

Drug Targeting Consider a Lead for Drug Discovery for Example Drug Antagonists

Rezk R. Ayyad¹, Ahmed M. Mansour², Ahmed M. Nejm¹, Yasser Abdel Allem Hassan³ & Ahmed R. Ayyad⁴

¹ Pharmaceutical Medicinal Chemistry Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, ALAZHAR University, Cairo, Egypt

² Pharmacology and Toxicology Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, ALAZHAR University, Cairo, Egypt

³ Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Delta University for Science and Technology, Gamasa, Addaqaahlya, Egypt

⁴ Faculty of Medicine, Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University (KazNMU), Almaty, Kazakhstan

Correspondence: Rezk R. Ayyad, Pharmaceutical Medicinal Chemistry Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, ALAZHAR University, Cairo, Egypt.

doi:10.56397/JPEPS.2024.12.01

Abstract

The adrenergic compounds are chemical structures related to Adrenaline and Noradrenaline e.g., isoprenaline and terbutaline, when want to change in the chemical structure of adrenergic will lead us to an adrenergic blocking agents e.g., Alpha blockers and Beta blockers (prazosin, terazosin, propranolol and atenolol). Also, cholinergic agents especially direct cholinergics are chemical structures related to Acetylcholine which when manipulate of the Ach. We obtain anti-cholinergic agents like neostigmine, physostigmine, pilocarpine... etc. All the blockers are examples of drug discovery depends on Drug targeting (Alpha receptor, Beta receptor, Muscarinic receptor, Nicotinic receptor).

Keywords: adrenergic, adrenergic blockers, alpha blockers, beta blockers, cholinergics, anti-cholinergic, drug targeting, drug discovery

1. Introduction

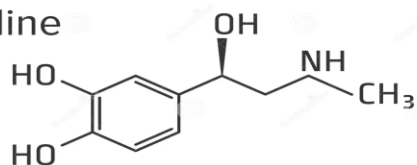
The adrenaline act on alpha and beta receptor, while the noradrenaline act mainly on alpha receptors. The chemical structure of adrenaline and noradrenaline contain benzene ring and amine group and distance ethylene group. We note that the amine group when carrying methyl group (adrenaline) became act on alpha and beta

receptors, while noradrenaline acts on alpha receptors mainly more than beta. So, the amine group when carry alkyl group, this alkyl called beta directing group for example terbutaline and isoprenaline.

Stress hormones

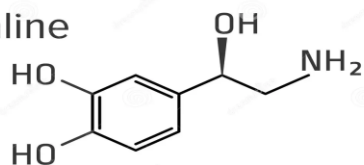
Adrenaline

$C_9H_{13}NO_3$



Noradrenaline

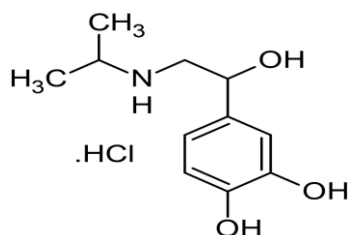
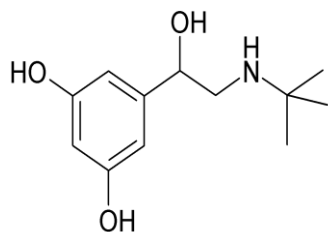
$C_8H_{11}NO_3$



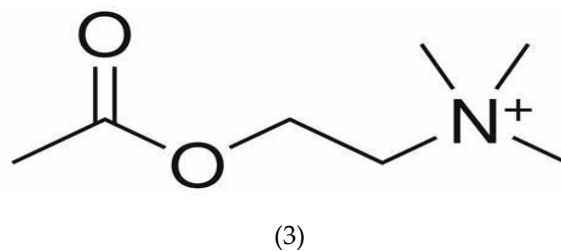
dreamstime.com

ID 142282738 © Primulakat

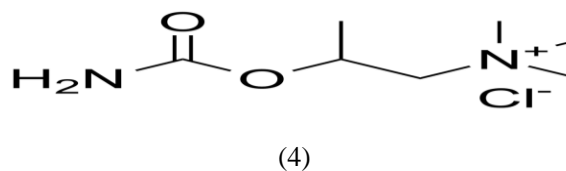
(1)



