

# **Antimicrobial drugs I.**

Principles of the antibacterial chemotherapy  
Modes of action and interactions

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# History

## Paul Ehrlich

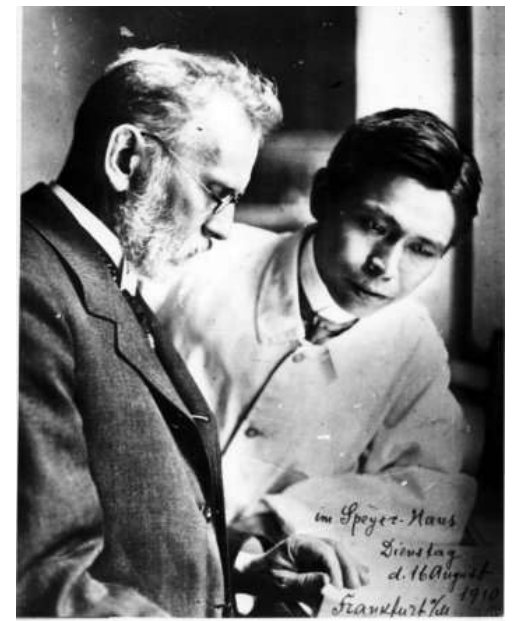
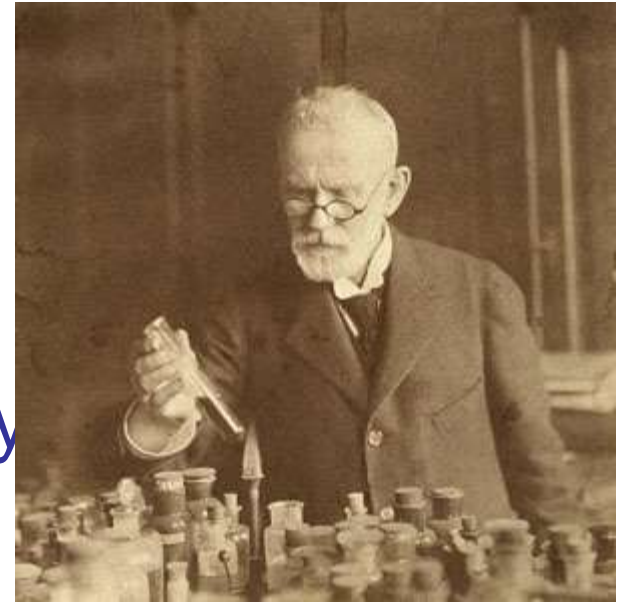
### “Magic Bullet”

- Chemicals with selective toxicity
- together with Sahachiro Hata have arsenic and aniline dyes derivatives sought 606 derivative, Salvarsan was effective against syphilis

– **ORIGIN:** Selective Stains

**DRUG:** Arsphenamine (1910)

“606” Salvarsan



# History



## Gerhard Domagk

- ✓ Drugs are changed in the body

**ORIGIN:** Prontosil  
(Only active *in vivo*)

**DRUG:** Sulfanilamide (1935)

**NOBEL:** 1939

# History

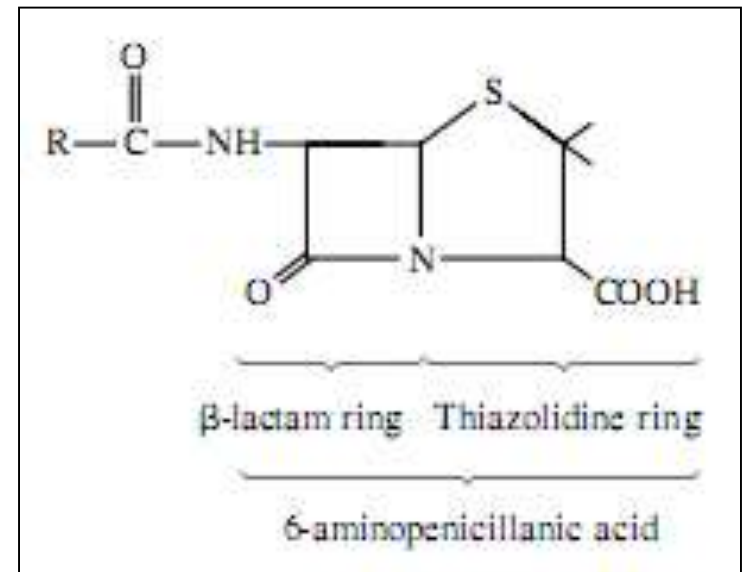
## Alexander Fleming

- Microbes make antibiotics

**ORIGIN:** moldy culture plate

**DRUG:** Penicillin (1928)

**NOBEL:** 1945



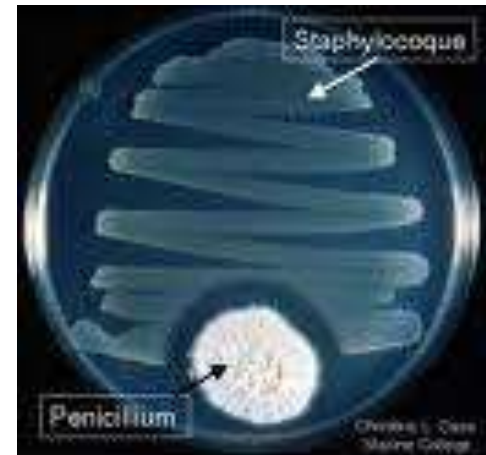
# Penicillin

- 1945 Nobel-price:

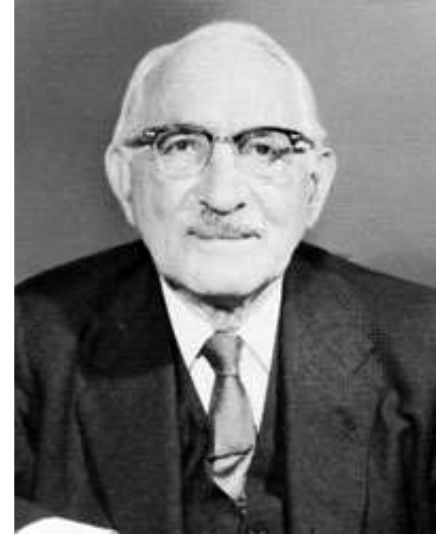
Fleming

Florey

Chain



# History



## Selman Abraham Waksman

- Soil Streptomyces make antibiotics
- comes up with definition of antibiotic
- Streptomycin the first antituberculous

**ORIGIN:** Penicillin development

**DRUG:** Streptomycin (1943)

**NOBEL:** 1952

# Antimicrobial effect

- **Extracorporal**
  - Desinfection
  - Sterilization
- **Intracorporal**
  - Chemotherapeutic agents
  - Antibiotica

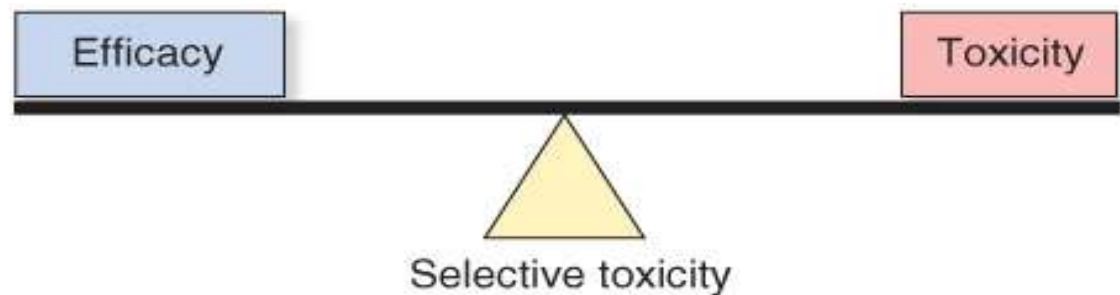
# Antimicrobial drugs:

**Chemotherapeutic agent-** drug  
synthesised chemically

**Antibiotic** – natural agent synthesised by  
a bacterial or fungal strain

# Selective Toxicity

- Cause greater harm to microorganisms than to host
- **Chemotherapeutic index**= lowest dose toxic to patient divided by dose typically used for therapy



$$\text{Chemotherapeutic index} = \frac{\text{Toxic dose}}{\text{Therapeutic dose}}$$

Chemotherapeutic index= :

$$Ki = \frac{\text{dosis tolerata maxima}}{\text{dosis curativa minima}}$$

The higher the index, the more effective  
chemotherapeutic agent (DTM/DCM)

## Antibiotics can be either

- **Broad Spectrum**
  - Kill a wide range of bacteria e.g. Penicillin
- **Narrow Spectrum**
  - Kill a specific type or group of bacteria e.g. Isoniazid



- **Bacteriostatic**, i.e. those that act primarily by arresting bacterial multiplication,
- **Bactericidal**, i.e. those which act primarily by killing bacteria

**EXAMPLES:**  
Chloramphenicol  
Erythromycin  
Clindamycin  
Sulfonamides  
Trimethoprim  
Tetracyclines

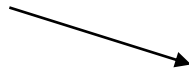
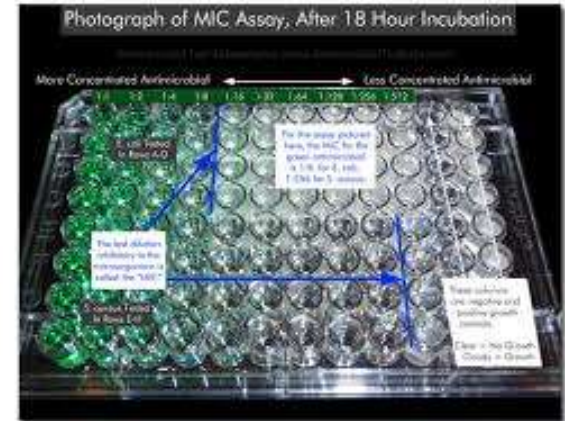
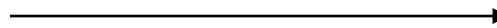


**EXAMPLES:**  
Aminoglycosides  
Beta-lactams  
Vancomycin  
Quinolones  
Rifampin  
Metronidazole



- **MIC (minimal inhibitory concentration)**  
 $\Rightarrow$  the lowest concentration (highest dilution)  
of the drug that has an inhibitory  
(bacteriostatic) effect.

- Tube dilution
- **Microdilution**
- Agardilution
- **E-test**



- **MBC (minimal bactericidal concentration)**  
 $\Rightarrow$  the lowest concentration (highest dilution)  
that has a killing (bactericidal) effect

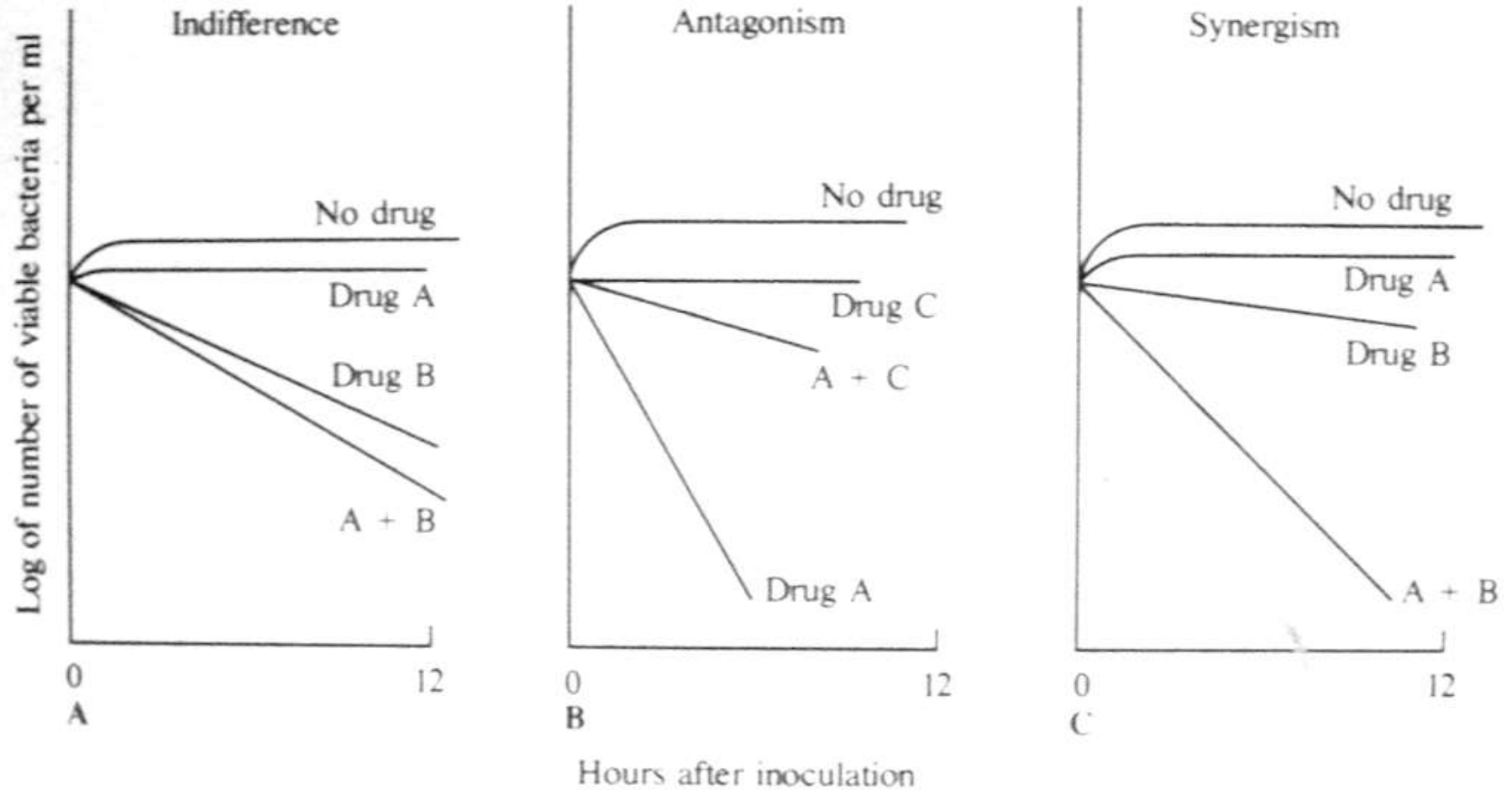
# The Ideal Drug\*

1. Selective toxicity: against target pathogen but not against host
  - **LD<sub>50</sub>** (high) vs. **MIC** and/or **MBC** (low)
2. Bactericidal vs. bacteriostatic
3. Favorable pharmacokinetics: reach target site in body with effective concentration
4. Spectrum of activity: broad vs. narrow
5. Lack of “side effects”
  - **Therapeutic index:** effective to toxic dose ratio
6. Little resistance development

