from different formulation prepared by different manufacturers or even in different batches of the same drug product from the same manufacturer.

# Bioavailability

- Is determined by **studying the concentration of the drug and its metabolites over time** in
  - Blood plasma –Urine-Distribution in different organs of the body



# Lecture 6

## Plant derived Natural Product Drugs

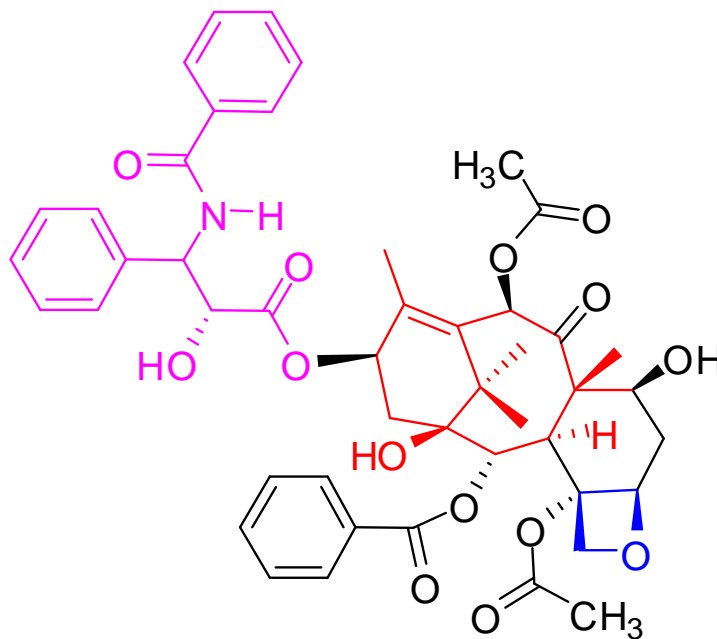
## Plant derived Natural Product Drugs

- **Aspirin** [ASA] from the use of willow bark to treat fevers and inflammations
- **Quinine** \*from the chinchona tree bark to treat malaria
- **Artemisinin** \* from *Artemisa annua* to treat malaria
- **Morphine** and **codeine** from poppies to treat pain
- **Meformin** from French Lilac to treat **Type II diabetes**
- **Digoxin** from foxglove to **regulate heartbeat**
- **Reserpine** from an Indian shrub to treat **hypertension**
- **Vincristine** and **vinblastine** from Madagascar periwinkle to treat **childhood leukemia**
- **Etosposide** from the North American May apple to treat **lung and kidney cancers**
- **Taxol** \* from Pacific yew tree for **various cancers**
- **SinSusto** from a Costa Rican vine to treat **anxiety** –TD

## Taxol- anti-cancer “poster child”

synthesized by chemists 2-3 times, in a difficult way, took years and years

- Isolated (1967) from the bark of the Pacific yew tree
- Identified as cyto-toxic in a cancer screen potential for cancer
- (1969) 1200 kg of bark resulted in 28 g of crude and eventually 10 g of pure compound.



# Taxol

- Between 1969 and 1988 many cancer experiments (small clinical trials) were carried
- Most encouraging result from the US National Cancer Institute: **A 30% response rate in refractory ovarian cancer!** for even the most resistant strains
- Crisis situation: Supply: very difficult to get the material
  - To get sufficient amount for serious clinical trials – needed to harvest ~360,000 trees – a rare species. not widespread
- national cancer institute NCI – invited big pharm company Bristol Myers Co. to take over, solve the supply problem, and complete clinical trials NCI gave them all their data, they needed a company with a large amount of resources

# Taxol-

- **Bristol Myers Company**
  - solved the supply problem,
  - carried out additional clinical trials
  - within 2 years filed an Investigational New Drug (IND) application because it was an important drug, only 2 years.
- **Approved in 1992. Bristol was also given the rights to the name Taxol®**
- **Annual sales in 2000 1.6 B \$**
- **Application – Lung, ovarian, breast, head and neck cancers.**

"success story"

## Taxol. How the supply problem was solved.

- **Find another source?**
- **Total chemical synthesis? NOT viable!!!** Far to many steps. 75 chemical steps, yield is 0.0002%
- **Realistic possibility:** Another natural, less destructive source.
  - **Needles of various yew trees or related species**
  - *Taxus canadensis* needles and European ornamental yew shrubs removing needles, maybe they will regrow, & regrow new branches, instead of cutting trees down - more renewable supply (slow growing tree)
    - Contained small amounts of Taxol and much larger amounts of a related compound called baccetin III

needles contained a small amt of taxol, better than the bark of yew tree, contained a significant amount of compound called baccetin III, what is the relationship?