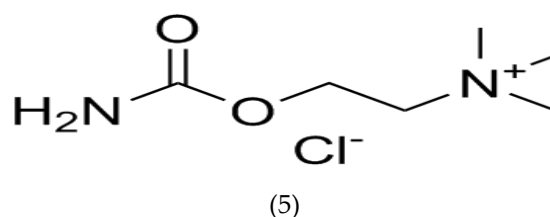
(2)



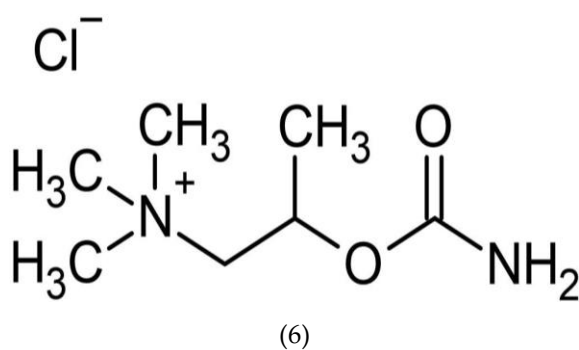
(3)



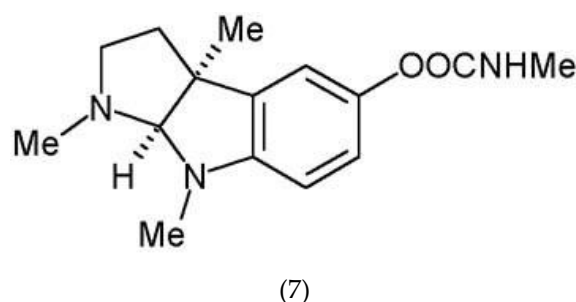
(4)



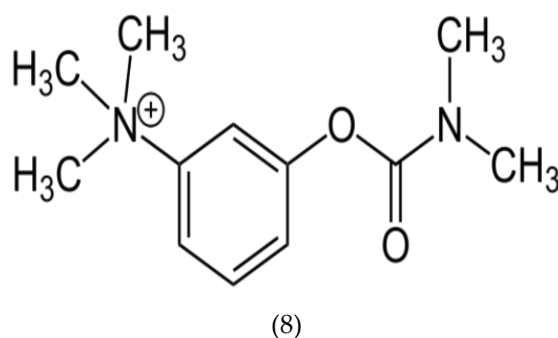
(5)



(6)



(7)



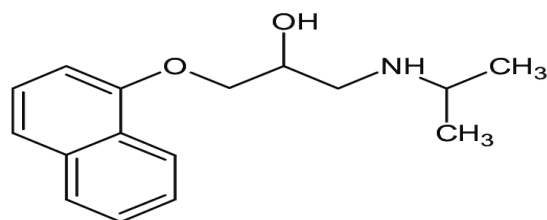
(8)

From the previous information, we noted the beta directing group is necessary for action on beta receptors which led us beta blocking agents, e.g., Non selective and selective beta blockers which are actually drug discovery, the acetyl choline is cholinergic drug which acts on muscarinic and nicotinic receptors, the acetyl choline structure contains acetate, and amine group and distance ethylene bridge, when change acetate into amide will act as direct cholinergic drug when substitute the ethylene bridge and other changes in other positions of acetylcholine obtained on cholinergic drugs act directly on cholinergic receptors, which may be give others pharmacological action such as physostigmine in Al-Alzheimer. When manipulate on the chemical structure of acetyl choline will lead to anti cholinergics which is actually drug discovery.

2. Chemistry and Pharmacology

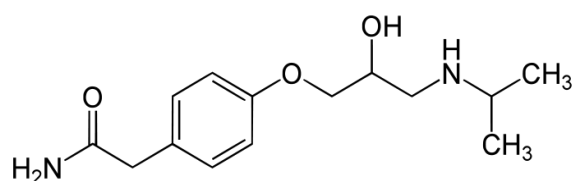
Beta blockers and anti cholinergics which are drug discovery from drug targeting principles.