\* **There is no perfect drug.**

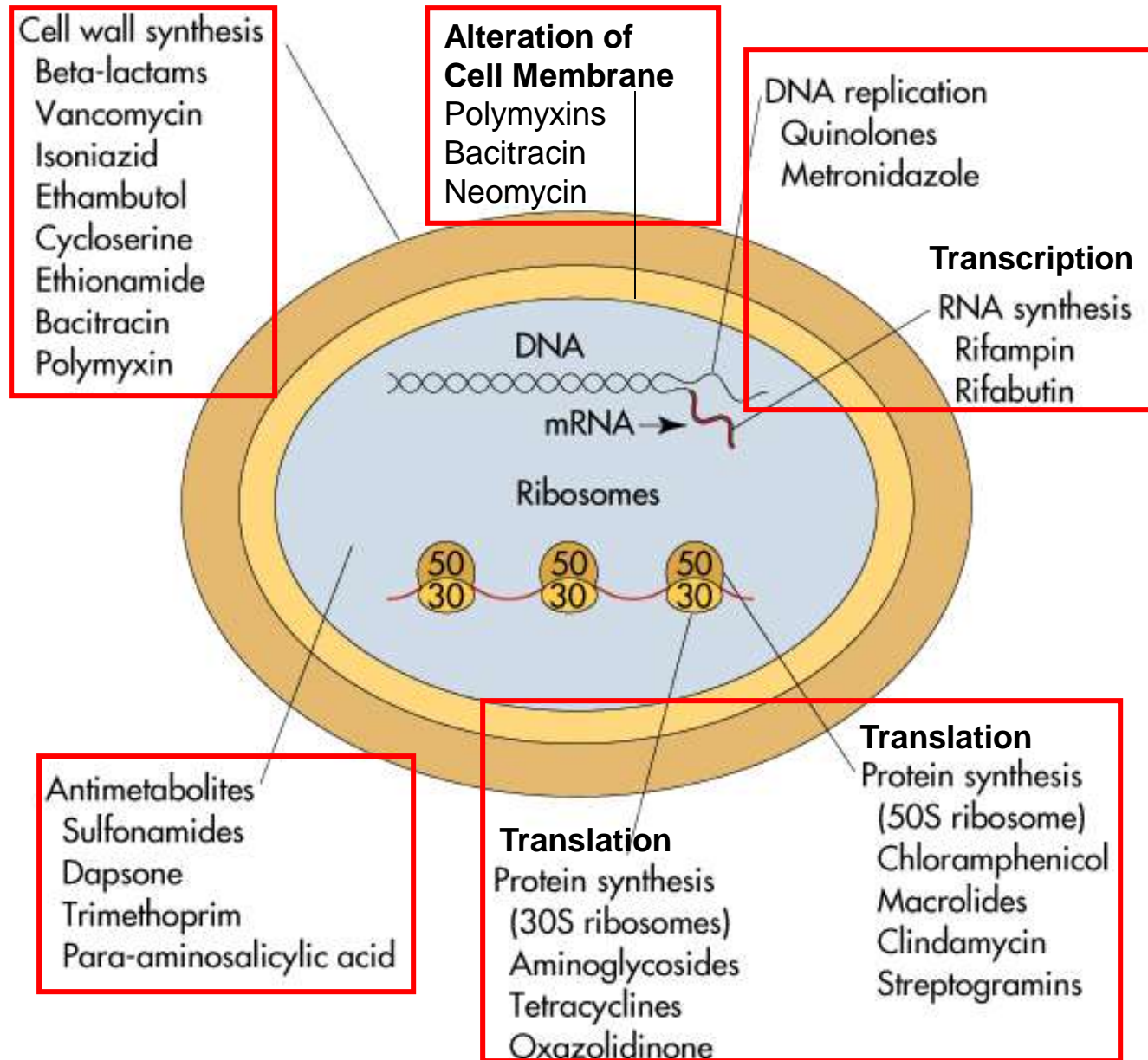
# Side effects of chemotherapy

- Allergic response
- Toxic effects
- Disbacteriosis
- Inhibition of immune system
- Embryotoxic action
- Formation of the drug resistance



**Types of combined actions of antimicrobial**

# Antibiotic Mechanisms of Action



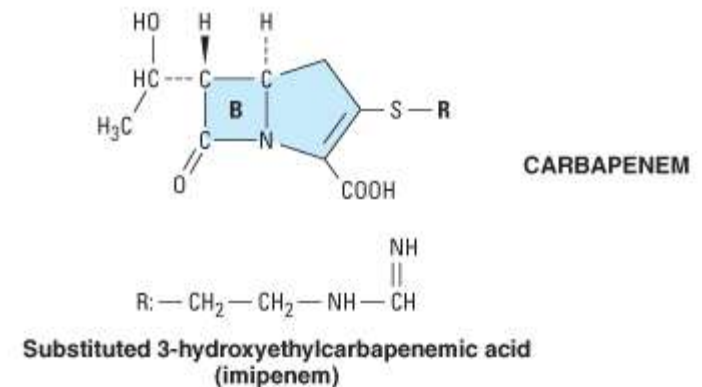
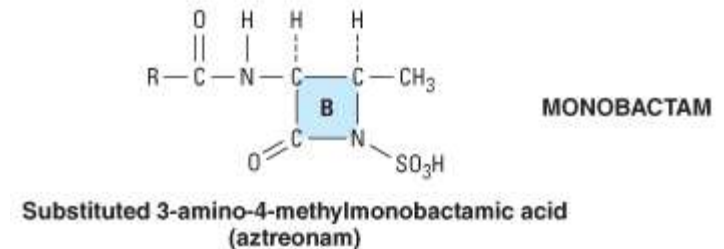
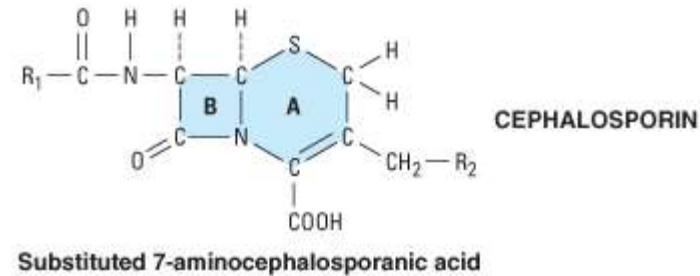
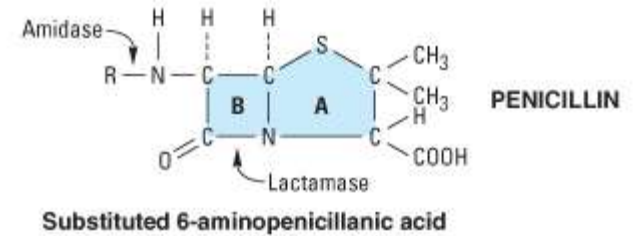
# Beta-lactam antibiotics

# BETA-LACTAM ANTIBIOTICS

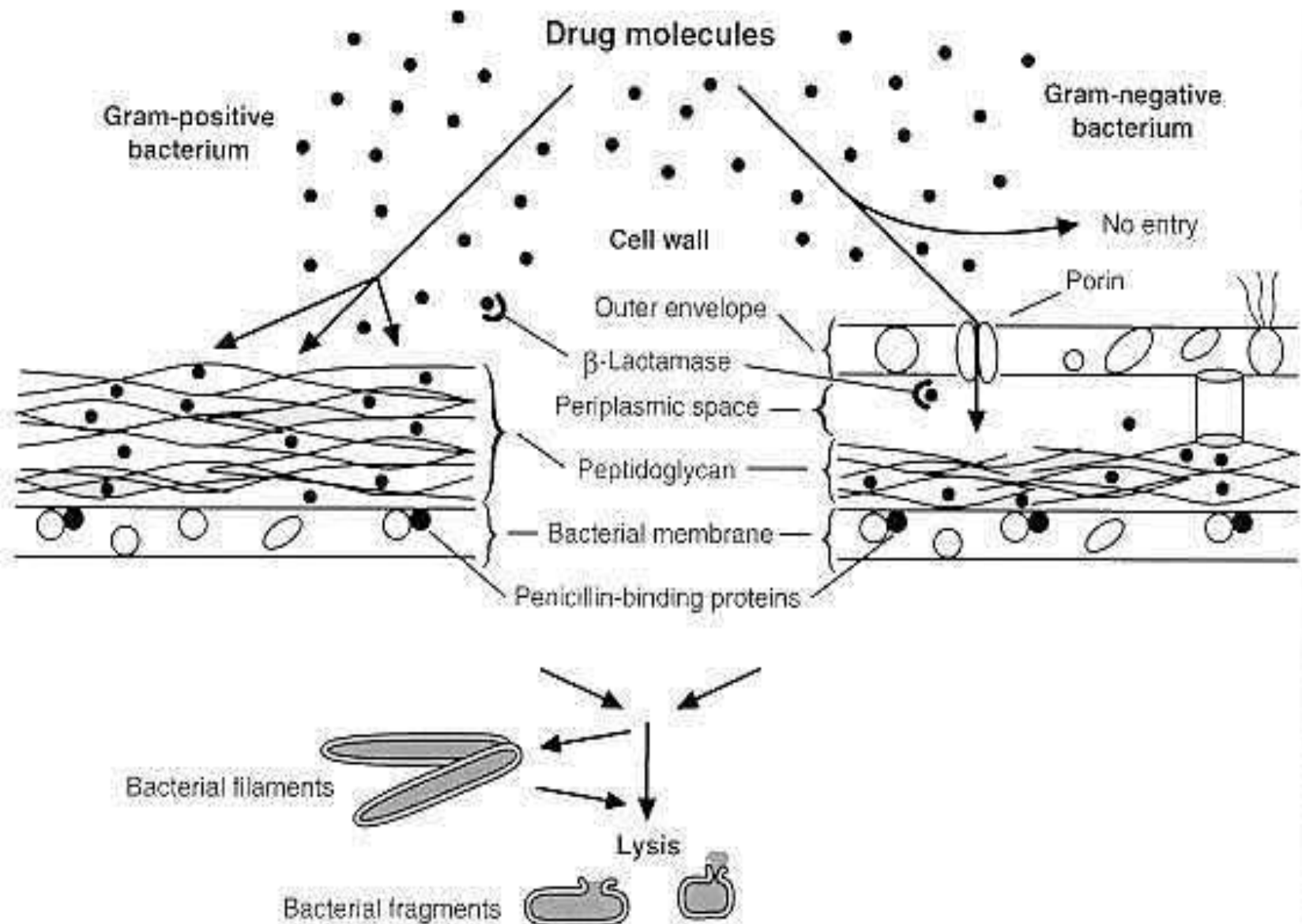
## (inhibitors of cell wall synthesis)

Their structure contains a beta-lactam ring.  
*The major subdivisions are:*

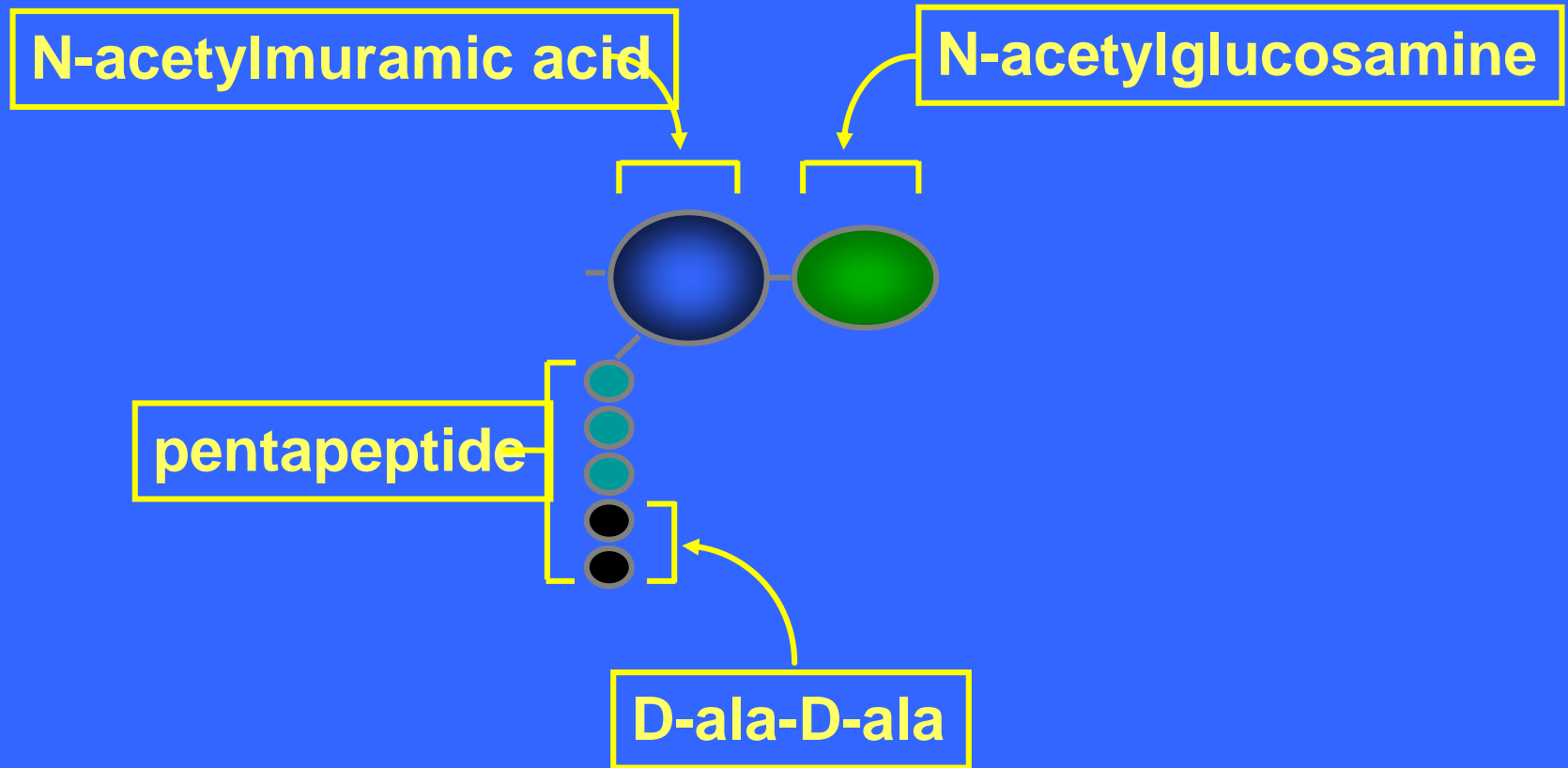
- (a) **penicillins** whose official names usually include or end in “cillin”
- (b) **cephalosporins** which are recognized by the inclusion of “cef” or “ceph” in their official names.
- (c) **carbapenems** (e.g. meropenem, imipenem)
- (d) **monobactams** (e.g. aztreonam)
- (e) **beta-lactamase inhibitors** (e.g. clavulanic acid, sulbactam).



