

pharmaceutical chemistry

3<sup>rd</sup> stage

lec. 3

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## Acid — Base properties :

\*\* greatly influence its biodistribution and partitioning characteristics.



- Lowry and Brønsted.

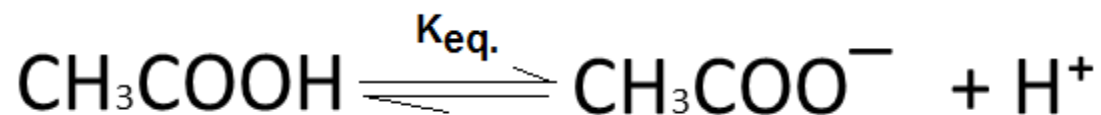
\* proton donor (acid) and

\* proton acceptor (base) (charged or uncharged)

## Acid-Conjugate Base

Table 2-1.

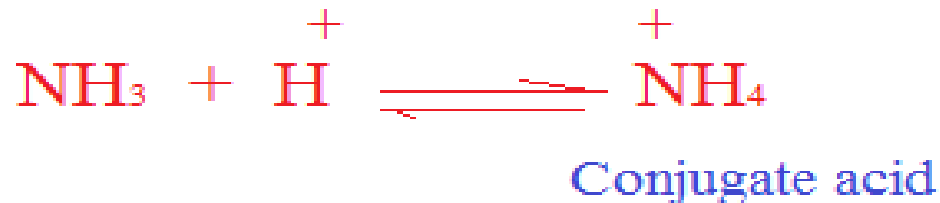
\* Each acid, or proton donor, yields a conjugate base.



Base-conjugate acid:

table: 2.1

each base ,yield conjugate acid (product produced from the addition of a proton to the base)