Nonselective beta blockers which act on beta -1 and beta -2 and block them, which used in hypertension, angina... etc. but contraindicated in bronchial asthma.

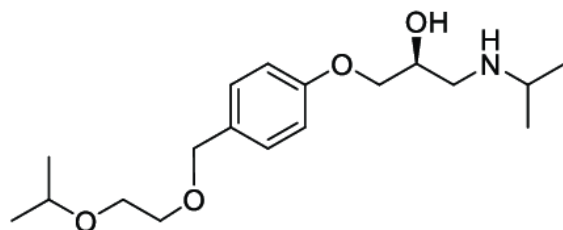


(9)

Comparison between propranolol and adrenaline revealed that the benzene ring becomes naphthalene and ethylene bridge of adrenaline becomes four atoms on naphthalene of propranolol, the beta directing group on propranolol (isopropyl group) larger than methyl of adrenaline.



(10)

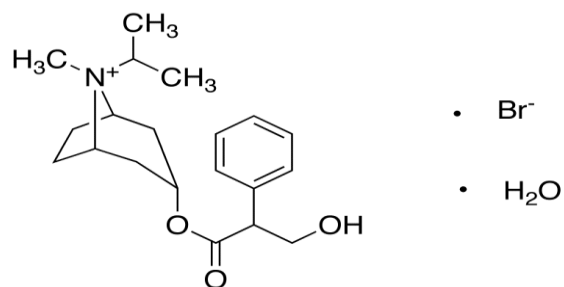


(11)

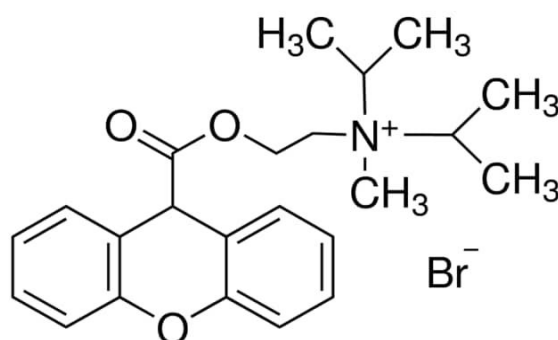
Atenolol, Bisoprolol and all selective beta-1 blocker are examples of drug discovery where the chemical of beta one blocker similar of adrenaline where benzene ring present, distance between benzene and amine but longer and amine group present which carries beta directing group (isopropyl), from the previous we resulted the drug targeting are important for drug discovery, where we able to change some of groups, which may act on the same receptor or block these receptor and the others

(isoprenaline and propranolol, atenolol and bisoprolol).

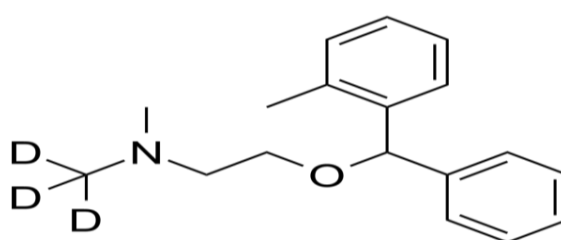
The anticholinergic drugs which block the muscarinic and nicotinic receptors are ipratropium bromide, propantheline bromide, orphenadrine citrate and biperiden, hexamethonium, decamethonium and succinyl choline.



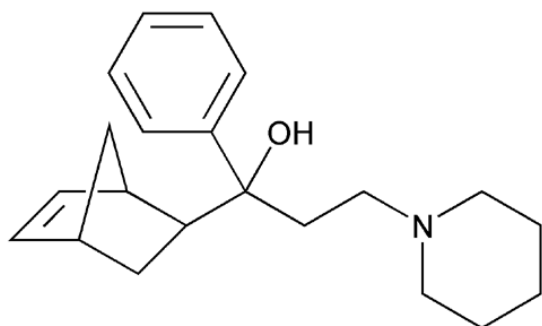
(12)