# Beta-lactams effect on bacterial cell wall



# Subunits for cell wall construction



# Cell Wall Assembly

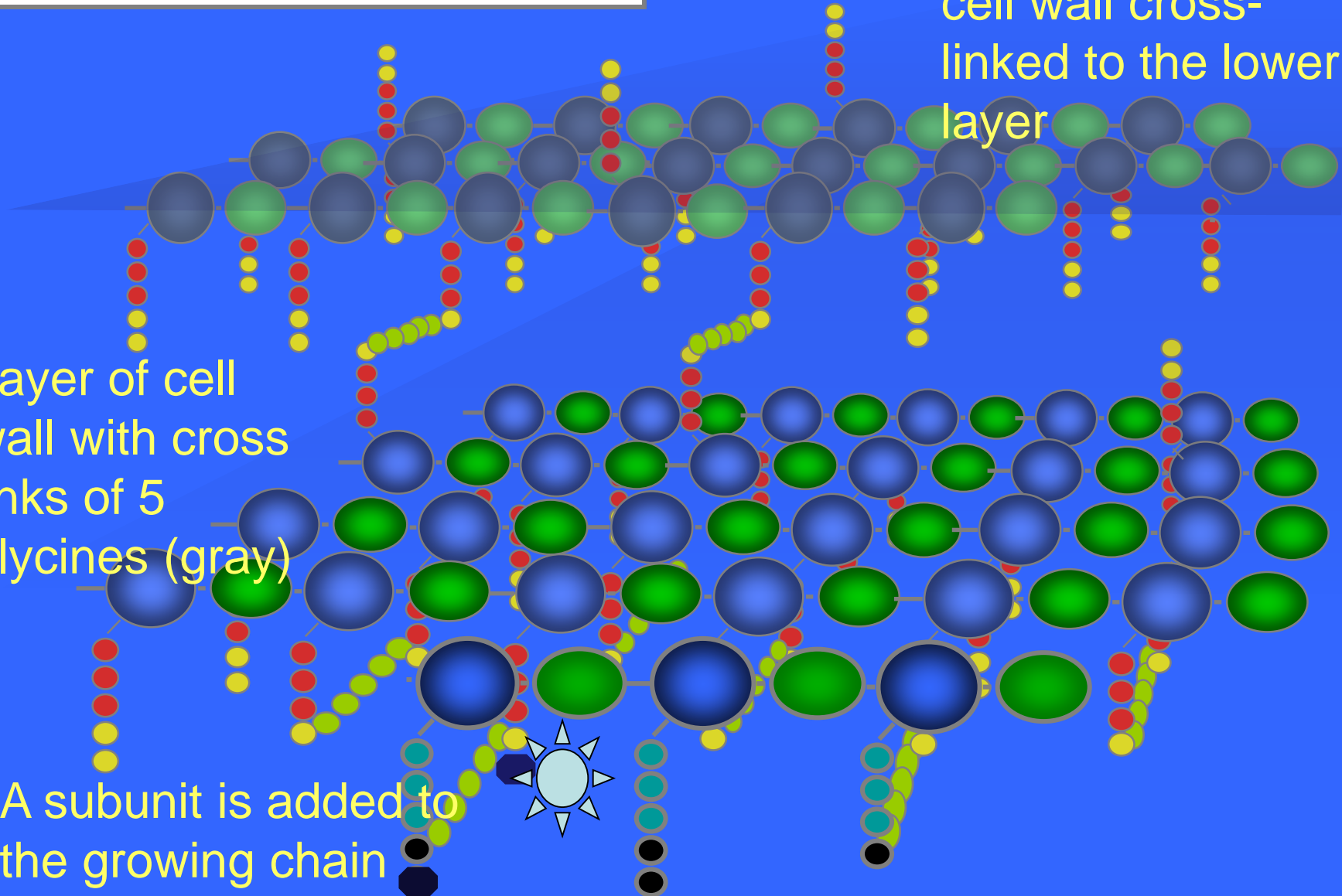
Second layer of cell wall cross-linked to the lower layer

Layer of cell wall with cross links of 5 glycines (gray)

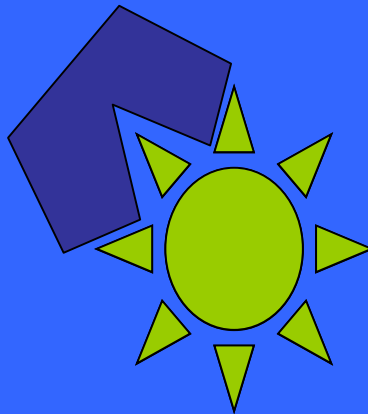
A subunit is added to the growing chain



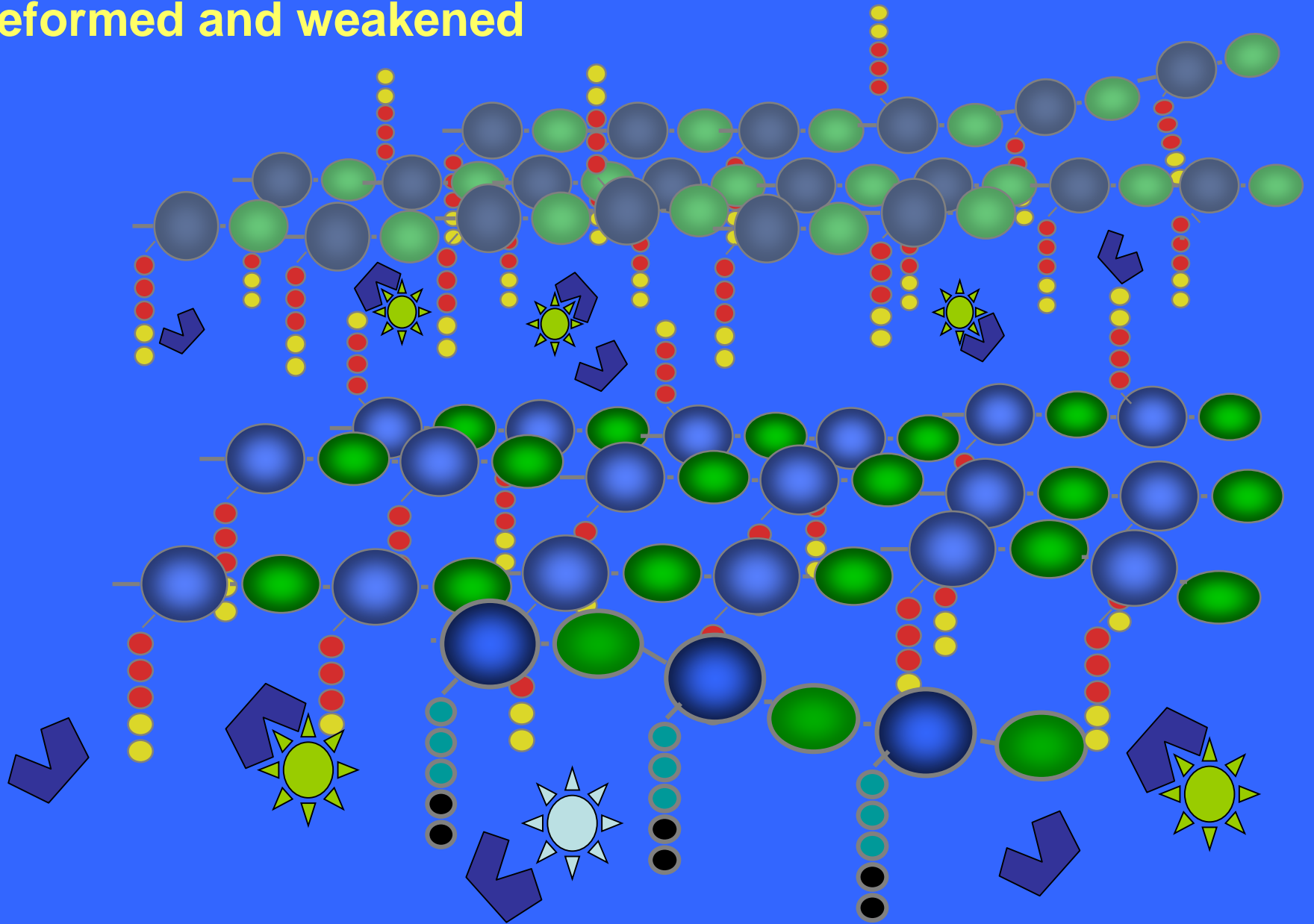
Transpeptidase (PBP) forms a 5-glycine bridge between peptid

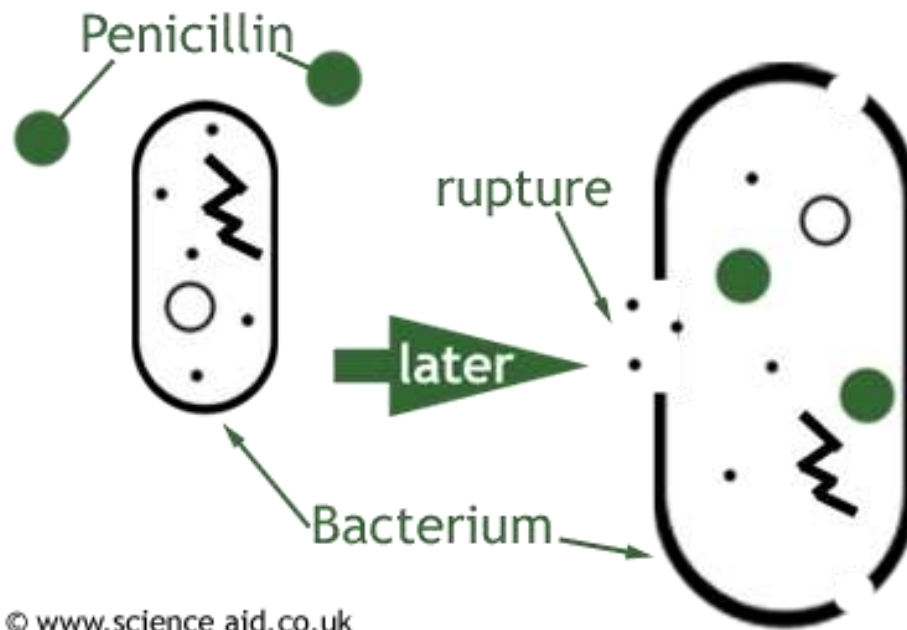


Transpeptidase, or PBP (orange sunburst)  
is bound by beta-lactam antibiotic (light blue)  
and its activity is inhibited (turns gray)

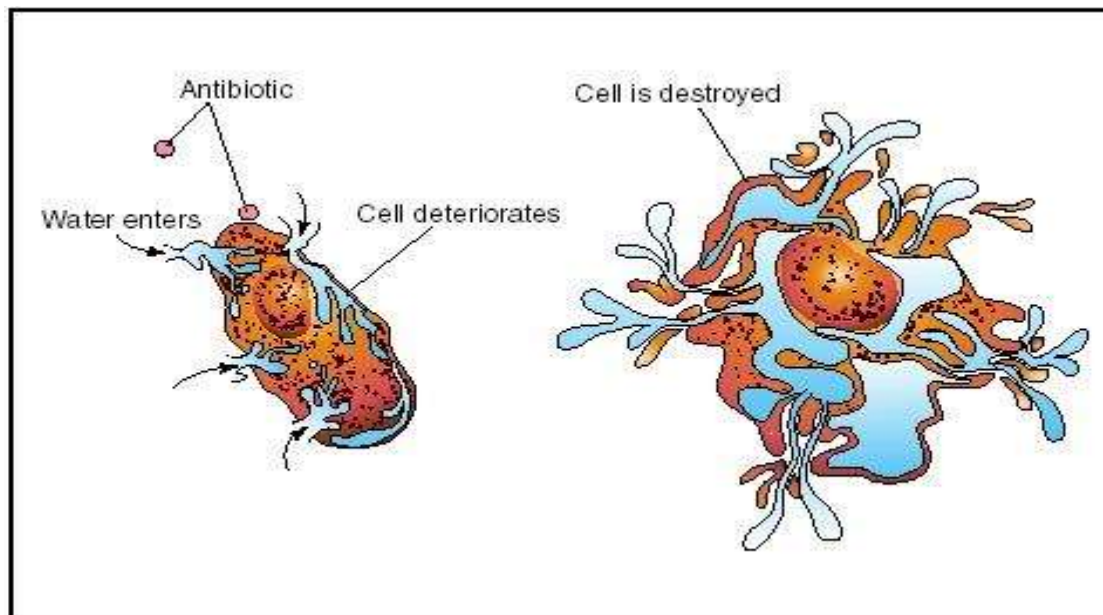


**5-glycine crosslinking bridges cannot form in the presence of a beta-lactam, and the cell wall is deformed and weakened**