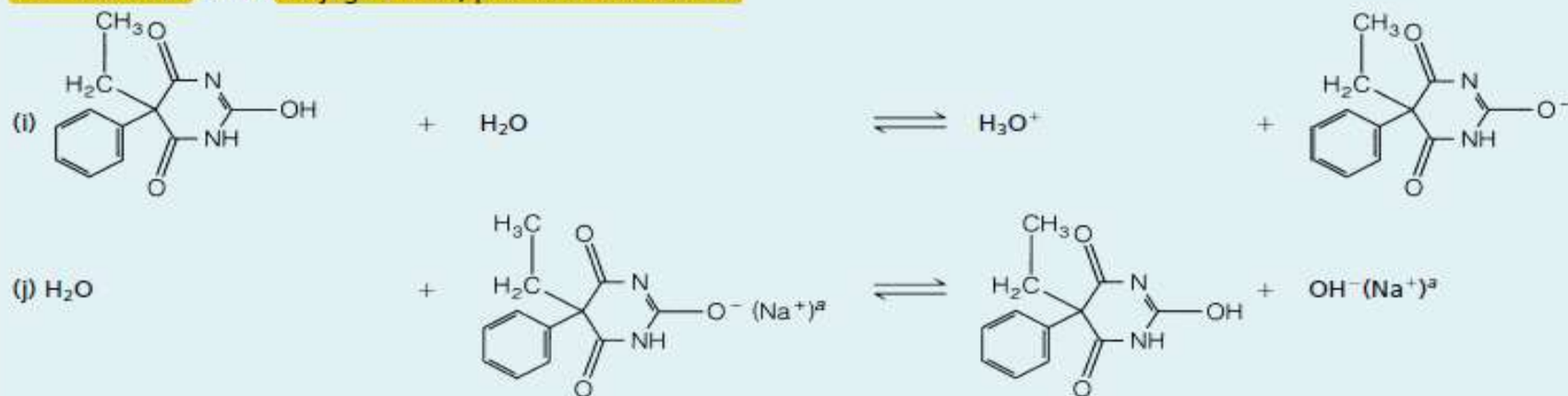


Representative examples of pharmaceutically  
important drugs

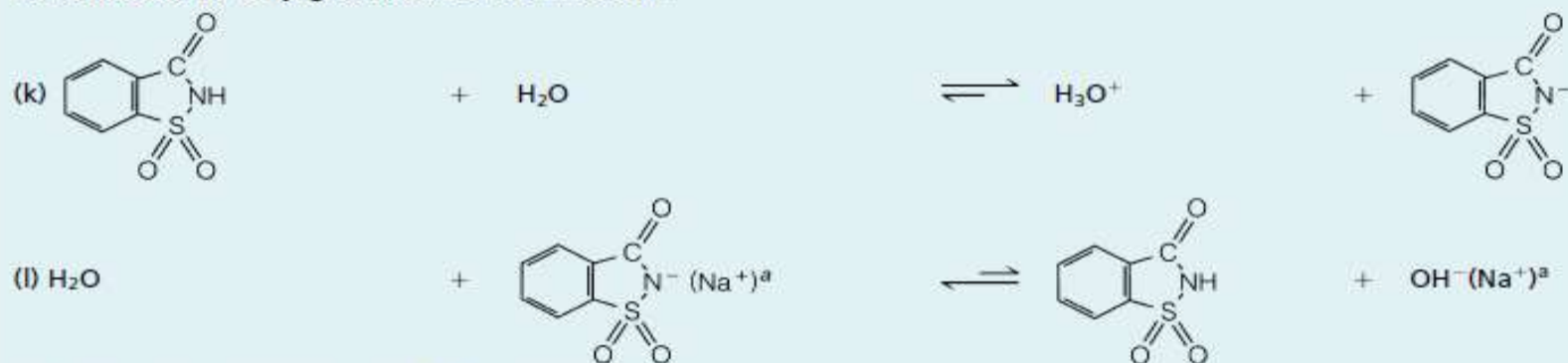
Acid	+ Base	$\rightleftharpoons$	Conjugate Acid	+ Conjugate Base
Hydrochloric acid (a) HCl	+ H <sub>2</sub> O	$\longrightarrow$	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	+ Cl <sup>-</sup>
Sodium hydroxide (b) H <sub>2</sub> O	+ NaOH	$\longrightarrow$	H <sub>2</sub> O	+ OH <sup>-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate and its conjugate base, sodium monohydrogen phosphate				
(c) H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	+ H <sub>2</sub> O	$\rightleftharpoons$	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	+ HPO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>
(d) H <sub>2</sub> O	+ HPO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (2Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	$\rightleftharpoons$	H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	+ OH <sup>-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>
Ammonium chloride and its conjugate base, ammonia				
(e) NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> (Cl <sup>-</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	+ H <sub>2</sub> O	$\rightleftharpoons$	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup> (Cl <sup>-</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	+ NH <sub>3</sub>
(f) H <sub>2</sub> O	+ NH <sub>3</sub>	$\rightleftharpoons$	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	+ OH <sup>-</sup>
Acetic acid and its conjugate base, sodium acetate				
(g) CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	+ H <sub>2</sub> O	$\rightleftharpoons$	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	+ CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>
(h) H <sub>2</sub> O	+ CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	$\rightleftharpoons$	CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	+ OH <sup>-</sup> (Na <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>

Indomethacin and its conjugate base, indomethacin sodium, show the identical acid-base chemistry as acetic acid and sodium acetate, respectively.

Phenobarbital and its conjugate base, phenobarbital sodium



Saccharin and its conjugate base, saccharin sodium



Ephedrine HCl and its conjugate base, ephedrine

## Acid Strength

\* ability of acid to give proton as table, to indicate which sequences are **unidirectional** or show only a small reversal.

\*The information of acid strength is given by pka.

$$\text{pKa} = -\log \text{ka}$$



$$K_a = \frac{[\text{conj. acid}][\text{conj. base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$K_a = K_{\text{eq}} \times [\text{H}_2\text{O}]$$

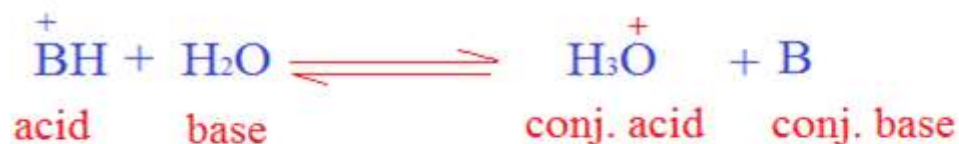


$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \frac{[\text{conj. base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

\*Henderson-Hasselbalch eq.