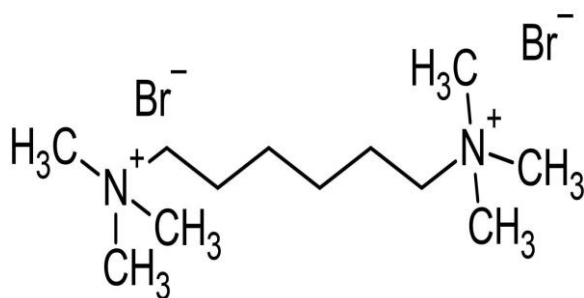
(13)



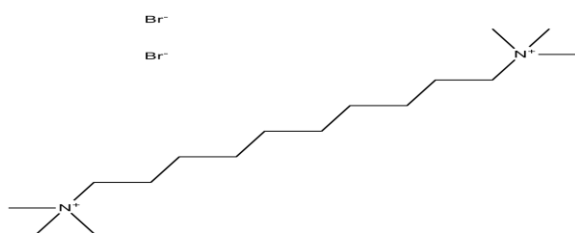
(14)



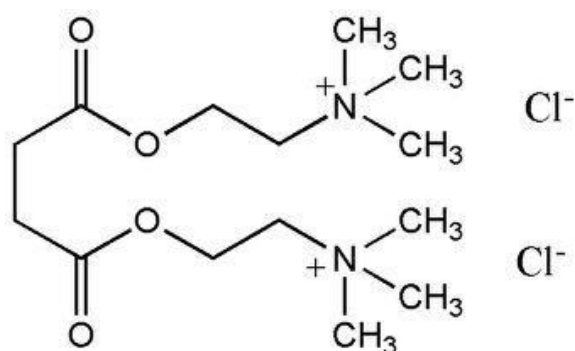
(15)



(16)



(17)



(18)

The previous compounds are derived from acetylcholine but antagonize the action of it. Ipratropium compound is derived from atropine which antagonize Ach on muscarinic receptor

via study of its structure it contains the acetate group and amine group attached by distance like Ach, when introduce of isopropyl group on nitrogen of atropine resulted ipratropium which antagonize Ach and produce bronchodilatation so used in bronchial asthma.

Propantheline bromide contains the features of chemical structures of Ach and used in treatment of gastritis, hypermotility of bladder, spasm (anticholinergic).

Orphenadrine citrate contains chemical parts like Ach which are used as Anti histaminic and central muscle relaxants and symptomatic treatment of parkinsonism.

Biperiden, it likes chemical structure of Ach, anti cholinergic used in treatment of parkinsonism, all the previous compounds act on muscarinic receptor but antagonize the action of Ach.

Hexamethonium, decamethonium and succinyl choline are similar in chemical structure of Ach which antagonizes action of Ach on neuromuscular junction and nicotinic receptors.

3. Conclusion

This article provides valuable insights into the principles of drug targeting and their application in drug discovery. It highlights how the chemical structures of key endogenous compounds like adrenaline, noradrenaline, and acetylcholine can serve as starting points for the development of various classes of therapeutic agents.

The article demonstrates how subtle modifications to the core chemical structures, such as the introduction of beta-directing groups or changes to the acetate moiety, can transform these endogenous compounds into antagonists that selectively target specific receptor subtypes. This targeted approach to drug design has been instrumental in the discovery of important drug classes like alpha blockers, beta blockers, and anticholinergic agents.

The detailed comparisons between the structures of lead compounds like adrenaline, propranolol, and ipratropium provide clear examples of how structural insights can guide the rational design of new drug candidates. This structure-activity relationship analysis is a fundamental aspect of modern drug discovery.

Overall, this article effectively illustrates the power of drug targeting strategies in the identification and development of novel pharmacotherapies. By leveraging our

understanding of endogenous signaling pathways and their associated receptor systems, medicinal chemists can systematically explore chemical space to uncover new drug candidates with improved selectivity and therapeutic potential.