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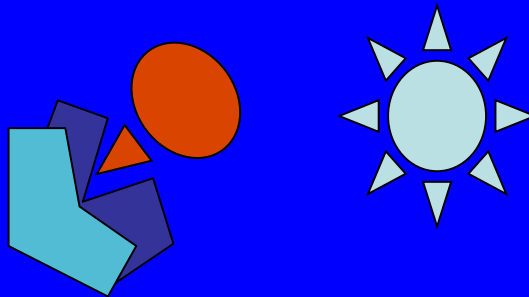
# Mechanisms of beta-lactam resistance

- Drug-modifying enzymes (beta-lactamases)
  - Gram-positives(e.g., *S. aureus*) excrete the enzyme
  - Gram-negative (e.g., *E. coli*) retain the enzyme in the periplasm
- Overexpression of cell wall synthetic enzymes
  - e.g., vancomycin-intermediate *S. aureus* (VISA)
- Alteration of the PBPs so antibiotic cannot bind
  - e.g., MRSA, *S. pneumoniae*, gonococcus
- Exclusion from the site of cell wall synthesis
  - Porin mutations in the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria only (e.g., *Ps. aeruginosa*)

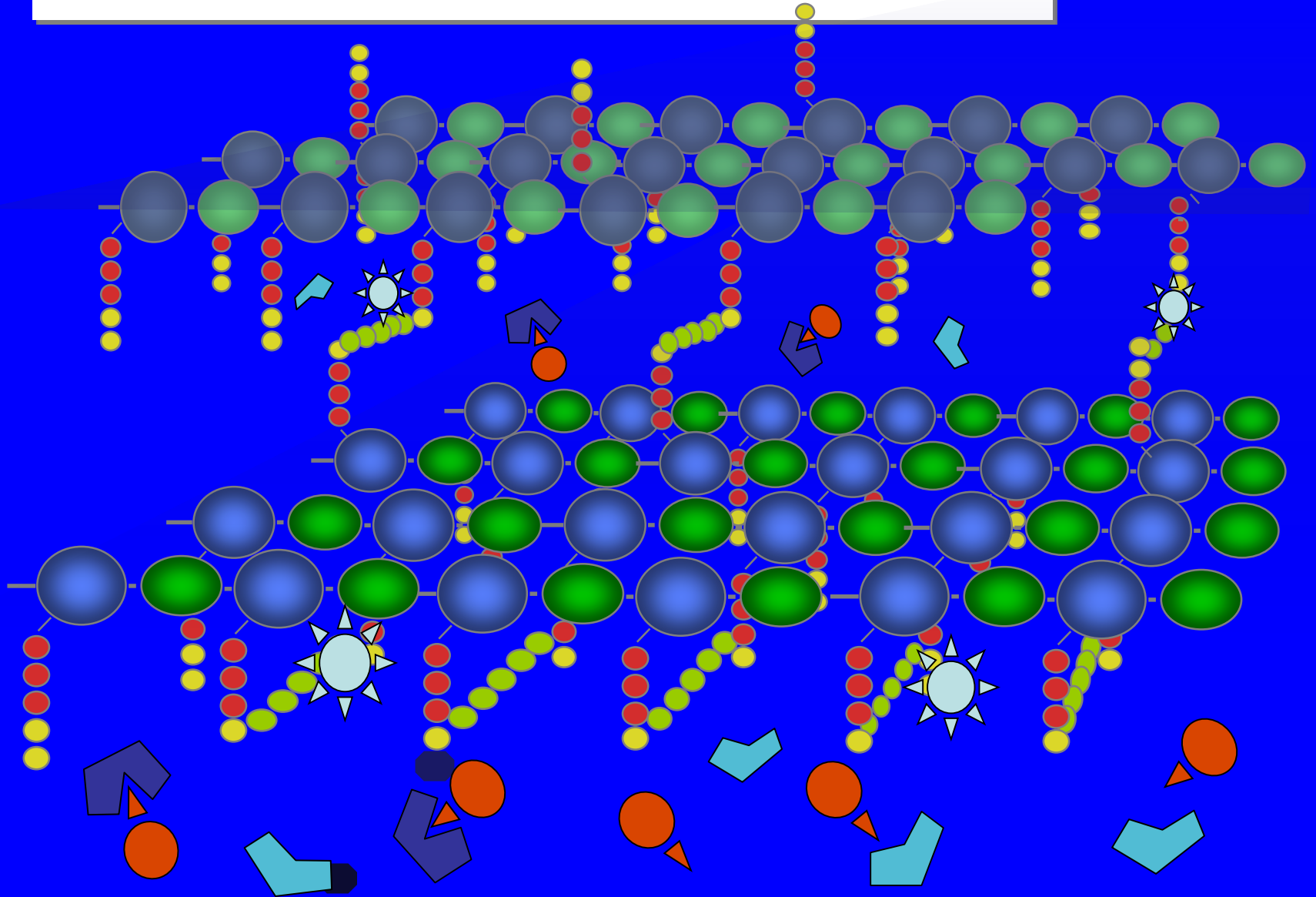
# Beta-lactamases

Beta-lactamases (dark orange)  
bind to the antibiotics (light blue)  
and cleave the beta-lactam ring.

The antibiotic is no longer able to  
inhibit the function of PBP  
(orange sunburst)



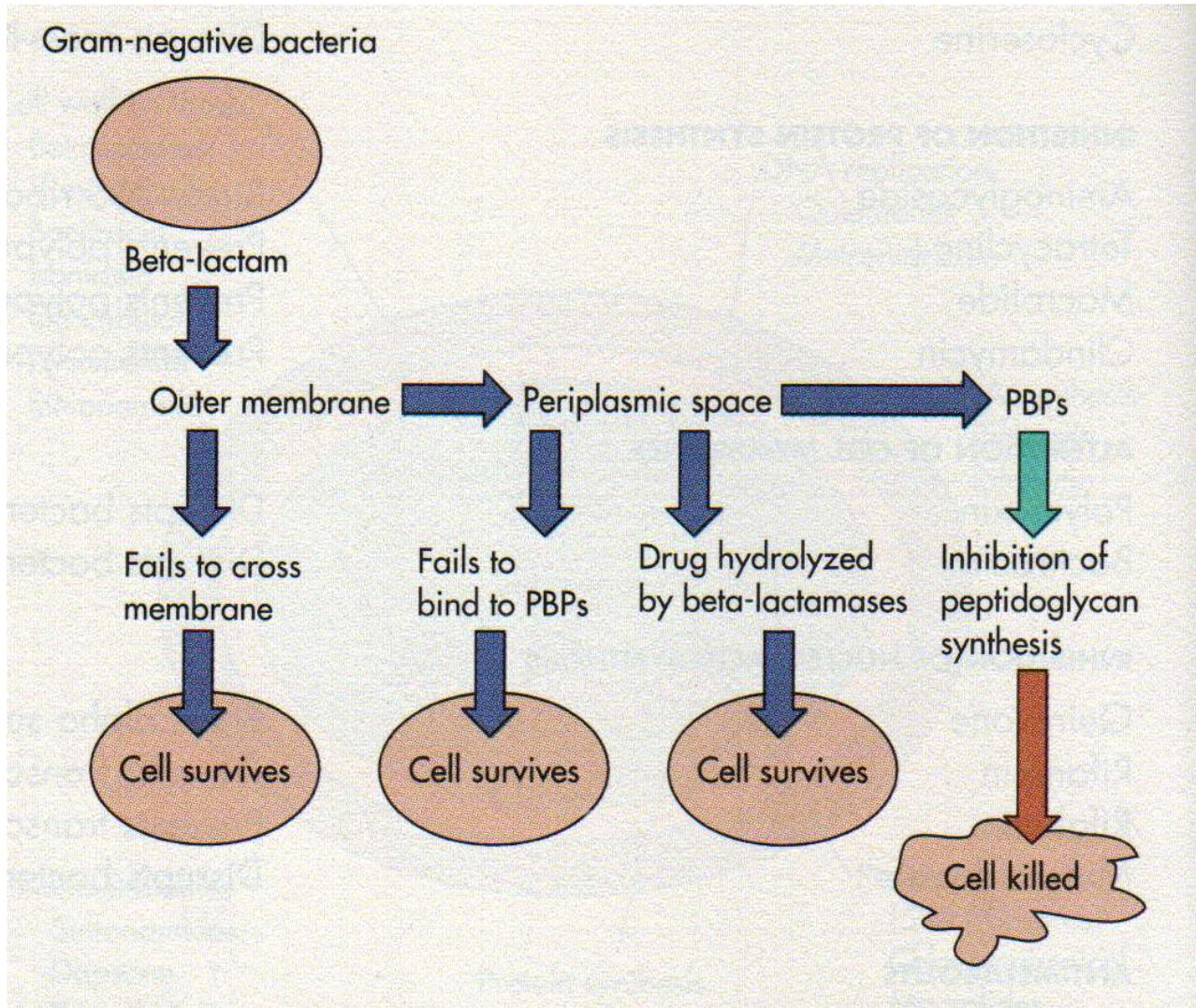
# Beta-lactamase activity



# Beta-lactamase inhibitors

- **Bind the beta-lactam ring irreversible**
- Clavulanic acid
  - Augmentin (amoxycillin/clavulanic acid)
- Sulbactam
  - Unasyn (ampicillin/sulbactam)
- Tazobactam
  - Tazocin (piperacillin/tazobactam)

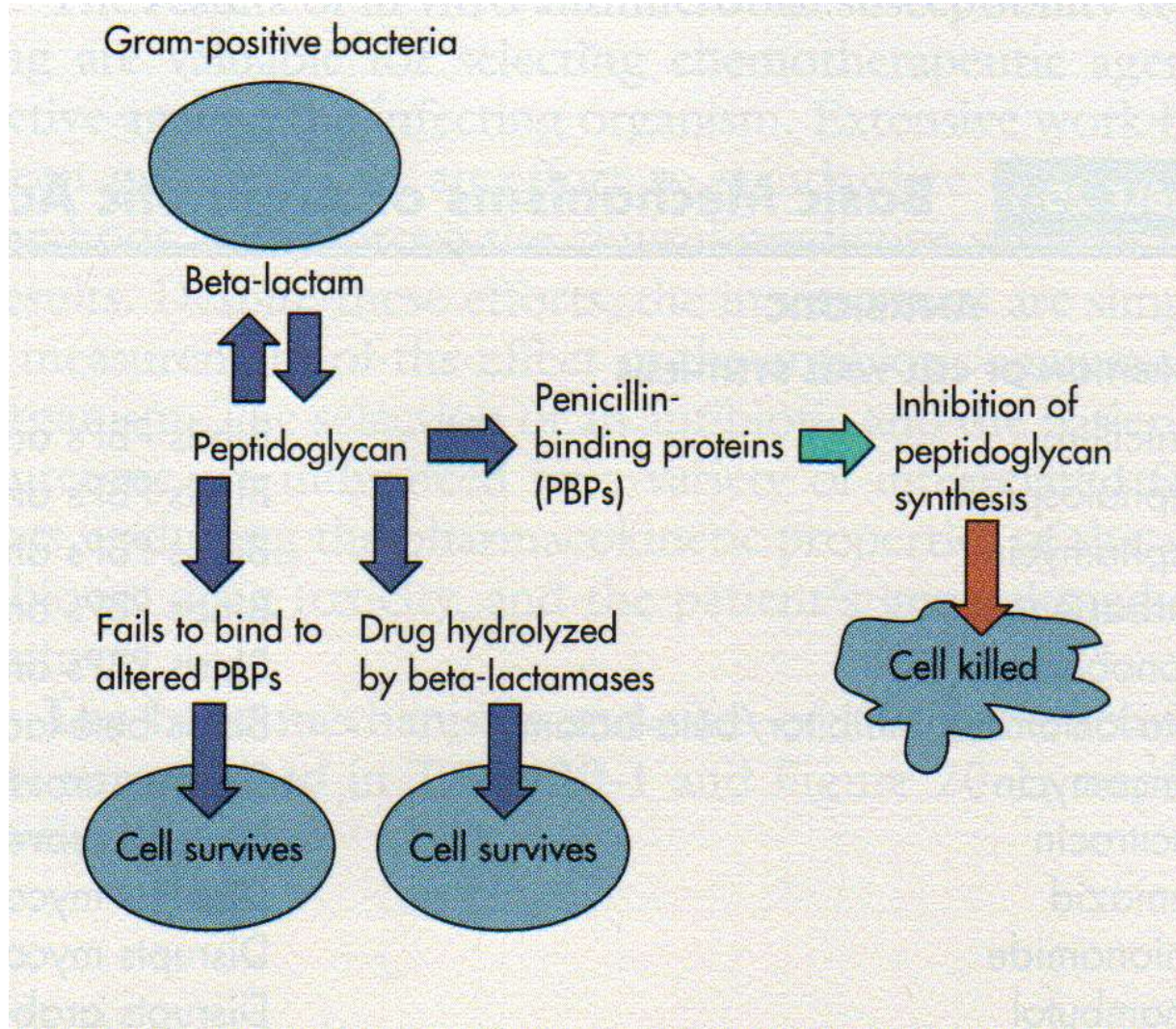
# Resistance to $\beta$ -Lactams – Gram negative



# Beta-lactamases

- Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase ESBL
  - Hydrolyze: penicillins, cephalosporins
  - NOT hydrolyze: carbapenems, monobactams
  - Beta-lactamase inhibitors: clavulanic acid, sulbactam, tazobactam will inhibit!
  - Gram-negative bacteria
- Metallo beta-lactamase (MBL)
  - Hydrolyze: CARBAPENEMS
  - Gram-negative bacteria