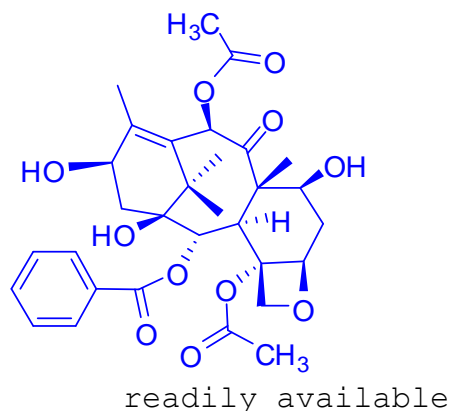
## *Taxus canadensis* (Ontario)



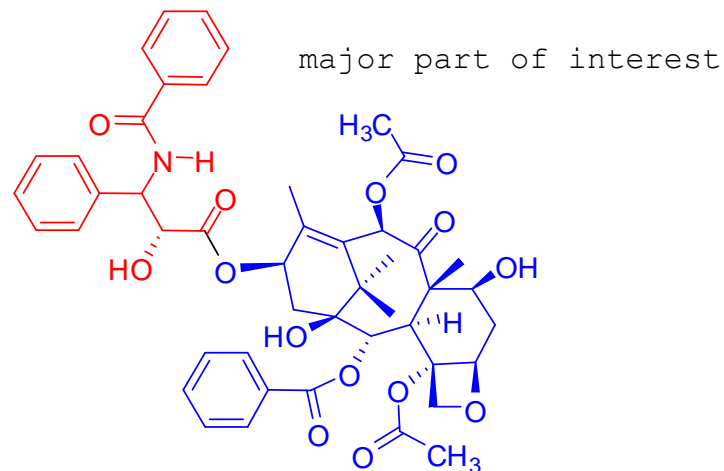
Growing ends are harvested



# Relationship between Taxol<sup>®</sup> and baccatin III



**Baccatin III**



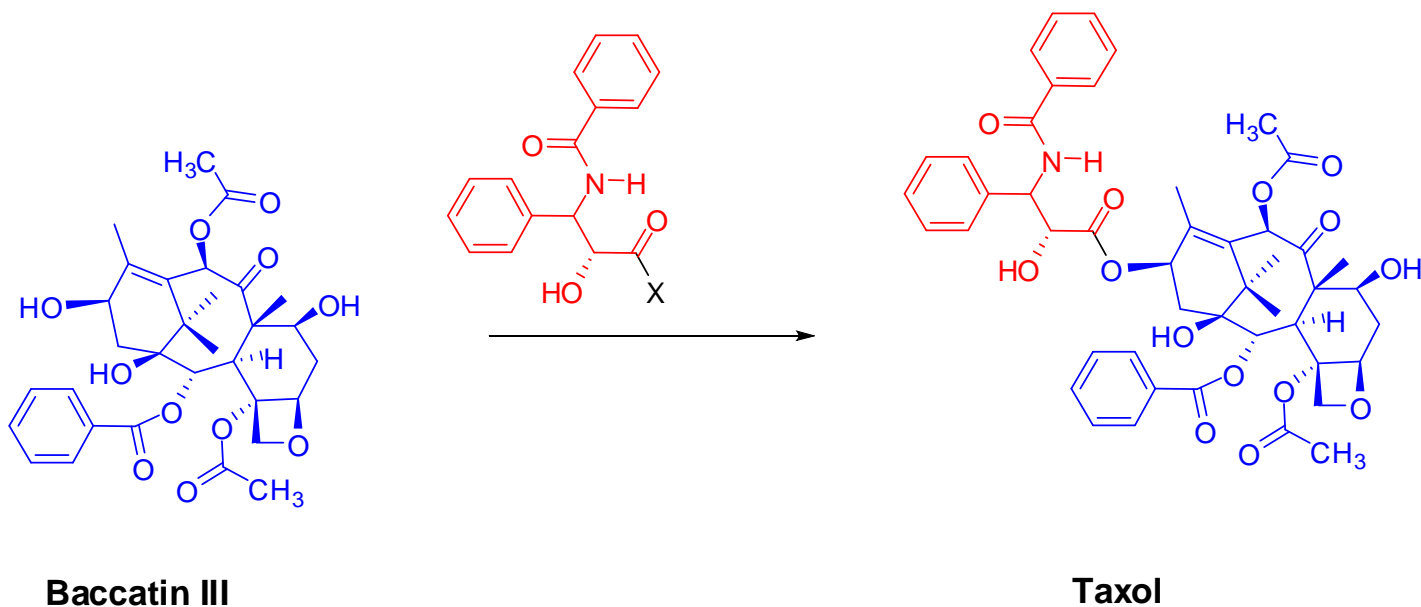
**Taxol**

- **Challenge:** Convert the much more readily available baccatin III into the needed Taxol
- **Opportunity:** Use Baccatin III as a platform to create new (more effective ) analogs : ->Taxotere!  
different side chain.