References

- AA El-Helby, MK Ibrahim, AA Abdel-Rahman, RRA Ayyad, MA Menshaw, ... (n.d.). Synthesis, molecular modeling and anticonvulsant activity of benzoxazole derivatives. *Al-Azhar J Pharm Sci.*, 40, 252-70.
- AA Elhelby, RR Ayyad, MF Zayed. (2011). Synthesis and biological evaluation of some novel quinoxaline derivatives as anticonvulsant agents. *Arzneimittelforschung*, 61(07), 379-381.
- AAM Abdel-Aziz, AS El-Azab, AM Alanazi, YA Asiri, IA Al-Suwaidan, ... (2016). Synthesis and potential antitumor activity of 7-(4-substituted piperazin-1-yl)-4-oxoquinolines based on ciprofloxacin and norfloxacin scaffolds: in silico studies. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*, 31(5), 796-809.
- AGA El-Helby, H Sakr, RR Ayyad, HA Mahdy, MM Khalifa, A Belal, ... (2020). Design, synthesis, molecular modeling, in vivo studies and anticancer activity evaluation of new phthalazine derivatives as potential DNA intercalators and topoisomerase II ... *Bioorganic chemistry*, 103, 104233.
- AGA El-Helby, RR Ayyad, HM Sakr, AS Abdelrahman, K El-Adl, FS Sherbiny, ... (2017). Design, synthesis, molecular modeling and biological evaluation of novel 2, 3-dihydrophthalazine-1, 4-dione derivatives as potential anticonvulsant agents. *Journal of Molecular Structure*, 1130, 333-351.
- AGA El-Helby, RRA Ayyad, H Sakr, K El-Adl, MM Ali, F Khedr. (2017). Design, synthesis, molecular docking, and anticancer activity of phthalazine derivatives as VEGFR-2 inhibitors. *Archiv der Pharmazie*, 350(12), 1700240.
- AGA El-Helby, RRA Ayyad, K El-Adl, H Elkady. (2019). Phthalazine-1, 4-dione derivatives as non-competitive AMPA receptor antagonists: design, synthesis, anticonvulsant evaluation, ADMET profile and molecular docking. *Molecular diversity*, 23, 283-298.
- AGA El-Helby, RRA Ayyad, MF Zayed, HS Abulkhair, H Elkady, K El-Adl. (2019). Design, synthesis, in silico ADMET profile and GABA-A docking of novel phthalazines as potent anticonvulsants. *Archiv Der Pharmazie*, 352(5), 1800387.
- Al Ward, M. M. S., Abdallah, A. E., Zayed, M. F., Ayyad, R. R., & El-Zahabi, M. A. (2024). Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of newly triazolo-quinoxaline based potential immunomodulatory anticancer molecules. *Journal of Molecular Structure*, 1298, 137041.
- Al Ward, M., Abdallah, A. E., Zayed, M., Ayyad, R., & El-Zahabi, M. (2023). New immunomodulatory anticancer quinazolinone based thalidomide analogs: Design, synthesis and biological evaluation.
- Al-Warhi, T., Almahli, H., Maklad, R. M., Elsayed, Z. M., El Hassab, M. A., Alotaibi, O. J., ... & El-Ashrey, M. K. (2023). 1-Benzyl-5-bromo-3-hydrazonoindolin-2-ones as novel anticancer agents: Synthesis, biological evaluation and molecular modeling insights. *Molecules*, 28(7), 3203.
- AM Alaa, AS El-Azab, LA Abou-Zeid, KEH ElTahir, NI Abdel-Aziz, ... (2016). Synthesis, anti-inflammatory, analgesic and COX-1/2 inhibition activities of anilides based on 5, 5-diphenylimidazolidine-2, 4-dione scaffold: molecular docking studies. *European journal of medicinal chemistry*, 115, 121-131.
- AM Alaa, LA Abou-Zeid, KEH ElTahir, RR Ayyad, AA Magda, AS El-Azab. (2016). Synthesis, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, COX-1/2 inhibitory activities and molecular docking studies of substituted 2-mercapto-4 (3H)-quinazolinones. *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 121, 410-421.
- AM Alanazi, AAM Abdel-Aziz, TZ Shawer, RR Ayyad, AM Al-Obaid, ... (2016). Synthesis, antitumor and antimicrobial activity of some new 6-methyl-3-phenyl-4(3H)-quinazolinone analogues: in silico studies. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*, 31(5), 721-735.
- AS El-Azab, AM Alaa, RR Ayyad, M Ceruso, CT Supuran. (2016). Inhibition of carbonic anhydrase isoforms I, II, IV, VII and XII with carboxylates and sulfonamides incorporating phthalimide/phthalic