# Resistance to $\beta$ -Lactams – Gram positive



# Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

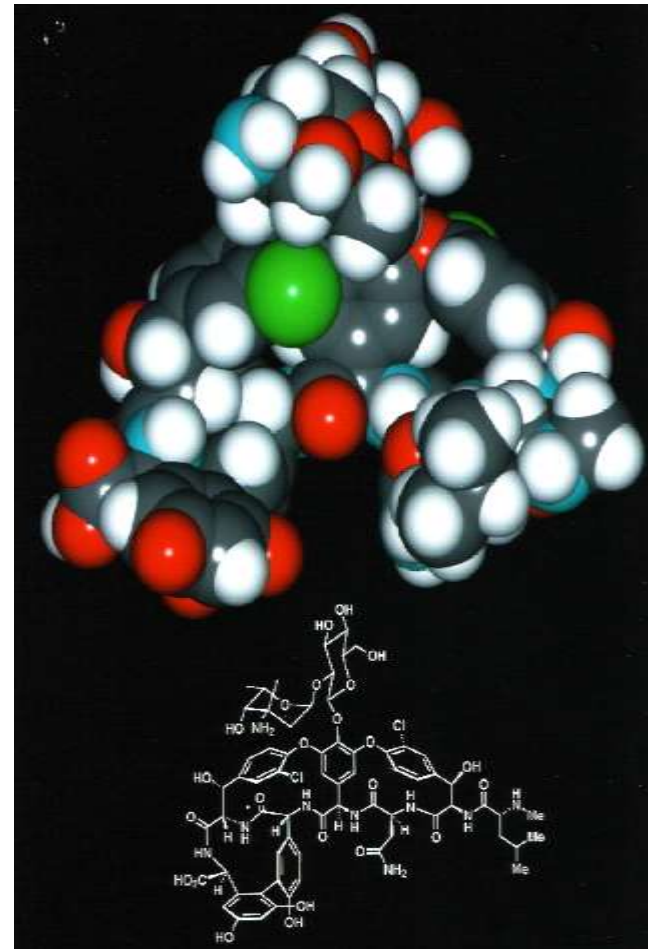
## **MRSA**

- Penicillin-binding proteins (PBPs) - structure modification
- Resistance to **ALL BETA-LACTAM ANTIBIOTICS:**
  - Penicillins
  - Cephalosporins
  - Carbapenems
  - Even to Beta-lactamase inhibitors

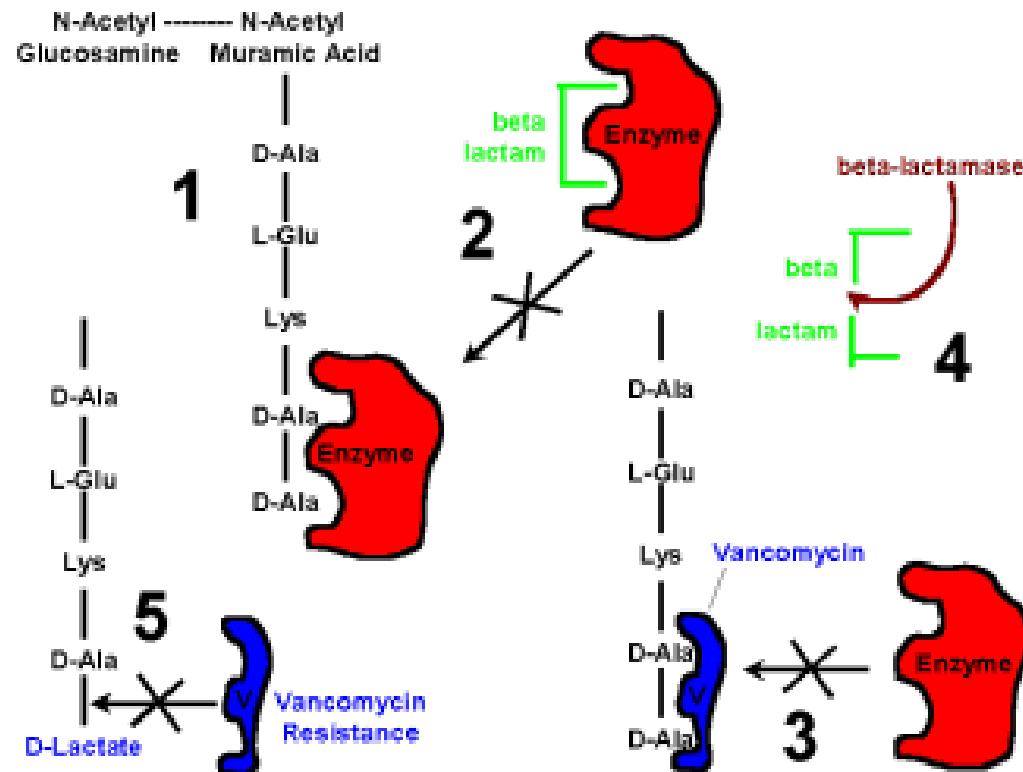
# **Glycopeptides: Vancomycin, Teicoplanin**

# Komplex Effect - Glikopeptides

- **Vancomycin, Teicoplanin**
  - interfere with Peptidoglycansynthese
  - destroy the cytoplasmic membrane
  - prevent RNA synthesis
- can not go through Gram-negative cell wall
- **Only for Gram-positive bacteria**

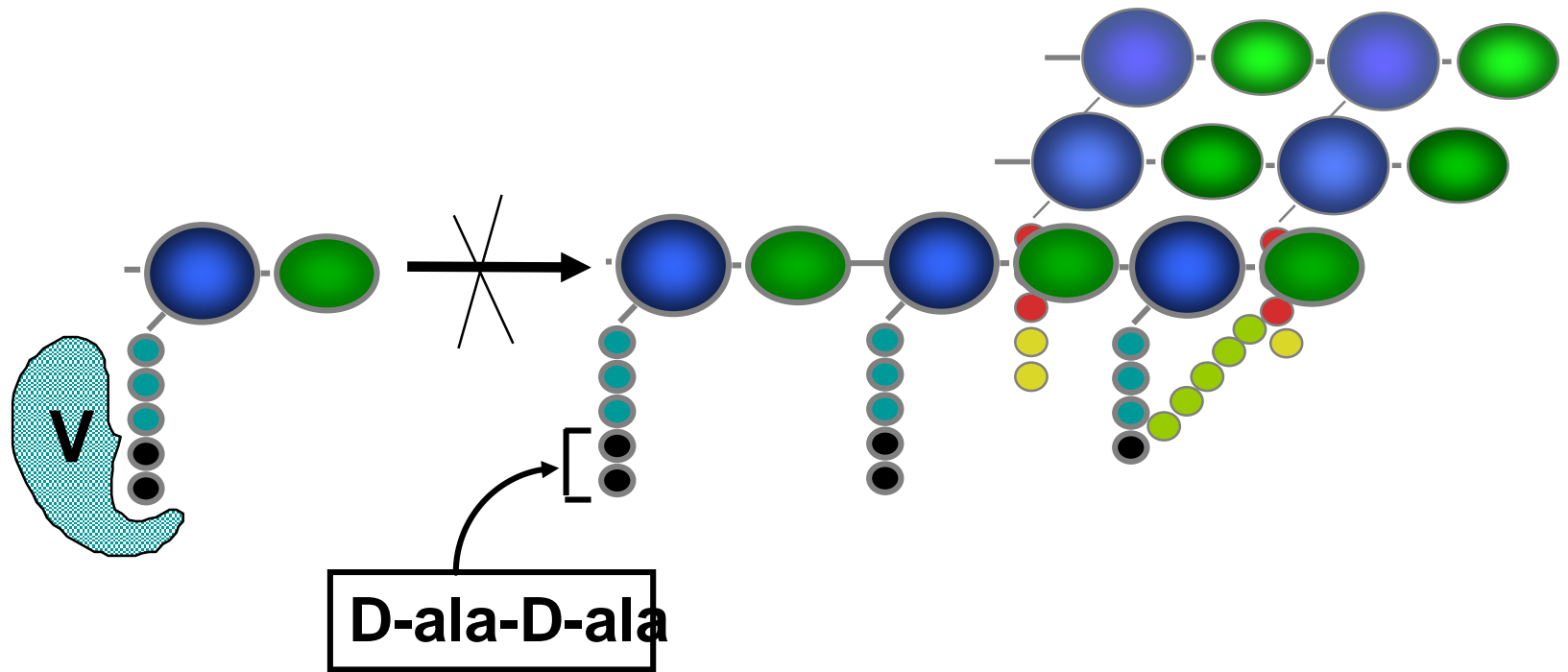


# Inhibition of peptidoglycan cross-linking by Beta-Lactams and Vancomycin and mechanisms of resistance.



1. Transpeptidase enzyme binds to D-Ala-D-Ala for cross-linking.
2. Beta-lactam antibiotic binds to transpeptidase inhibiting cross-linking.
3. Vancomycin binds to D-Ala-D-Ala preventing binding of enzyme.
4. Beta-lactamase cleaves beta-lactam antibiotic.
5. Changing terminal D-Ala to D-Lactate prevents vancomycin binding.

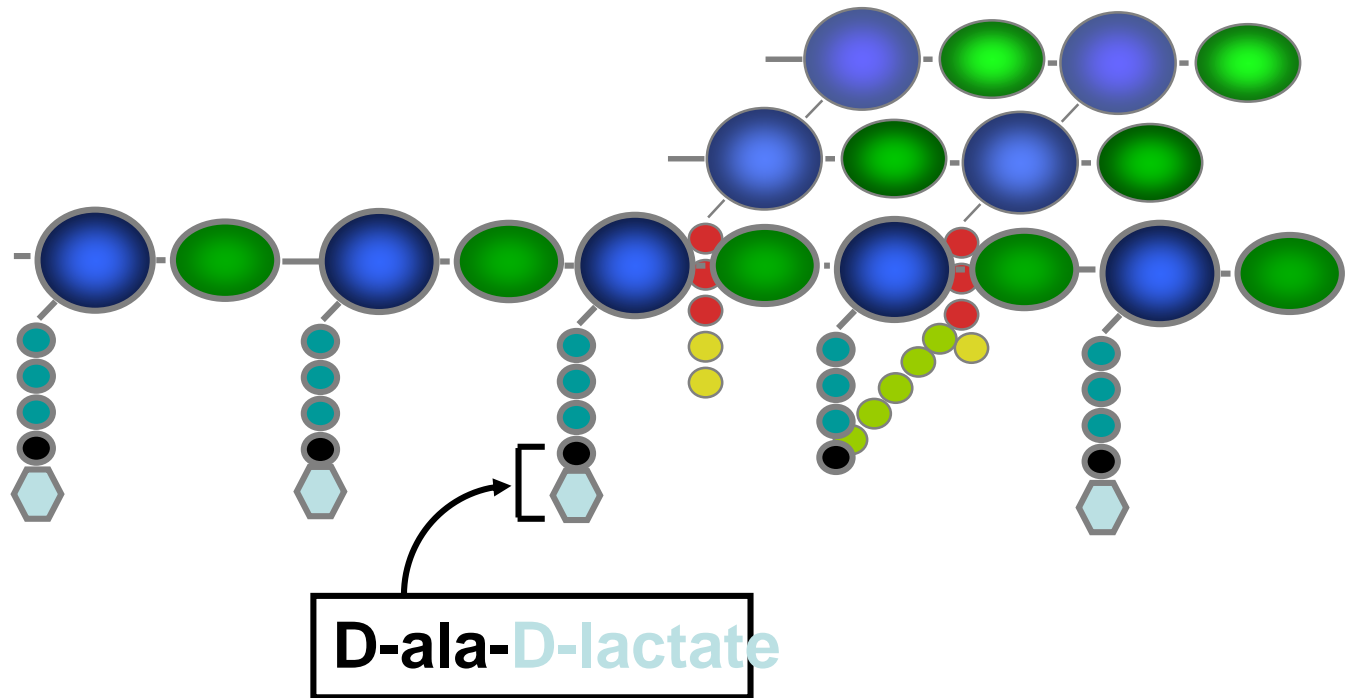
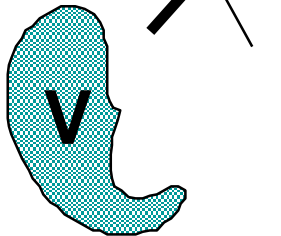
# Mechanism of vancomycin action



# Mechanism of vancomycin resistance

## Vancomycin resistant Enterococcus (VRE)

Vancomycin is  
unable to bind  
to the D-ala-  
D-lactate  
structure



# **ANTIBIOTICS AFFECTING CELL MEMBRANES**

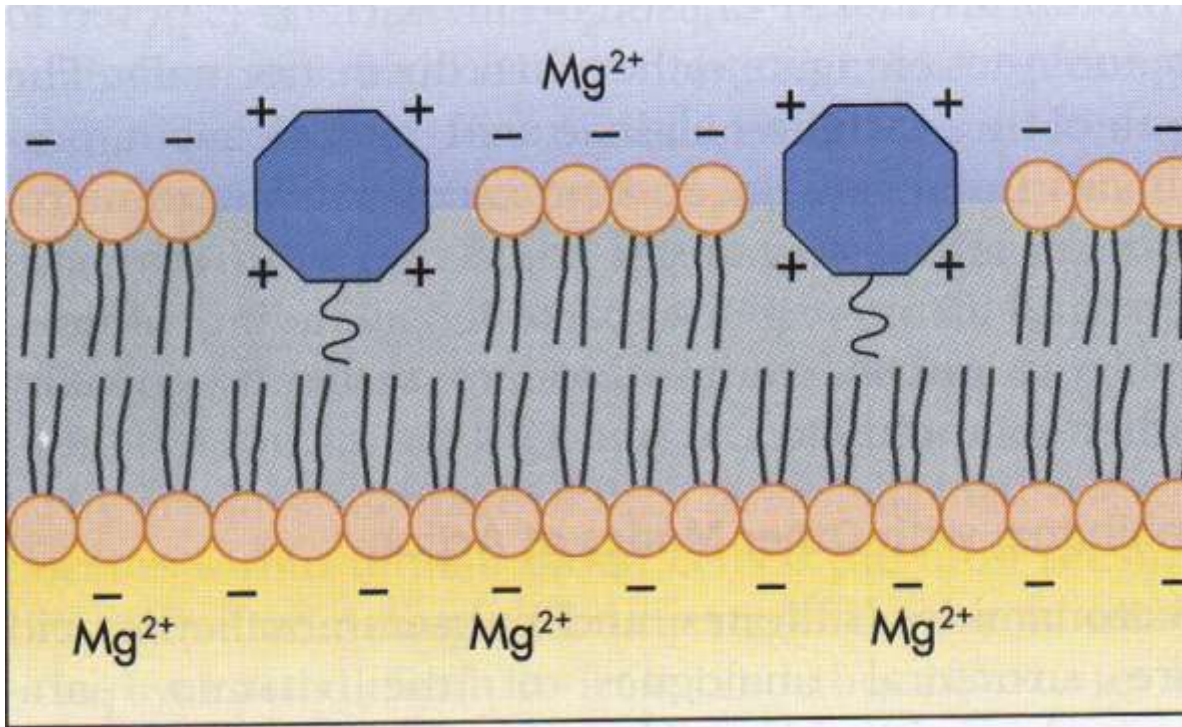
- **Polypeptides**
  - Surface active amphipathic agents.
  - Interact strongly with phospholipids and disrupt the structure of cell membranes.
- **Daptomycin**
  - Depolarizes the cell membrane

# Polypeptids

- Disintegration of the outer membrane
- Narrow spectrum only against G negative (except Proteus, Neisseria)
- Bactericidal Antibiotics
- kidney toxicity
- Intestinal decontamination-per os are not absorbed
- Eye, ear drops, wound infections
- for example: polymyxin B, colistin (im, iv..)