$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \frac{i}{u}$$

A very similar set of equations is obtained from the reaction of a protonated amine  $\text{BH}^+$  in water.



$$K_a = \frac{[\text{conj. acid}][\text{conj. base}]}{[\text{acid}]} \quad \boxed{K_a = K_{\text{eq}} \times [\text{H}_2\text{O}]}$$

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}_3\overset{+}{\text{O}}][\text{B}]}{[\overset{+}{\text{B}}\text{H}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \frac{[\text{conj. base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

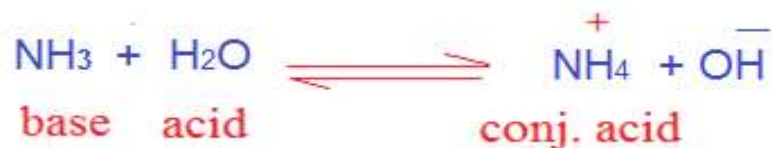
$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \frac{u}{i}$$

What about weak bases & weak acids in aqueous solutions.

- using the relationship in Equation:

$$\text{pK}_a + \text{pK}_b = 14$$

It is now more common to express the basicity of a chemical in terms of pka .since pka for a base is in reality the of the conjugate acid of base (acid donor 9.3 or protonated form, BH<sup>+</sup> ), e.g. NH<sub>3</sub> → pka=9.3



\* A general rule for determining whether action is strong or weak acid or base:

- $pK_a < 2$
- $pka = (4-6)$
- $pka = (8-10)$
- $pka > 12$

- the pka give indication of the acid property not represent anything else.e.g. potential toxicity

ex:

\* Phenol (pKa = 9.9)

ephedrine HCl (pka=9.6).

- phenol → corrosive to the skin,
- ephedrine HCl → safe when applied to the skin.

Why???

## Percent Ionization

\* pKa → important for formulation

- acid can be divided into 2 types :