add different substituents, this is typically what medicinal chemists do - take a lead structure & attempt to improve it.

# Taxol: Semi-synthesis via Baccatin III

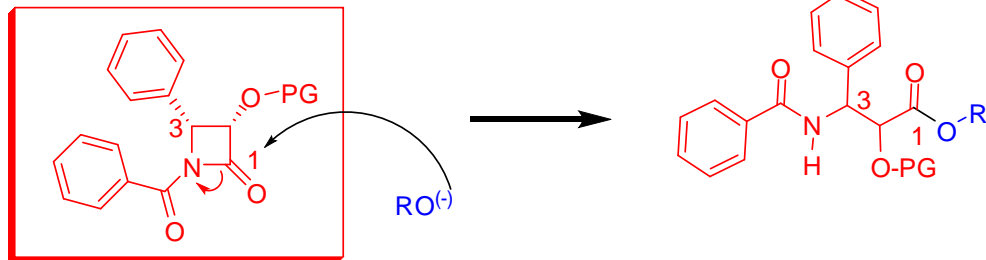
- Relationship between Taxol and Baccatin III



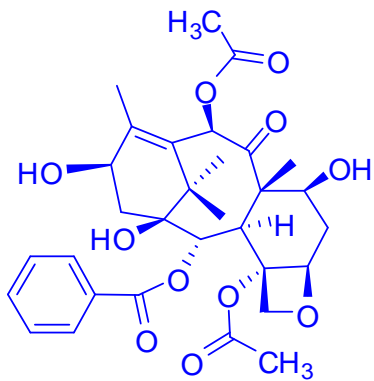
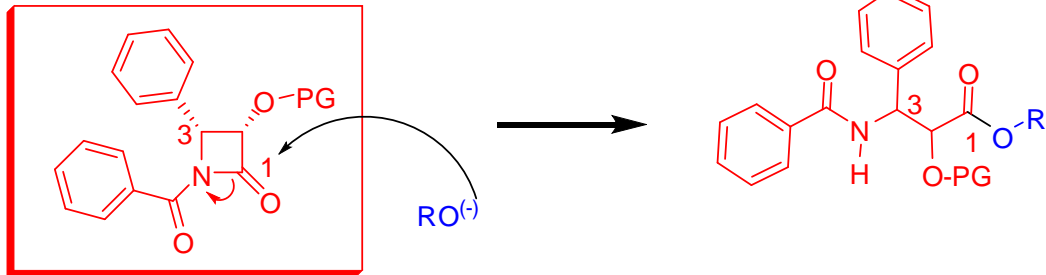
- In principle a simple acylation reaction:
- Alcohol + activated acid derivative  $\rightarrow$  ester
- In real life: Frustratingly difficult.**