# Mechanism of Action

## ALTERATION OF CELL MEMBRANES



- binds to lipopolysaccharide on outer cell wall of GNR;
- permeability change in cell envelope;
- leakage of cell content.

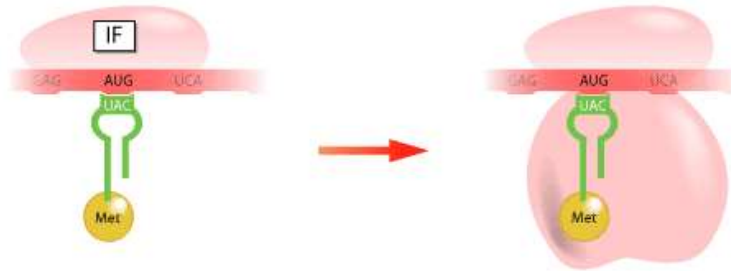
# Colistin

- Spectrum: aerobic gram-negative rods, including *Acinetobacter*, *Ps. aeruginosa*, *Stenotrophomonas*.
- NOT active against: *Burkholderia*, *Proteus*, *Serratia*, *Brucella*, gram-negative anaerobes, gram-positive cocci
- Adverse effects: Neurotoxicity – dizziness, weakness, vertigo, visual changes, confusion, ataxia.

# **ANTIBIOTICS INHIBITING PROTEIN SYNTHESIS**

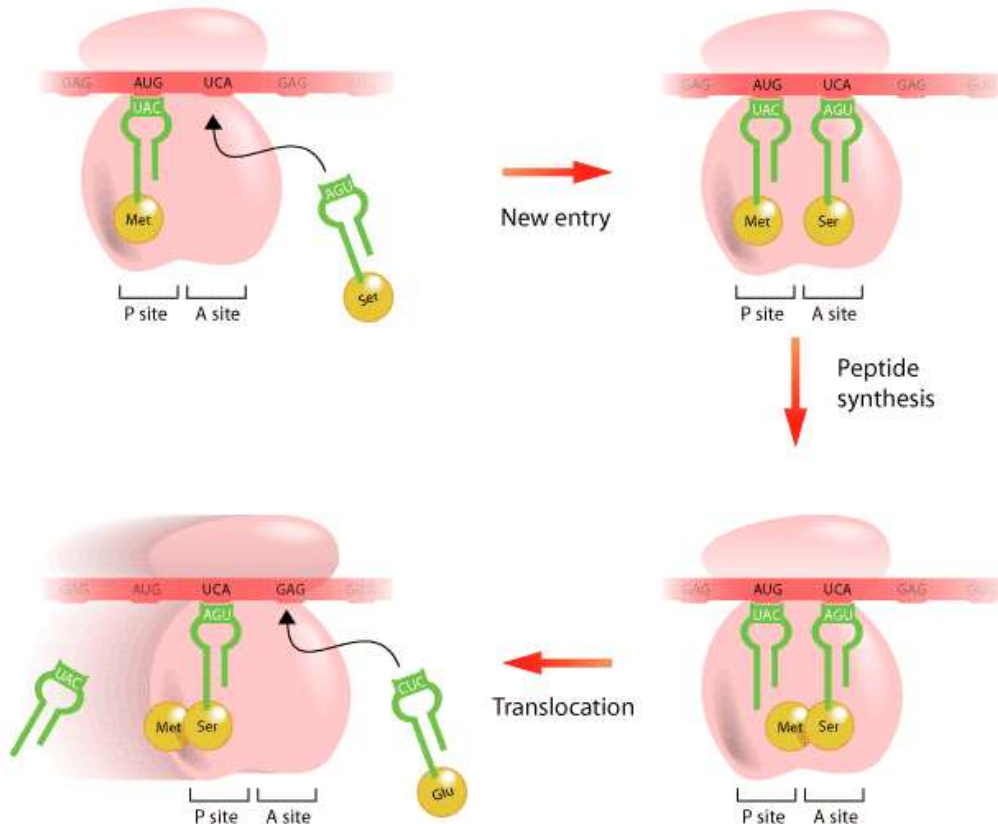
- **Macrolides**
- **Clindamycin**
- **Linezolid**
- **Streptogramins**
- **Chloramphenicol**
- **Tetracyclines**
- **Aminoglycosides**

## a) Initiation

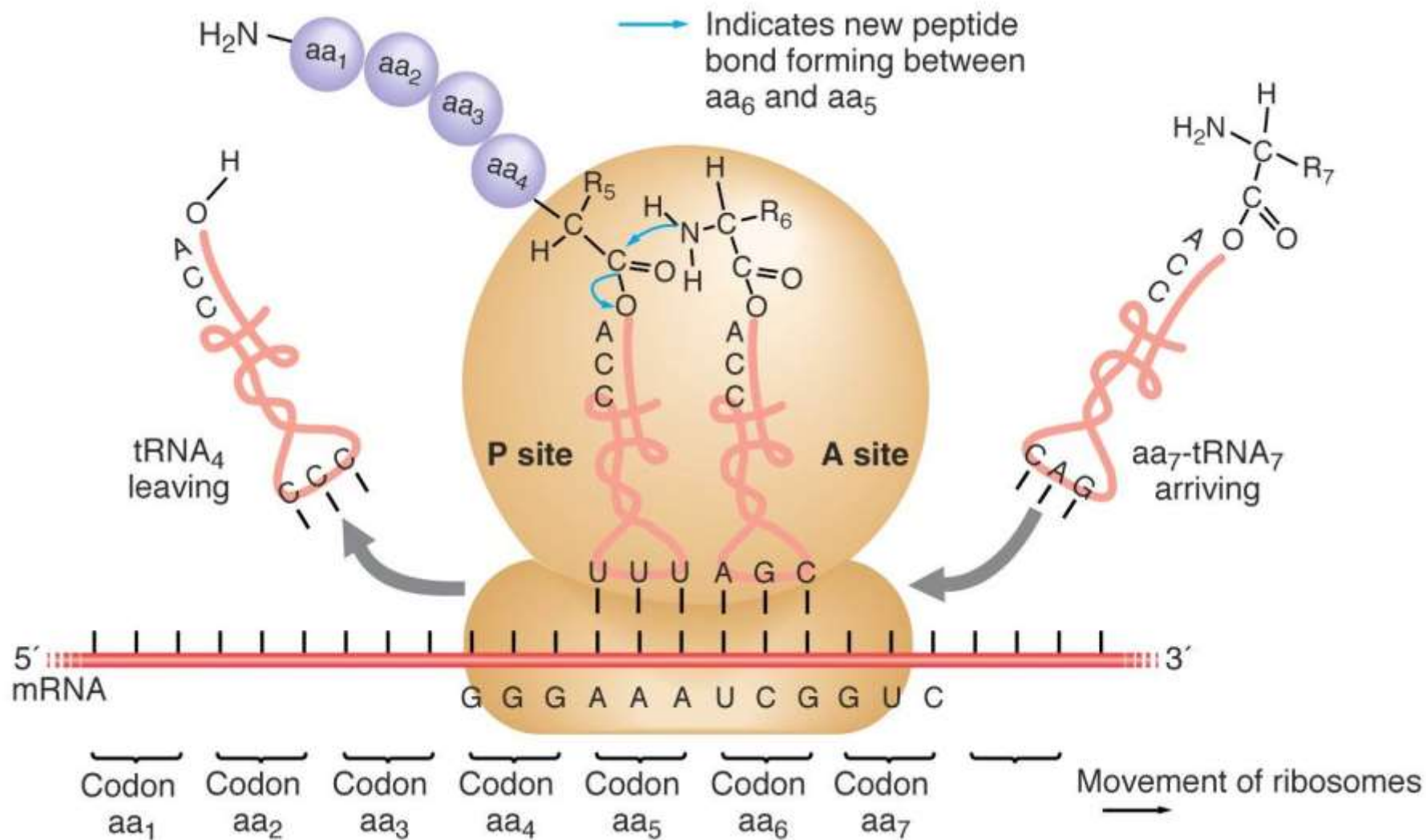


# Proteinsynthesis

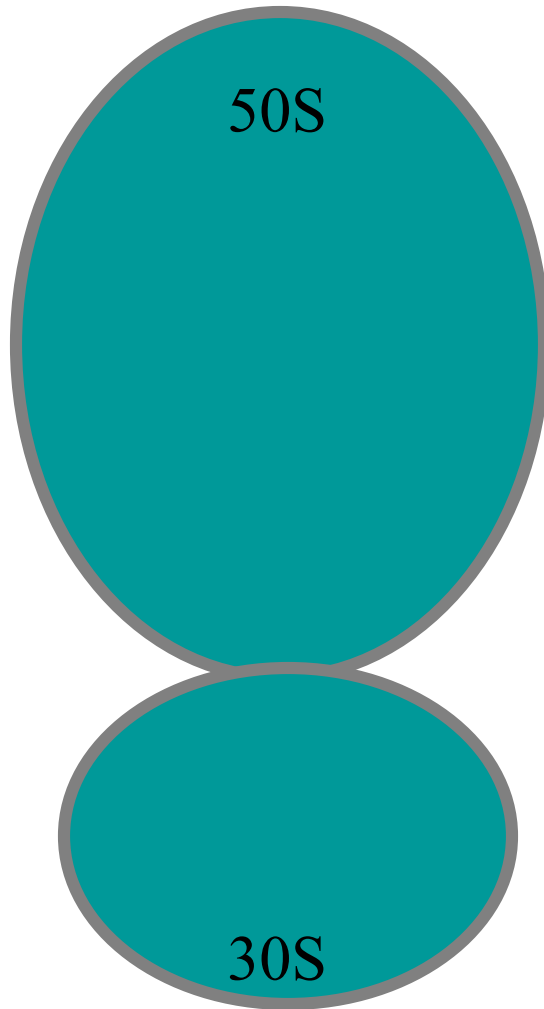
## b) Elongation



[www.scq.ubc.ca/.../2006/08/protein-synthesis.gif](http://www.scq.ubc.ca/.../2006/08/protein-synthesis.gif)