1. HA (un-ionized) ex: [inorganic acid (HCl, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>),

Enols

COOH

amides and imides

2. BH<sup>+</sup> (ionized) : all protonated amine

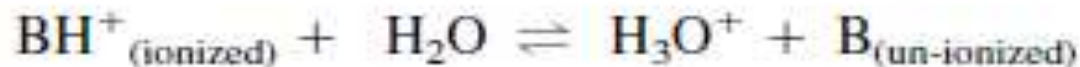


Acid

Base

Conj.  
Acid

Conj.  
Base



Acid

Base

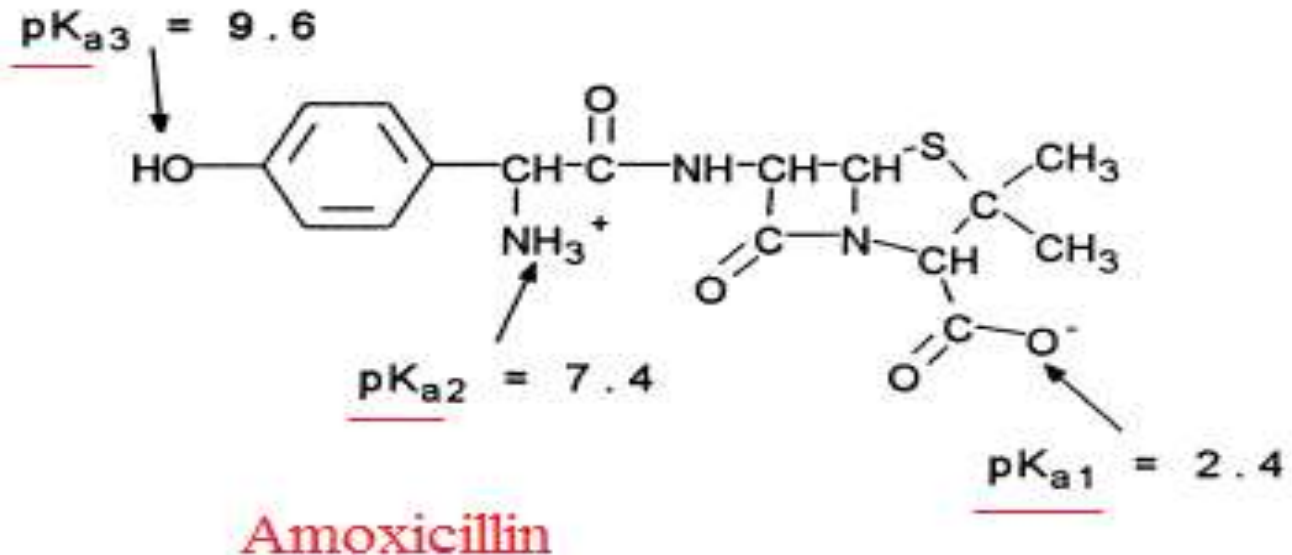
Conj.  
Acid

Conj.  
Base

A polyfunctional drug can have several pKa's (e.g., amoxicillin).

at physiological pH 7.4.

- COOH [HA] acid, pka=2.4), → ionized
- NH<sub>2</sub> [BH<sup>+</sup> acid;pka2=7.4]
- phenol[HA acid,pka3=9.6





The % ionization of drug is calculated by using Equation for both HA acids and BH<sup>+</sup> acids. Respectively