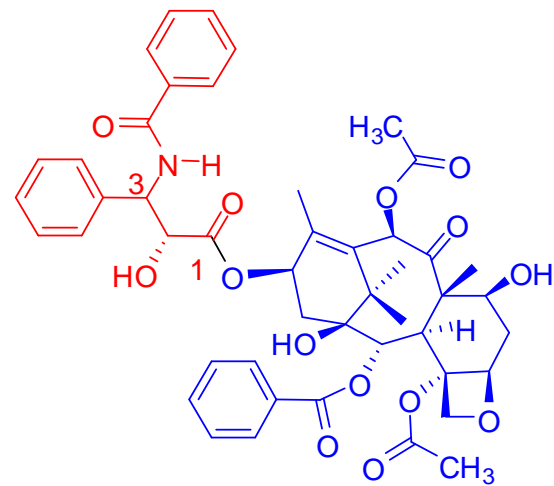
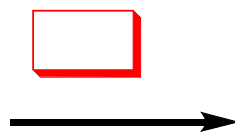
# Success!



Success!



**Baccatin III**



**Taxol**

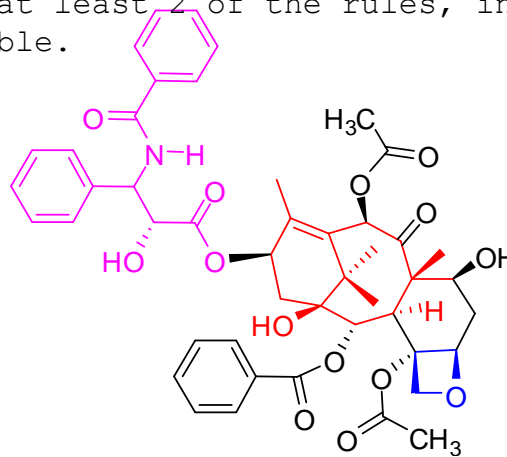
## Holton's imagination idea is rewarded

- The Holton chemistry combined with the new sourcing of baccatin III solved the Taxol supply problem.
- Florida State University patented this chemistry and licensed it to Bristol Myers.
- As of December 2005
  - Taxol had generated \$351-million for Holton and FSU. in royalties
  - That's three times more than the University of Florida earned from Gatorade. [they invented it]

# Taxol formualtion

- Taxol –highly effective –not drug like according to the Lipinski rules

violates at least 2 of the rules, in the reality it isn't easily bioavailable.



Molecular Weight = 853

Log P= <5

H-bond donors = 4

H-bond accptors: 10 ( 15!)

# of Atoms = 113

Is this a good drug candidate?

- Poor bioavailability

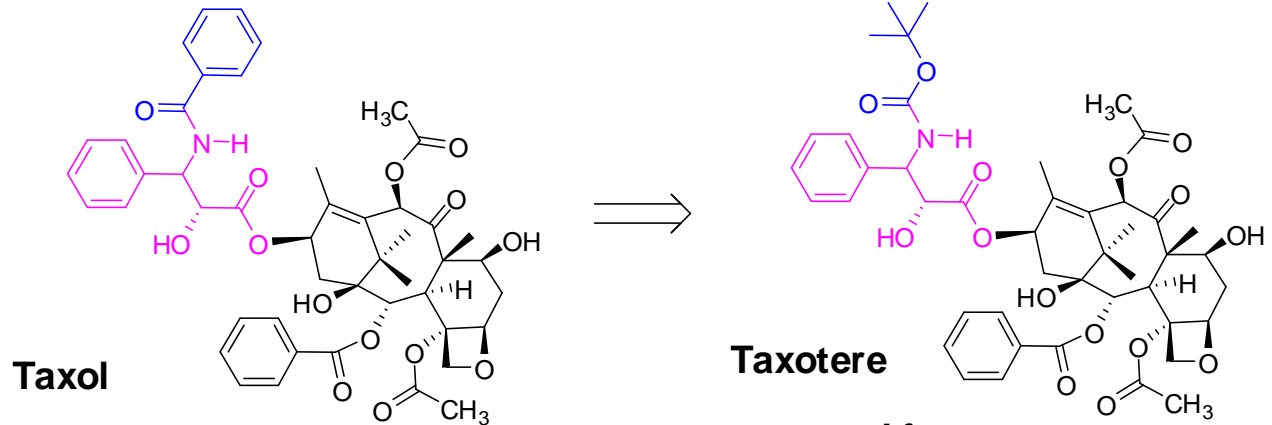
- Extremely insoluble in virtually all solvents
- Eventually formulated with a combination of ethanol and **Cremophor**: prepared by reacting 35 moles of ethylene oxide with each mole of castor oil. **Not a single compound**
- **Administered via iv.**

castor oil comes from the glands of beavers, weird combination with ethylene oxide