- anhydride scaffolds. *Bioorganic & medicinal chemistry*, 24(1), 20-25.
- Ayyad, R. (2012). Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Novel Iodophthalazinedione Derivatives as Anticonvulsant Agents. *Al-Azhar Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 45(1), 1-13.
- Ayyad, R. (2014). Synthesis and Anticonvulsant Activity of 6-Iodo Phthalazinedione Derivatives. *Al-Azhar Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 50(2), 43-54.
- Ayyad, R. A., Sakr, H. M., & El-Gamal, K. M. (2016). Design, Synthesis, Computer Modeling and Analgesic Activity of Some New Disubstituted Quinazolin-4 (3H)-ones. *Med. Chem*, 6(5), 299-305.
- Ayyad, R. A., Sakr, H., & El-Gamal, K. (2016). Synthesis, modeling and anticonvulsant activity of some phthalazinone derivatives. *American Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 6(1), 29-38.
- Ayyad, R. R., Mansour, A. M., Nejm, A. M., Hassan, Y. A. A., & Ayyad, A. R. (2024). Stereo Selectivity of Histaminic Receptors Play an Important Role of Anti-histaminic Activity. *Current Research in Medical Sciences*, 3(1), 10-17.
- Ayyad, R. R., Nejm, A. M., & Ayyad, A. R. (2023). The Activity of Some Antibiotics Depend on Stereochemistry of Them (Its Structure). *Journal of Progress in Engineering and Physical Science*, 2(2), 5-7.
- Ayyad, R. R., Nejm, A. M., & Ayyad, A. R. (2023). The Isomers of Some Drugs One Effective and the Other Is Toxic or Ineffective. *Current Research in Medical Sciences*, 2(2), 58-62.
- Ayyad, R. R., Nejm, A. M., Abdelaleem, Y. H., & Ayyad, A. R. (2023). Hydrophobicity, Transport and Target Sites of Action Are Important for the Activity of Many Drugs. *Current Research in Medical Sciences*, 2(3), 15-19.
- Ayyad, R. R., Nejm, A. M., Elbahat, E. T., Elnagar, A. M., Aljazar, M. A., Al-Hassan, Y. A., & Ayyad, A. R. (2023). The Configuration of Some Hormonal Compounds Play an Important Role in Pharmacological Action (Agonist, Antagonist, Active, More Active). *Journal of Progress in Engineering and Physical Science*, 2(3), 23-29.
- Ayyad, R. R., Nejm, A. M., Hassan, Y. A. A., & Ayyad, A. R. (2023). Mechanism of Action of Many Drugs Depend on Enzyme Inhibition. *Current Research in Medical Sciences*, 2(4), 1-9.
- Ayyad, R. R., Nejm, A. M., Hassan, Y. A. A., & Ayyad, A. R. (2023). The Lipid Solubility of Most Drugs Play Important Role of Its Pharmacological Action and Duration of Action. *Journal of Progress in Engineering and Physical Science*, 2(4), 1-6.
- Ayyad, R. R., Sakr, H. M., El-Gamal, K. M., Eissa, I. H., HA, A., Tita, A. S., ... & Mansour, A. M. (2017). Anti-Inflammatory, Proton Pump Inhibitor and Synthesis of Some New Benzimidazole Derivatives. *Der Chemica Sinica*, 8(1), 184-97.
- Ayyad, R., Sakr, H., & Gaafer, A. (2022). Design and Synthesis of New Compounds Derived from Phenyl Hydrazine and Different Aldehydes as Anticancer Agents. *International Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 12(1), 28-39.
- Eldehna, W. M., Abo-Ashour, M. F., Al-Warhi, T., Al-Rashood, S. T., Alharbi, A., Ayyad, R. R., ... & El-Haggag, R. (2021). Development of 2-oxindolin-3-ylidene-indole-3-carbohydrazide derivatives as novel apoptotic and anti-proliferative agents towards colorectal cancer cells. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*, 36(1), 320-329.
- Eldehna, W. M., Salem, R., Elsayed, Z. M., Al-Warhi, T., Knany, H. R., Ayyad, R. R., ... & El-Haggag, R. (2021). Development of novel benzofuran-isatin conjugates as potential antiproliferative agents with apoptosis inducing mechanism in Colon cancer. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*, 36(1), 1423-1434.
- El-Helby, A. G. A., Ayyad, R. R., El-Adl, K., & Elwan, A. (2017). Quinoxalin-2 (1 H)-one derived AMPA-receptor antagonists: Design, synthesis, molecular docking and anticonvulsant activity. *Medicinal Chemistry Research*, 26, 2967-2984.
- El-Helby, A. G. A., Ayyad, R. R., El-Adl, K., Sakr, H., Abd-Elrahman, A. A., Eissa, I. H., & Elwan, A. (2016). Design, molecular docking and synthesis of some novel 4-acetyl-1-substituted-3, 4-dihydroquinoxalin-2 (1 H)-one derivatives for anticonvulsant evaluation as AMPA-receptor antagonists. *Medicinal*