\* pH > pka = ionized

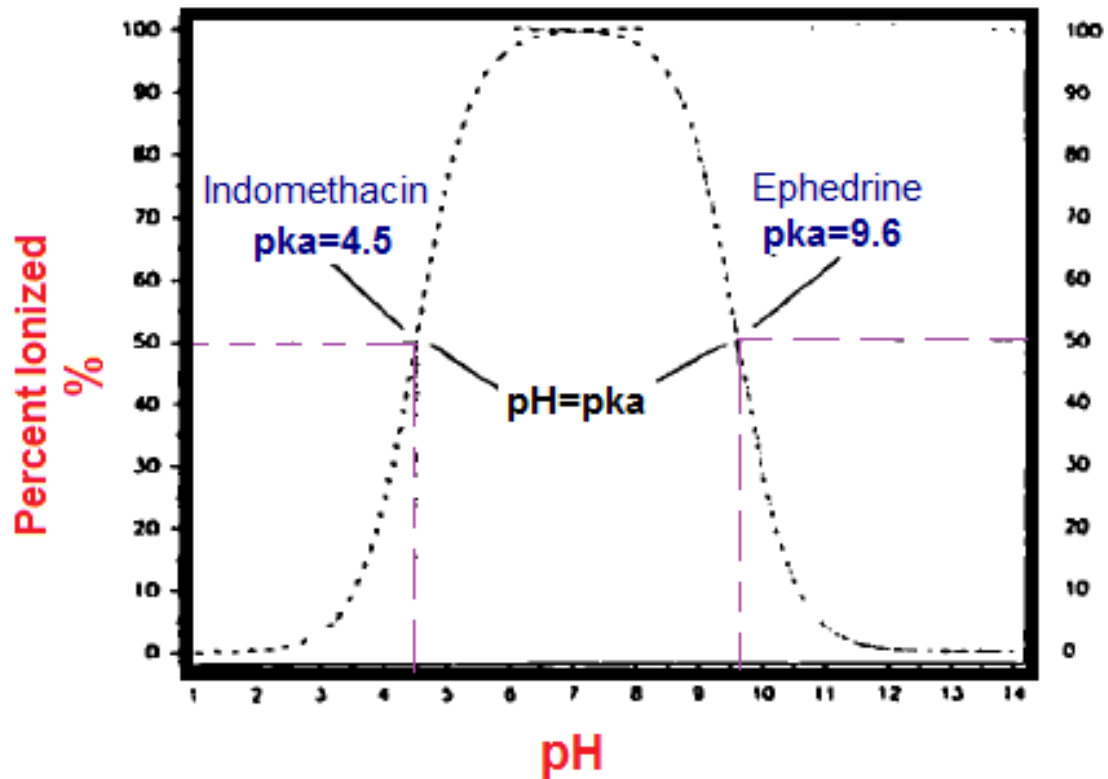
\* PH < pka

\* pH = pka

$$\% \text{ ionization} = \frac{100}{1 + 10^{(pK_a - pH)}}$$

$$\% \text{ ionization} = \frac{100}{1 + 10^{(pH - pK_a)}}$$

A plot of p  
shifted sign  
and BH' (p  
ionized (or



Percent Ionized versus pH for indomethacin & ephedrine

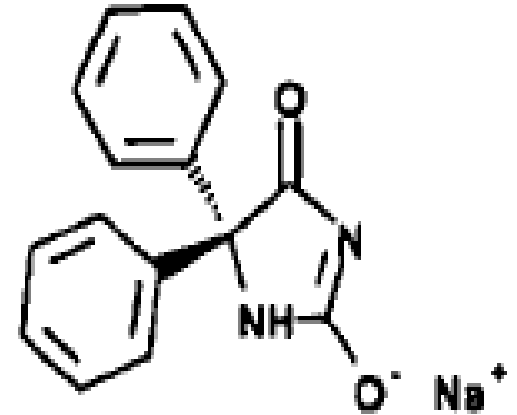
n can be  
omethacin  
and is 50%

**TABLE 2-6 Percentage Ionization Relative to the  $pK_a$** 

	Ionization (%)	
	HA Acids	BH <sup>+</sup> Acids
$pK_a - 2$ pH units	0.99	99.0
$pK_a - 1$ pH unit	9.1	90.9
$pK_a = pH$	50.0	50.0
$pK_a + 1$ pH unit	90.9	9.1
$pK_a + 2$ pH units	99.0	0.99

-predict why the use of some preparations can cause problems and discomfort as a result of pH extremes. **Phenytoin(HA acid: pKa= 8.3)** injection must be adjusted to **pH 12** with NaOH

In theory, a pH of 10.3 will result in 99.0% of anionic water-soluble conjugate base.



**Phenytoin Sodium**

This decrease in pH would result in the parent unionized phenytoin precipitating out of solution.

\* To predict chemical stability problems

e.g. indomethacin (HA acid:  $pK_a=4.5$ ), which is unstable in alkaline media. So oral liquid dosage form (suspension) buffered at pH 4 – 5 .~ 50% be in the water-soluble form.so can not prepare as i.v.

## Drug Distribution and pKa

The pKa can have a pronounced effect on the pharmacokinetics of the drug, including the distribution

.

1-

\* drugs in an ionized form will tend to distribute throughout the body more rapidly than will unionized (nonpolar) molecules.

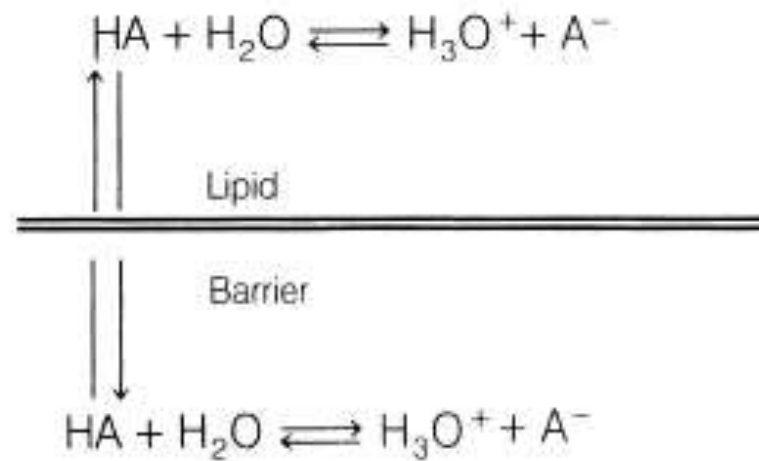
\*the drug must leave the polar environment of the plasma to reach the site of action.

2-

\* In general,

non polar membranes of capillary walls ,cell membrane & BBB in in unionized (non polar) form

= for HA acid.