- **SIDE EFFECTS : a combination of Taxol and cremophor!**

part of many many cancer cmpds

# Taxotere – a Taxol analog



make it more bioavailable

**prepared from baccatin III** much much more bioavailable  
- by a factor of 5

## Taxotere –much easier to formulate

- Can be administered orally compared to Taxol
- Taxotere is highly bioavailable either intravenous or via oral administration
- Clinical trials suggest somewhat better results compared to Taxol
- No side effects due to formulation. Still typical side effects of all “toxic” anti-cancer compounds

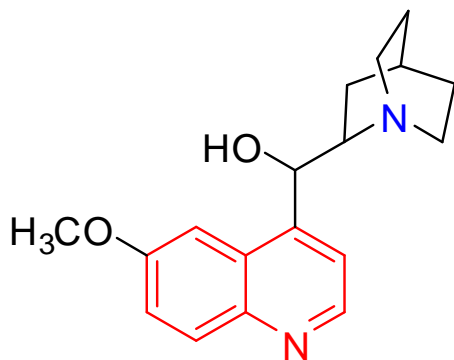
taxotere usually works a little bit better than taxol and has fewer side effects. becoming the dominant drug in this area.

# Malaria

- A major health problem in poor tropical countries still causing > million deaths world wide /year – mostly young children with not acquired immunity and old people.
- Simplest, most effective solutions
  - Reduce mosquito population via insecticides
    - DDT!!
  - Prevent transfer of the parasite from mosquito to humans via bed netting
- Gates Foundation- potential vaccines
  - would be a more effective control method.

# Malaria

- Anti-malarial drugs
- Jesuit Priest/ healers in Peru- extracts from the chincona tree bark
- Active ingredient isolated and identified in the 1800's by chemists as quinine.



called an alkaloid  
considered the standard

Based on traditional knowledge  
(Peru)

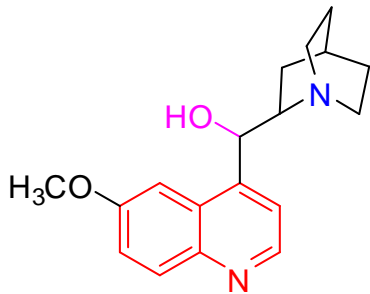
Isolated from the Chincona  
tree bark

First known potent antimalarial

as a chemist, were interested in perhaps the N  
and hydroxyl grp, and the two benzene, purine rings

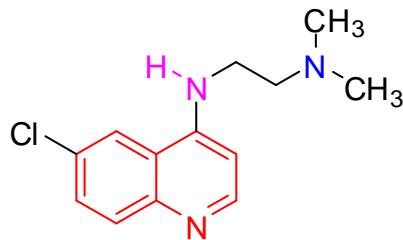
# Malaria

- Attempts at synthetic analogs by German and American medicinal chemists due to lack of access to natural quinine in WWI and WWII and thereafter.
- Best compounds: chloroquine and mefloquine
  - Based on simplified quinine analogs



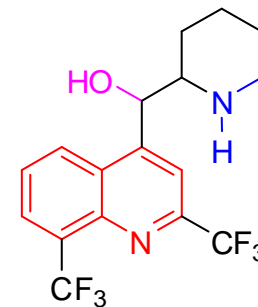
Quinine

Based on traditional knowledge (Peru)  
First known potent antimalarial



Choroquine

Synthetic  
Excellent antimalarial  
some resisant parasite  
development of some  
resistance



Mefloquine [Lariam]

Developed by the US army ~ 1970  
Excellent malaria preventative  
occasionally severe neuropsychiatric  
side effects

# Anti-Malarial based on Traditional Chinese Medicine

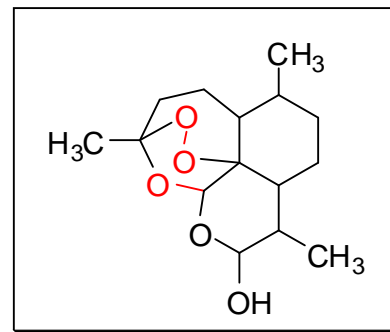
- China mandated a search for an anti-malarial in the 1970s based on TCM
- Searched and bio-assayed all TCMs reported to have fever reducing properties

would not be expected to be effective because it's structure is so different

- Discovered the compound “artimisinin” from *Artimesia annua* – a amazing and surprisingly stable structure.

