

P002 Monoamine oxidase A and amine metabolism

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Intestinal monoamine oxidase A (MAO A) metabolises most of ingested amines before they reach the bloodstream. When inhibitors of MAO A are ingested, this protection is compromised resulting in the “cheese effect” where blood pressure regulation fails. The novel antibacterial oxazolidinone compounds have been designed to minimise this effect making them safe for use. However, they and other drugs also inhibit MAO A in nervous tissue and can result in “serotonin syndrome” with symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, mental confusion, profuse sweating and hypertension. Examples of the influence of oxazolidinones, imidazolines, and methylene blue on the activity of MAO A are presented.