- Chemistry Research*, 25, 3030-3046.
- El-Helby, A. G. A., Sakr, H., Ayyad, R. R., El-Adl, K., Ali, M. M., & Khedr, F. (2018). Design, synthesis, in vitro anti-cancer activity, ADMET profile and molecular docking of novel triazolo [3, 4-a] phthalazine derivatives targeting VEGFR-2 enzyme. *Anti-Cancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry (Formerly Current Medicinal Chemistry-Anti-Cancer Agents)*, 18(8), 1184-1196.
- El-Helby, A. G. A., Sakr, H., Ayyad, R. R., El-Adl, K., Ali, M. M., & Khedr, F. (2018). Design, synthesis, in vitro anti-cancer activity, ADMET profile and molecular docking of novel triazolo [3, 4-a] phthalazine derivatives targeting VEGFR-2 enzyme. *Anti-Cancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry (Formerly Current Medicinal Chemistry-Anti-Cancer Agents)*, 18(8), 1184-1196.
- IA Al-Suwaidan, AAM Abdel-Aziz, TZ Shawer, RR Ayyad, AM Alanazi, ... (2016). Synthesis, antitumor activity and molecular docking study of some novel 3-benzyl-4 (3H) quinazolinone analogues. *Journal of enzyme inhibition and medicinal chemistry*, 31(1), 78-89.
- Ibrahim, A., Sakr, H. M., Ayyad, R. R., & Khalifa, M. M. (2022). Design, synthesis, in-vivo anti-diabetic activity, in-vitro α -glucosidase inhibitory activity and molecular docking studies of some quinazolinone derivatives. *ChemistrySelect*, 7(14), e202104590.
- Ibrahim, M. K., El-Helby, A. E. A., Ghaty, A. H., Biomy, A. H., Abd-El Rahman, A. A., Ayyad, R. R., & Menshawy, M. A. (2009). Modeling, Synthesis and Antihyperglycemic Activity of Novel Quinazolinones Containing Sulfonylurea. *J. Biol. Pharm. Sci*, 7(1).
- IH Eissa, AM Metwaly, A Belal, ABM Mehany, RR Ayyad, K El-Adl, ... (2019). Discovery and antiproliferative evaluation of new quinoxalines as potential DNA intercalators and topoisomerase II inhibitors. *Archiv der Pharmazie*, 352(11), 1900123.
- K El-Adl, AGA El-Helby, H Sakr, RR Ayyad, HA Mahdy, M Nasser, ... (2021). Design, synthesis, molecular docking, anticancer evaluations, and in silico pharmacokinetic studies of novel 5-[(4-chloro/2, 4-dichloro) benzylidene] thiazolidine-2, 4-dione ... *Archiv der Pharmazie*, 354(2), 2000279.
- K El-Adl, AGA El-Helby, RR Ayyad, HA Mahdy, MM Khalifa, HA Elnagar, ... (2021). Design, synthesis, and anti-proliferative evaluation of new quinazolin-4 (3H)-ones as potential VEGFR-2 inhibitors. *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry*, 29, 115872.
- Khalifa, M. M., Sakr, H. M., Ibrahim, A., Mansour, A. M., & Ayyad, R. R. (2022). Design and synthesis of new benzylidene-quinazolinone hybrids as potential anti-diabetic agents: In vitro α -glucosidase inhibition, and docking studies. *Journal of Molecular Structure*, 1250, 131768.
- MA Mohamed, RR Ayyad, TZ Shawer, AM Alaa, AS El-Azab. (2016). Synthesis and antitumor evaluation of trimethoxyanilides based on 4 (3H)-quinazolinone scaffolds. *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 112, 106-113.
- Mahdy, H., & Shaat, M. (2022). RECENT ADVANCES IN DRUGS TARGETING PROTEIN KINASES FOR CANCER THERAPY. *Al-Azhar Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 66(2), 56-86.
- MK Ibrahim, AA Abd-Elrahman, RRA Ayyad, K El-Adl, AM Mansour, ... (2013). Design and synthesis of some novel 2-(3-methyl-2-oxoquinoxalin-1 (2H)-yl)-N-(4-(substituted) phenyl) acetamide derivatives for biological evaluation as anticonvulsant agents. *Bulletin of Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University*, 51(1), 101-111.
- Nassar, E., El-Badry, Y. A., Eltoukhy, A. M. M., & Ayyad, R. R. (2016). Synthesis and antiproliferative activity of 1-(4-(1H-Indol-3-Yl)-6-(4-Methoxyphenyl) Pyrimidin-2-yl) hydrazine and its pyrazolo pyrimidine derivatives. *Med chem (Los Angeles)*, 6, 224-233.
- Osman, I. A., Ayyad, R. R., & Mahdy, H. A. (2022). New pyrimidine-5-carbonitrile derivatives as EGFR inhibitors with anticancer and apoptotic activities: design, molecular modeling and synthesis. *New Journal of Chemistry*, 46(24), 11812-11827.
- RR Ayyad, AM Nejm, YAA Hassan, AR Ayyad. (2024). Repair of Destroyed Liver Cells or Protection Liver Cells from Destruction by Silymarin and Minor Concentration of