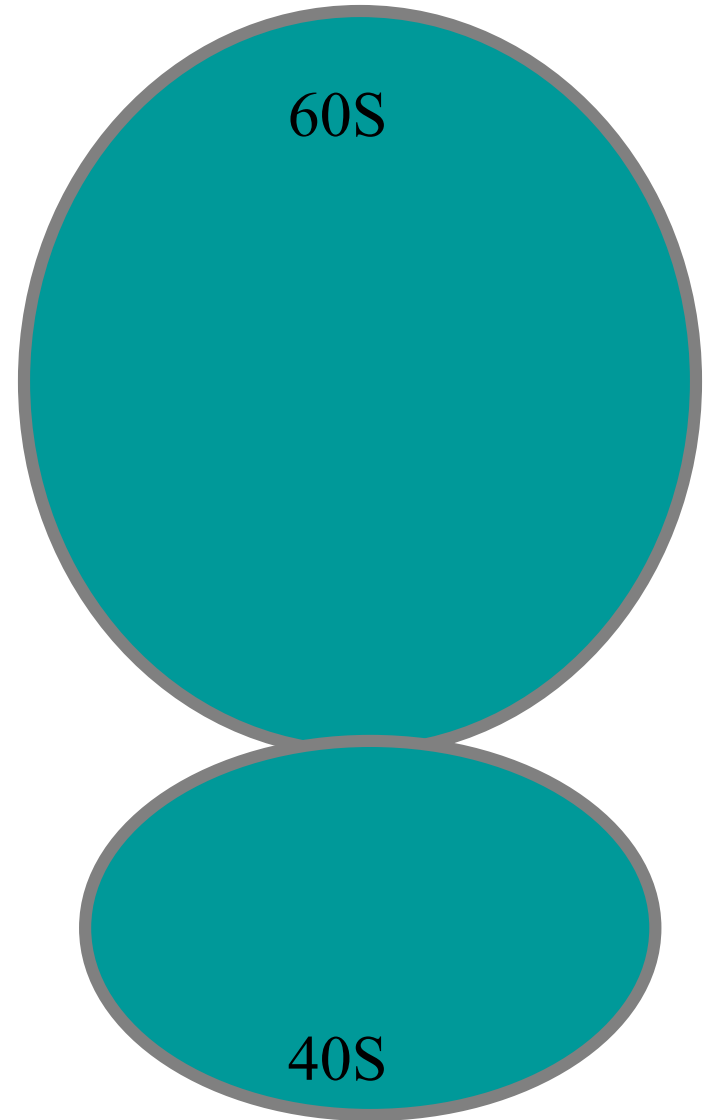


## Procaryotic Ribosome



70S--  
M.W.2,500,000

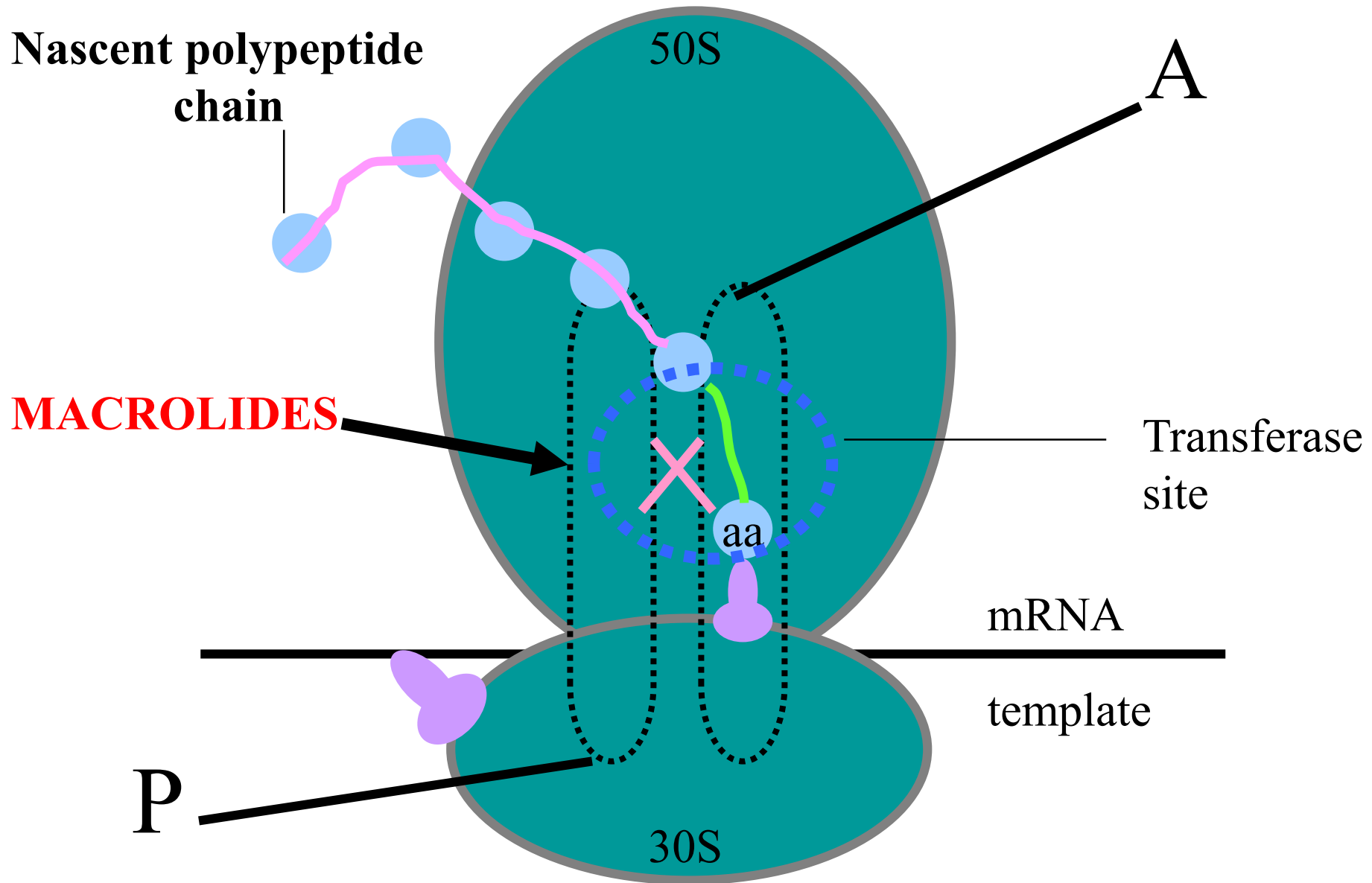
## Eucaryotic Ribosome



80S--M.W.  
4,200,000

# **Antibiotics binding to the 50S ribosomal subunit and inhibiting protein synthesis**

- **Erythromycin and other macrolides**
- **Chloramphenicol**
- **Linezolid**
- **Streptogramins**



**TRANSLOCATION**

# Macrolides:

**Erythromycin, Clarithromycin, Azithromycin**

## – Use:

- Broad spectrum against gram positives including Staph aureus (MSSA)
- Good for atypical organism such as Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, Legionella
- Covers *N. gonorrhea*, *H. influenzae*, *Legionella*

## – Caution:

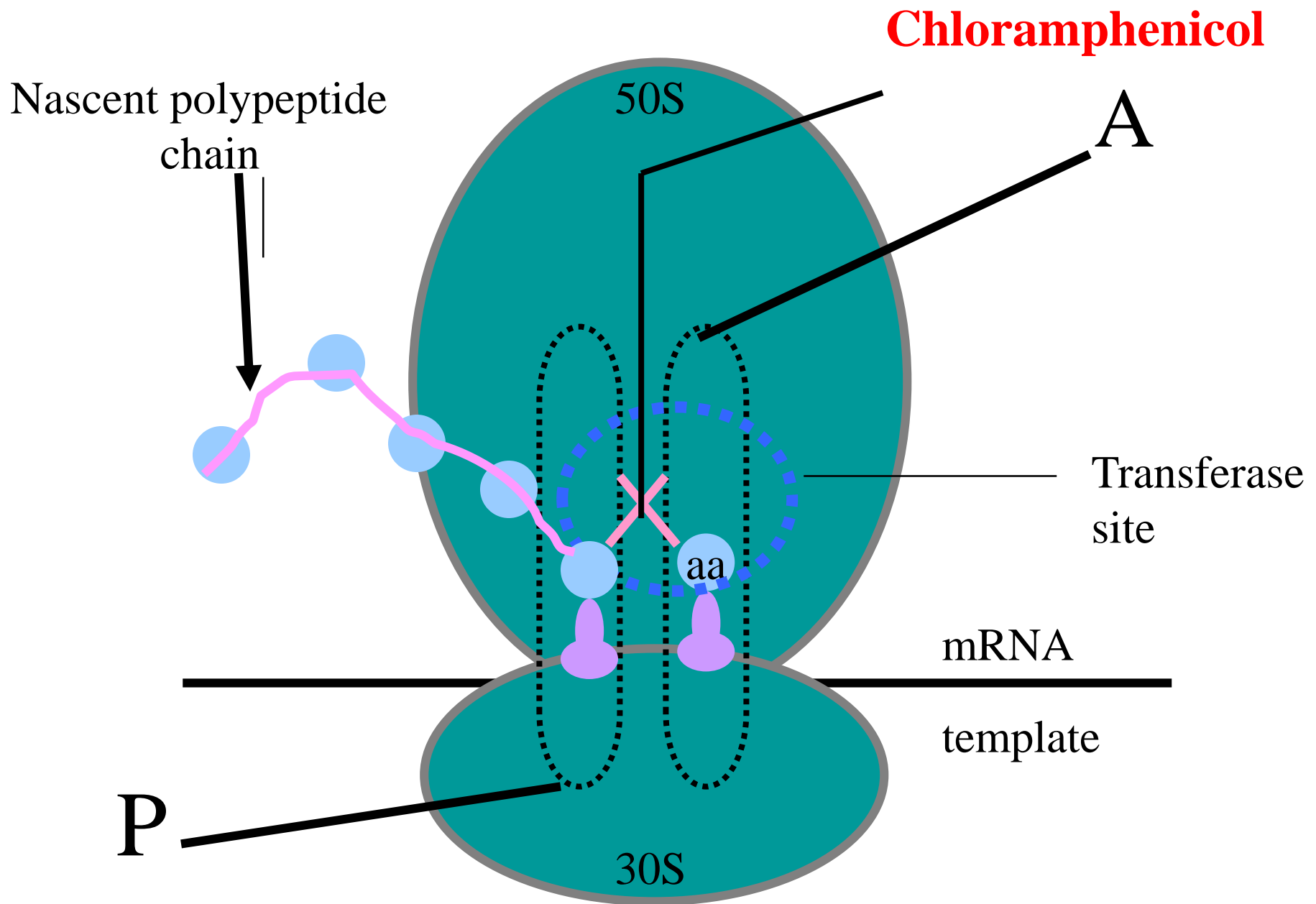
- can interact with statin to cause myopathy
- Can cause Qt prolongation

## – Side effects:

- GI upset

# Makrolides and lyncosamides

- Prevent the movement of mRNA to the 50S ribosoma unit
- Bacteriostatic
- little toxicity
- Effective against intracellular living bacteria, anaerobic streptococci, against Campylobacter  
.: eg erythromycin, azithromycin, Clyndamycin
- Resistance to macrolides
  - Encoded on the Kromosomen: Change in ribosoma unit
  - Encoded on plasmids: efflux