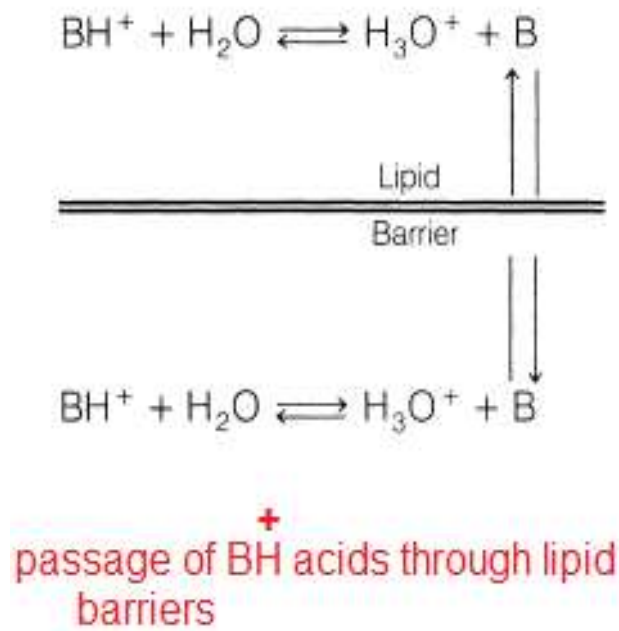


Passage of HA acids through lipid barriers



\* BH<sup>+</sup> acids:

The un-ionized conjugate base (Free amine) is the species most readily crossing the nonpolar membranes



So

- \* ionized form of drug will be mainly distribute
- \* un ionized form will be passage through the membrane.

3-

\* Changing the pH Environment:

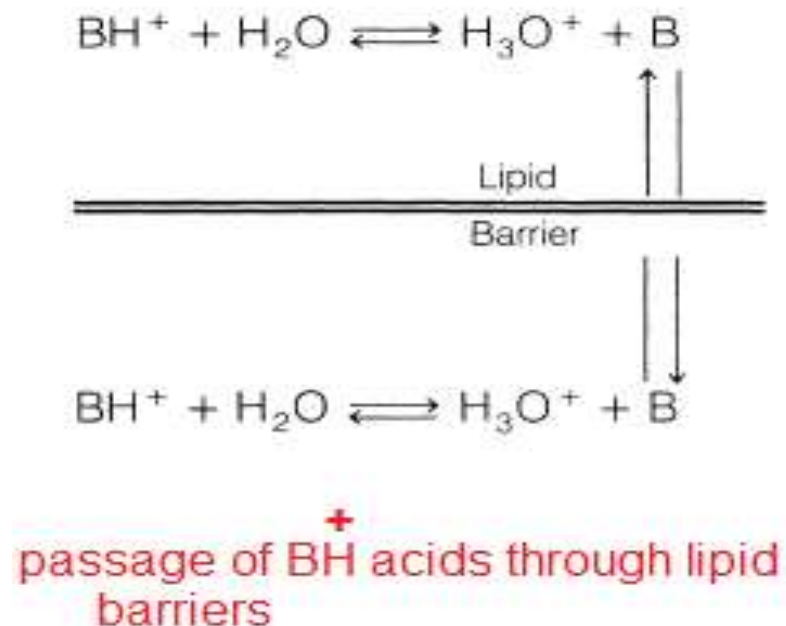
For orally administered drug:

acidic stomach, pH range 2 - 6 depending ???

A) HA acids with pKa<sub>s</sub> of 4 - 5 will tend to be nonionic and be absorbed partially through the gastric mucosa.

why most acidic drugs are absorbed from the  
intestinal tract rather than the stomach ??

**amines** (pKa= 9 - 10) will be protonated (BH<sup>+</sup> acids) in the acidic stomach and usually will not be absorbed until reaching the mildly alkaline intestinal tract pH — 8).



\* plasma pH = 7.4

determinants of whether the drug will tend to remain in the aqueous environment of the blood or partition across lipid membranes into :

\* hepatic tissue → metabolized,

\* kidney → excretion,

\* tissue depots,

\* the receptor tissue.

-depending on the ratio  $[\text{conj. base}]/[\text{acid}]$  according on henderson-hasselblach eq. or % ionization