

# Antitussives

Antitussives are drugs that suppress a debilitating, dry and irritating cough.

According to the place of intervention, we divide them into two types:

- **central** - reduce the irritability of the cough center
- **peripheral** - suppresses stimuli from the tracheobronchial system.

## Classification

### Antitussive codeine type

They are characterized by a central mechanism of action. They are more effective than peripheral, but they also have more side effects (possibility of addiction, constipation).

*Representatives:*

- **codeine** – methyl morphine derivative effective, analgesic, combined with sedatives and expectorants
- **ethylmorphine\*** – stronger analgesic and antitussive effect, higher possibility of addiction,
- **pholcodine\*** – stronger than codeine, without analgesic effect, less side effects, therefore also suitable for children,
- **dextromethorphan** – no analgesic effect, well tolerated, no habit.

### Antitussive non-codeine type

They are weaker antitussives. They can have a central or peripheral effect. They have no analgesic or euphoric effects. They do not dampen the respiratory center and do not lead to addiction.

*Representatives:*

- **butamirate** – effective, small side effects (anorexia, GIT),
- **dropropizine** – comparable to codeine, does not damp the breath center,
- **pentoxyverine\***
- **prenoxidiazine\***
- **clobutinol\***

\* = the drug is not currently registered on the Czech market

## References

- LINCOVÁ, Dagmar. *Základní a aplikovaná farmakologie*. 1. edition. GALÉN, 2002. 601 pp. ISBN 80-7262-168-8.

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