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Drugs

MAO INHIBITORS Monoamine oxidase inhibitors potentiate the effects of dietary and injected tyramine and other sympathomimetic amines. Studies in various rat and cat preparations have indicated that MAO inhibitors act by retarding the binding and/or breakdown of these sympathomimetic amines by liver microsomal enzyme systems, allowing higher blood levels of these amines. This leads to the release of more endogenous catecholamines from storage sites. Other enzymes (diamine oxidase, choline oxidase) are also inhibited, thus potentiating the action of barbiturates, amphetamine, and morphine and its congeners. Since destruction by catechol-o-methyltransferase and uptake into storage sites terminate catecholamine action, MAO inhibitors do not potentiate the action of exogenous adrenalin or noradrenalin. (*Rand, M. J., and Trinker, F. R.: The Mechanism of the Augmentation of Responses to Indirectly-acting Sympathomimetic Amines by Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors, Brit. J. Pharmacol. 33: 287 (June) 1968.*)