- Three oxygen atoms in a 6-membered ring
- A peroxide structure,

- Relatively few stable peroxides are known
- Peroxide structure is crucial to its mechanism of action.



has no N

Involves free radicals due to O-O bond cleavage

in the presence of iron free radicals then kill the parasite

# Current Malaria treatments

- **World Health Organization:**

considered that arthemisinin and derivatives of thereof to prevent rapid development of arthemisinin resistant parasite. this is the last good chance of having a really good anti malarial drug - you must use this carefully.

recommending careful use and arthemisinin combination therapy [ACT] so that there's another drug, they work together, and prevent the build up of resistance.

because of this unique structure, the WHO prompts the chemists to make another synthetic analogue that has all the important features such as a peroxide bond, and then other alternatives that may be even better acting than the natural material.

a compound that has been dested , has a pentagon ring with 3 oxygens in it. required considerable trial and error to get this structure.

compound can be made dirt cheap - inexpensive for those in need who have malaria - generally poor.

# CNS active alkaloids

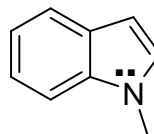
Common structure requirement for CNS active compounds:

**Basic nitrogen atom** joined to an **aromatic ring via a saturated two carbon units**

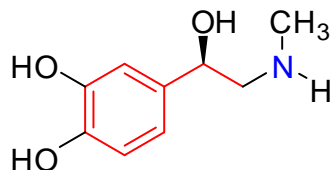
**Aromatic rings are planar rings with all  $sp^2$  hybridized atoms with 6, 10,  $14\pi$  electrons**



**benzene** ring is a  $6\pi$  electron aromatic ring



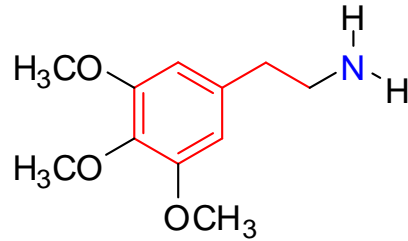
**indole** ring is a  $10\pi$  electron aromatic ring



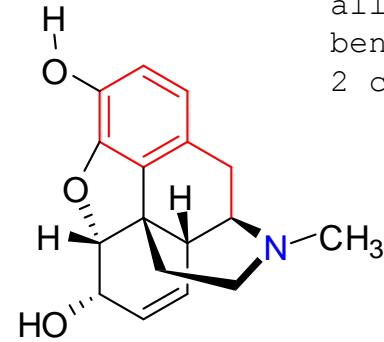
**Adrenaline = epinephrine**

aromatic ring, 2 compounds, then a N.  
the platform that a lot of these compounds work on.

# Natural CNS Active compounds

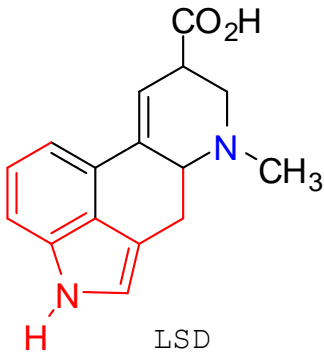


**mescaline**  
peyote cactus

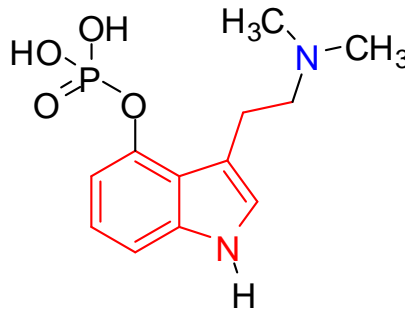


**Morphine**

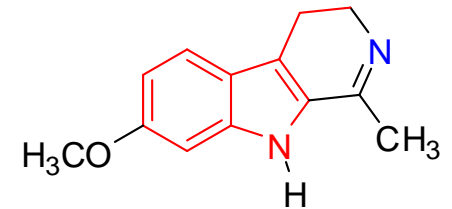
all of these follow the  
benzene ring,  
2 c - then a Nitrogen