- Vitamin E and Vitamin K. *Journal of Progress in Engineering and Physical Science*, 3(1), 5-8.
- Sakr, H. M., Ayyad, R. R., Mahmoud, K., Mansour, A. M., & Ahmed, A. G. (2021). Design, Synthesis of Analgesics and Anticancer of Some New Derivatives of Benzimidazole. *International Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 11(3), 144-169.
- Sakr, H., Ayyad, R. R., El-Helby, A. A., Khalifa, M. M., & Mahdy, H. A. (2021). Discovery of novel triazolophthalazine derivatives as DNA intercalators and topoisomerase II inhibitors. *Archiv der Pharmazie*, 354(6), 2000456.
- Sakr, H., Otify, I., Ayyad, R. R., & Elwan, A. (2023). VEGFER-2 INHIBITORS AND QUINAZOLINE-BASED ANTICANCER AGENTS. *Al-Azhar Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 68(2), 111-129.
- Salem, M. M., Ayyad, R., & Sakr, H. (2022). Design and Synthesis of Some New Oxadiazole Derivatives as Anticancer Agents. *International Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 12(02), 64-74.
- T Al-Warhi, AM El Kerdawy, N Aljaeed, OE Ismael, RR Ayyad, ... (2020). Synthesis, biological evaluation and in silico studies of certain oxindole-indole conjugates as anticancer CDK inhibitors. *Molecules*, 25(9), 2031.
- WM Eldehna, SM Abou-Seri, AM El Kerdawy, RR Ayyad, AM Hamdy, ... (2016). Increasing the binding affinity of VEGFR-2 inhibitors by extending their hydrophobic interaction with the active site: Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of 1... *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 113, 50-62.
- Zayed, M. F., & Ayyad, R. R. (2012). Some novel anticonvulsant agents derived from phthalazinedione. *Arzneimittelforschung*, 62(11), 532-536.