**Lysergic acid**  
Ergot fungus  
growing on rye



**Psilocybin**  
[sacred mushroom]

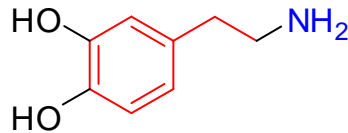


**Harmaline**  
Hallucinogenic drink  
Amazon: Ayahuasca

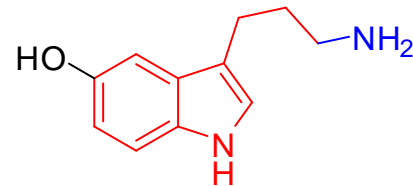
DMT

# Neurotransmitters and “street drugs”

- Dopamine , serotonin and amphetamines

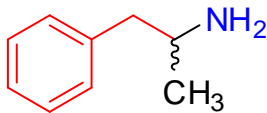


Dopamine  
neurotransmitter

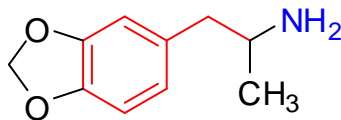


Serotonin  
neurotransmitter

contributes to feeling well



amphetamine  
stimulant

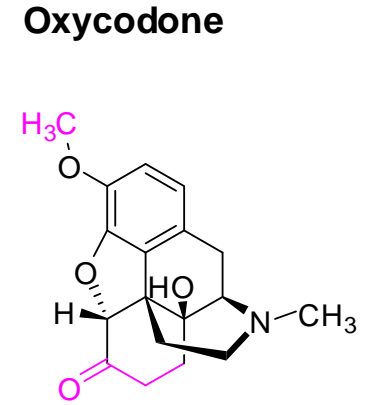
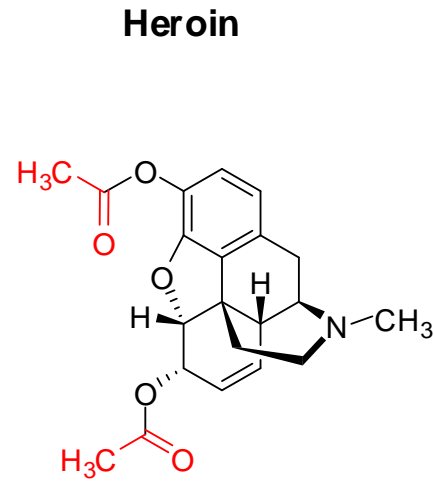
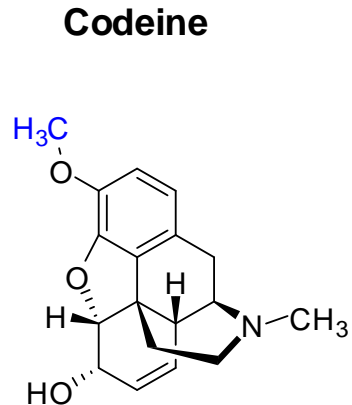
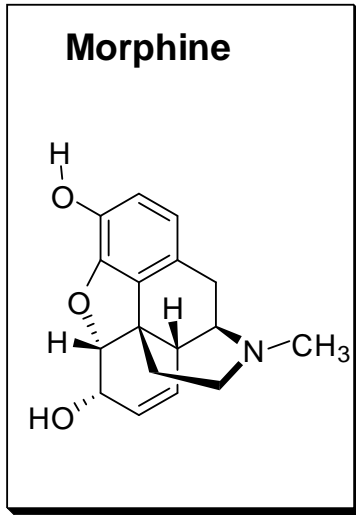


MDMA (3,4-Methylenedioxy-  
N-methylamphetamine)

Ecstasy,

# Structure variety in natural products

- Morphine –Alkaloids- natural or semi-synthetic



- Butorphanol  
– Synthetic