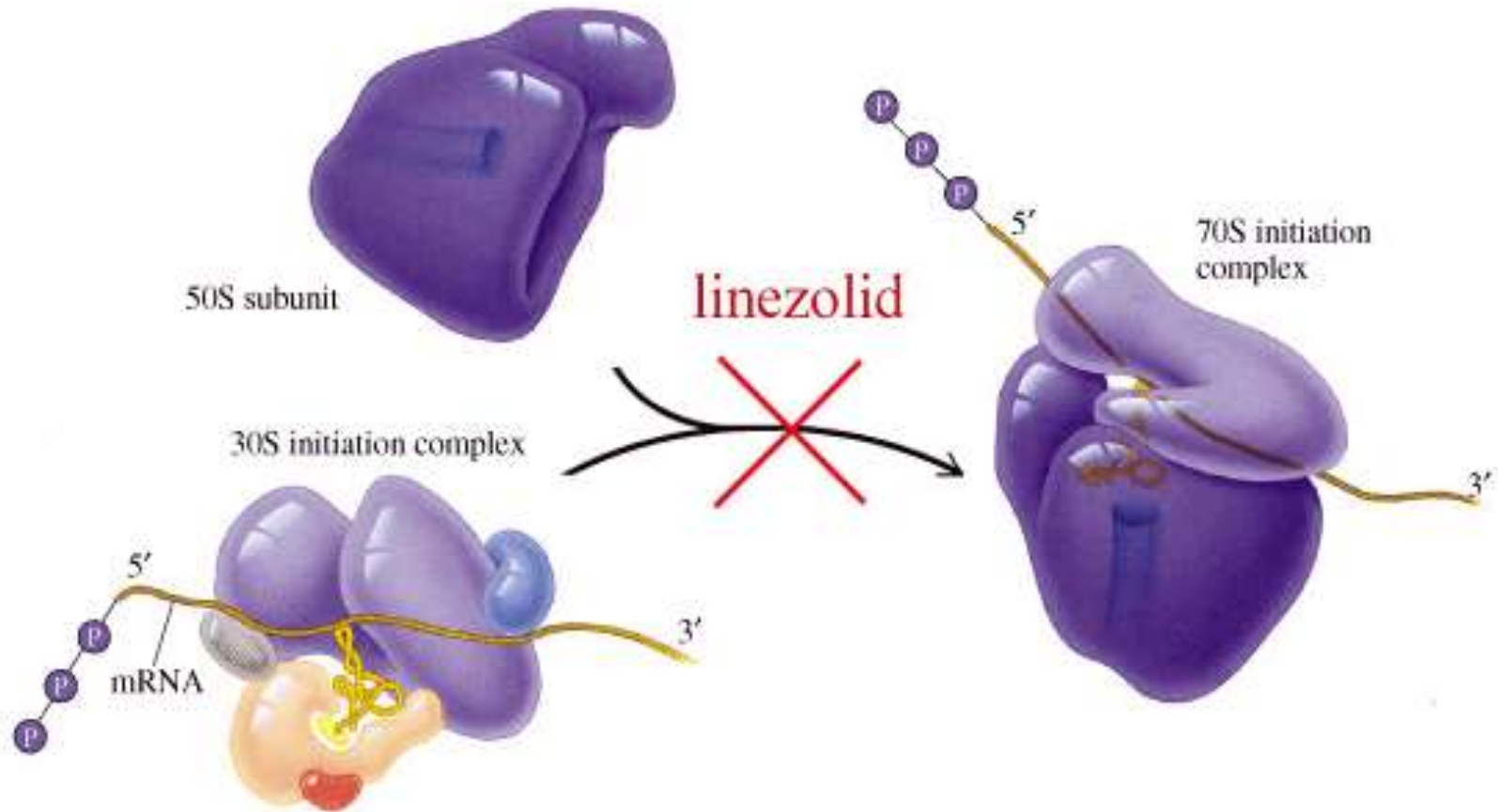


Mechanism of action of Chloramphenicol

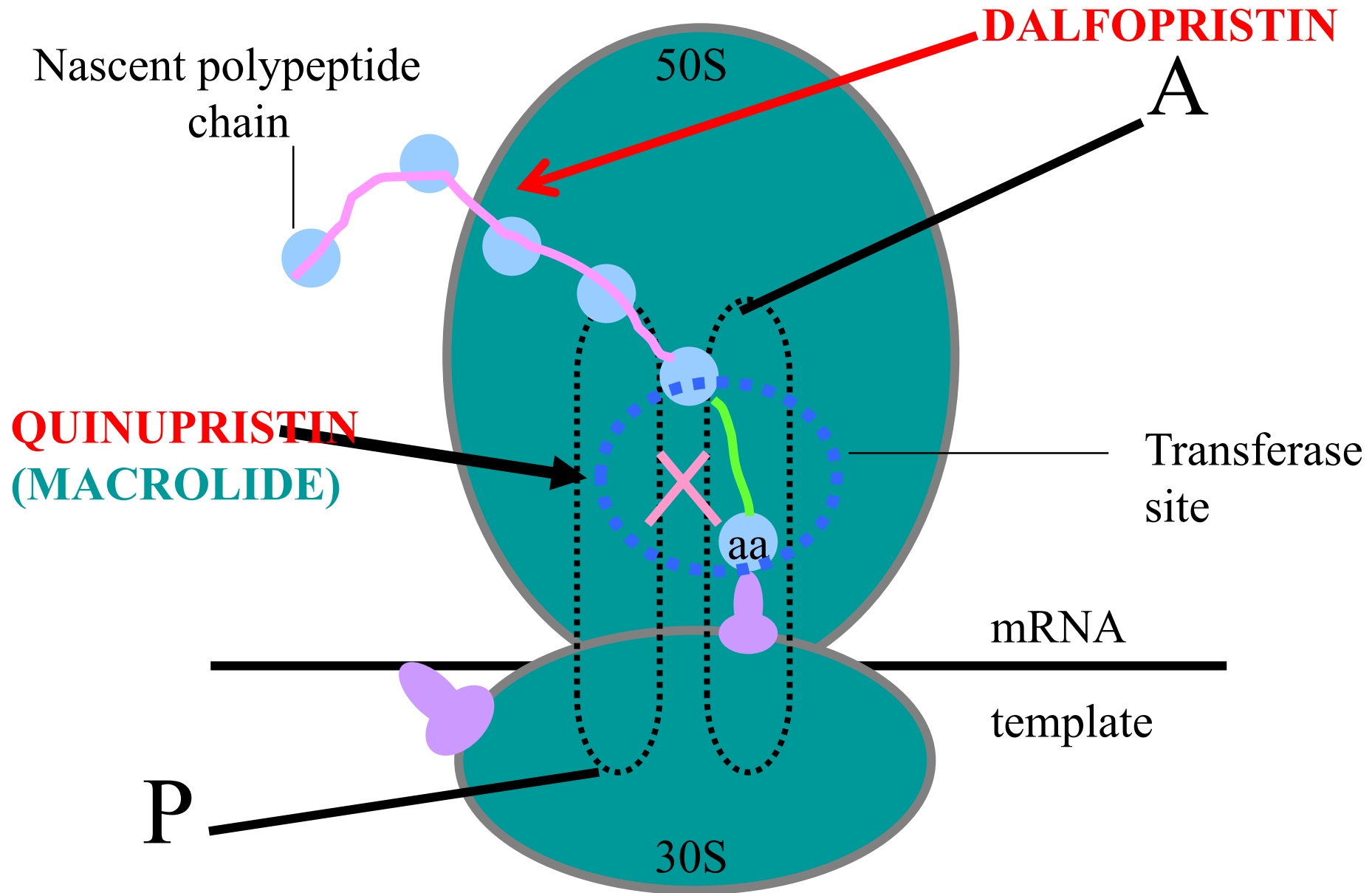
# Chloramphenicol

- Interfere with the attachment of tRNA on the 50S ribosome unit
- Bacteriostatic
- broad-spectrum
- Systemic we only use against *H. influenzae* meningitis, and in intraocular infections
- Very toxic
  - Destroys the blood cell is being made (Pancytopenia)
  - Gray Syndrome in neonates with liver damage
  - Dysbacteriosis, necrotising ulcerative colitis

# Linezolid



- Inhibits the formation of 70S Initiationkomplex
- August 2005 „Molekule of the Month“
- For Gram-positive cocci

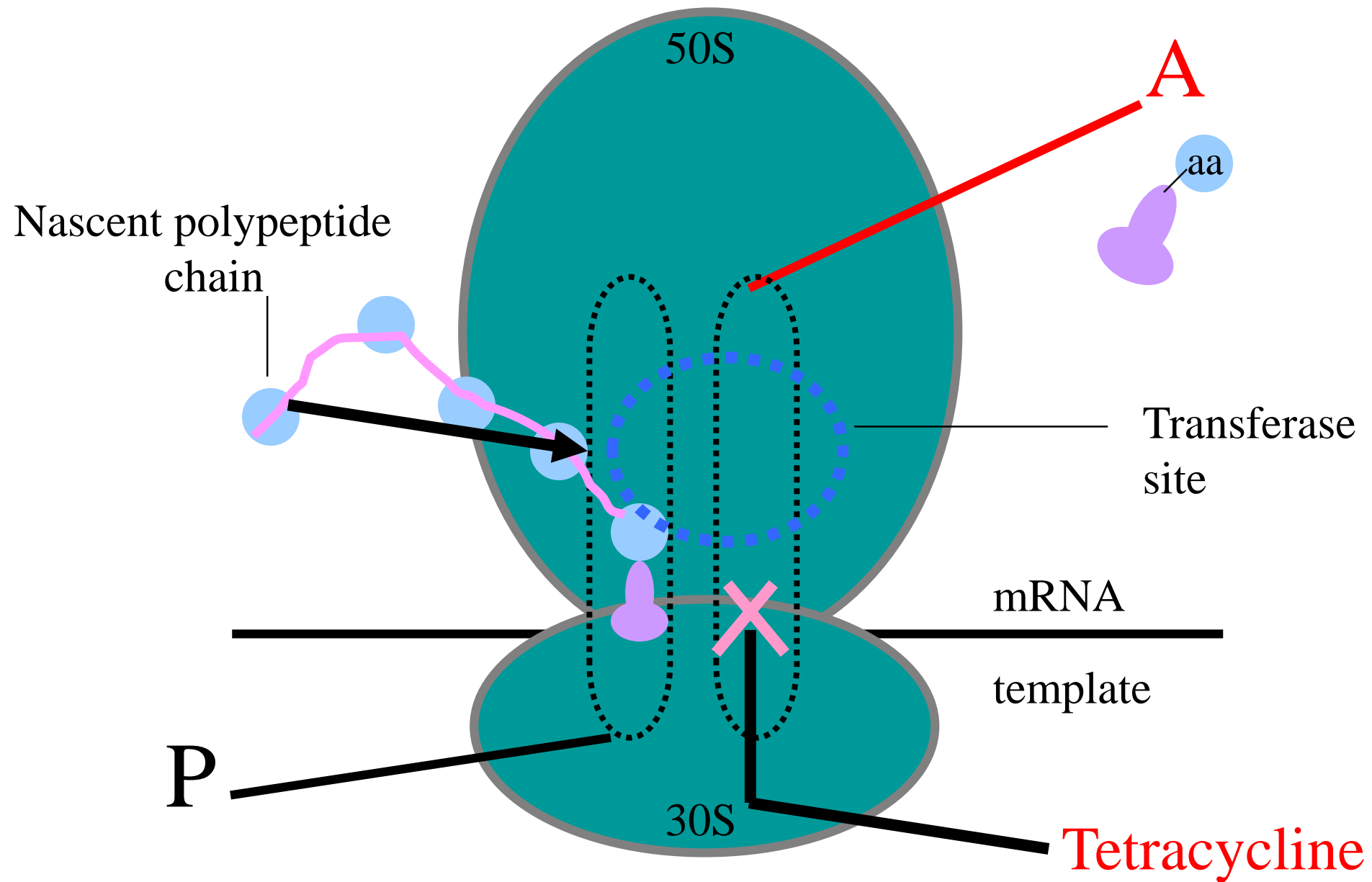


# Quinupristin-Dalfopristin

- Semisynthetic Streptogramin Derivative
- Inhibition of Peptidyltransferase on the 50 S
- Q. cause conformation changes
- D. better binding
- Stronger effect= Bactericidal
- Gram-positive cocci MRSA

# **Antibiotics binding to the 30S ribosomal subunit and inhibiting protein synthesis**

- **Aminoglycosides**
- **Tetracyclines**



# Aminoglycosides

- Inhibit the transcription of the 30S ribosome unit
- The active transport of antibiotics need O<sub>2</sub> The anaerobic bacteria are genetically resistant to aminoglycosides
- The first antibiotic was only the streptomycin against Mycobacterium
  - Netilmicin, tobramycin, amikacin gentamicin we can locally and systematically use also
  - Neomycin we only use in eye drops

# Aminoglycoside resistance

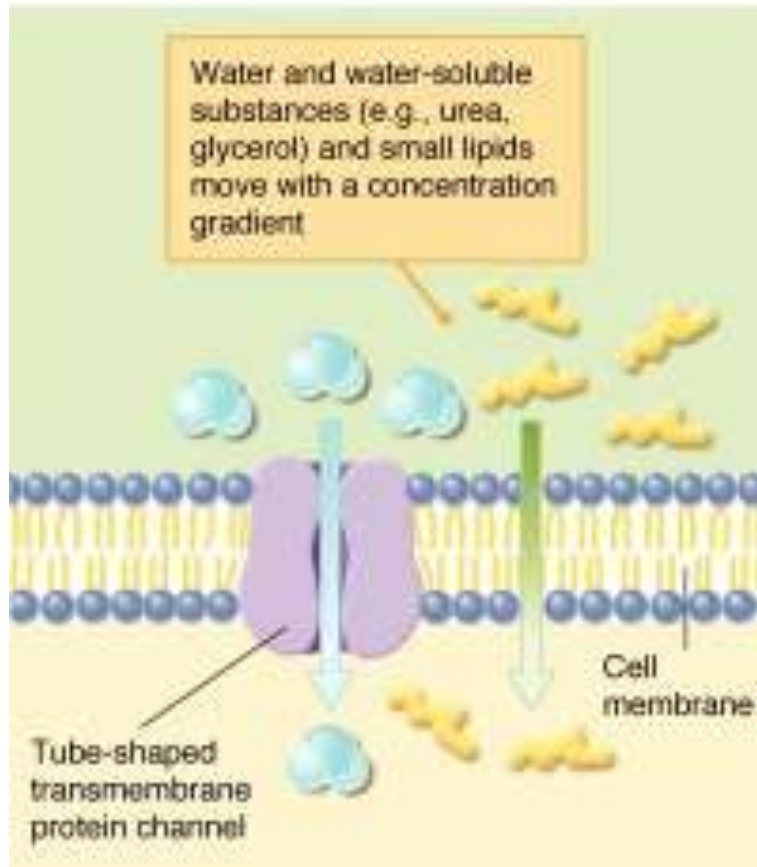
- Encoded on the chromosome
- The structure of 30S ribosome unit is changed
  - high level resistance in enterococci
- Permeations inhibition by anaerobic metabolism
  - Low level resistance in enterococci
- Combination with cell wall synthesis inhibitors in endocarditis
  - Encoded on plasmids
  - Antibiotics destroy the enzymes inactivation / structural modification by
    - Acetylation
    - Adenylation
    - phosphorylation

# Tetracycline

- Prevents the attachment of tRNA on the 30S ribosome unit
- Bacteriostatic
- Broad-spectrum activity
  - Includes aerobic G+ and G-, atypicals [Rickettsia spp, treponema spp, chlamydia spp, and others]
  - Little to no effect on fungi or viruses
- Tigecycline
  - 70% of Hungarian bacteria are resistant
    - efflux pumps
    - Stabilization of ribosome-tRNA
- Tetracycline, Doxycycline, Minocycline
- New derivatives: tigecycline

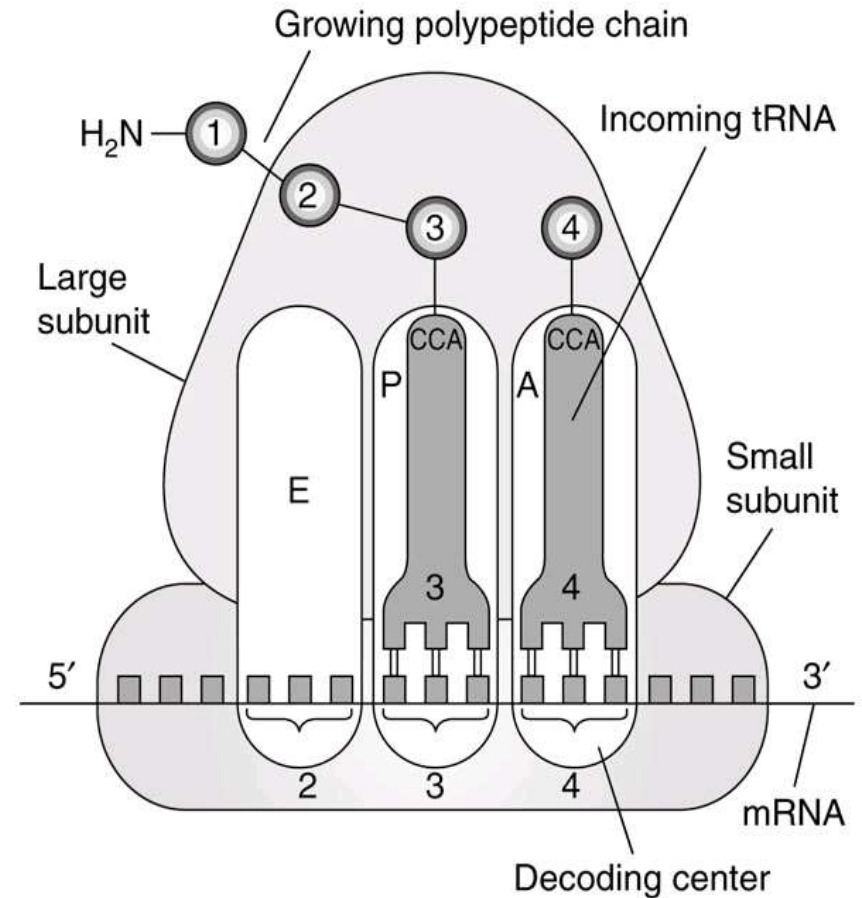


## PASSIVE DIFFUSION



[www.solvo.com](http://www.solvo.com)

## Mechanism of Action

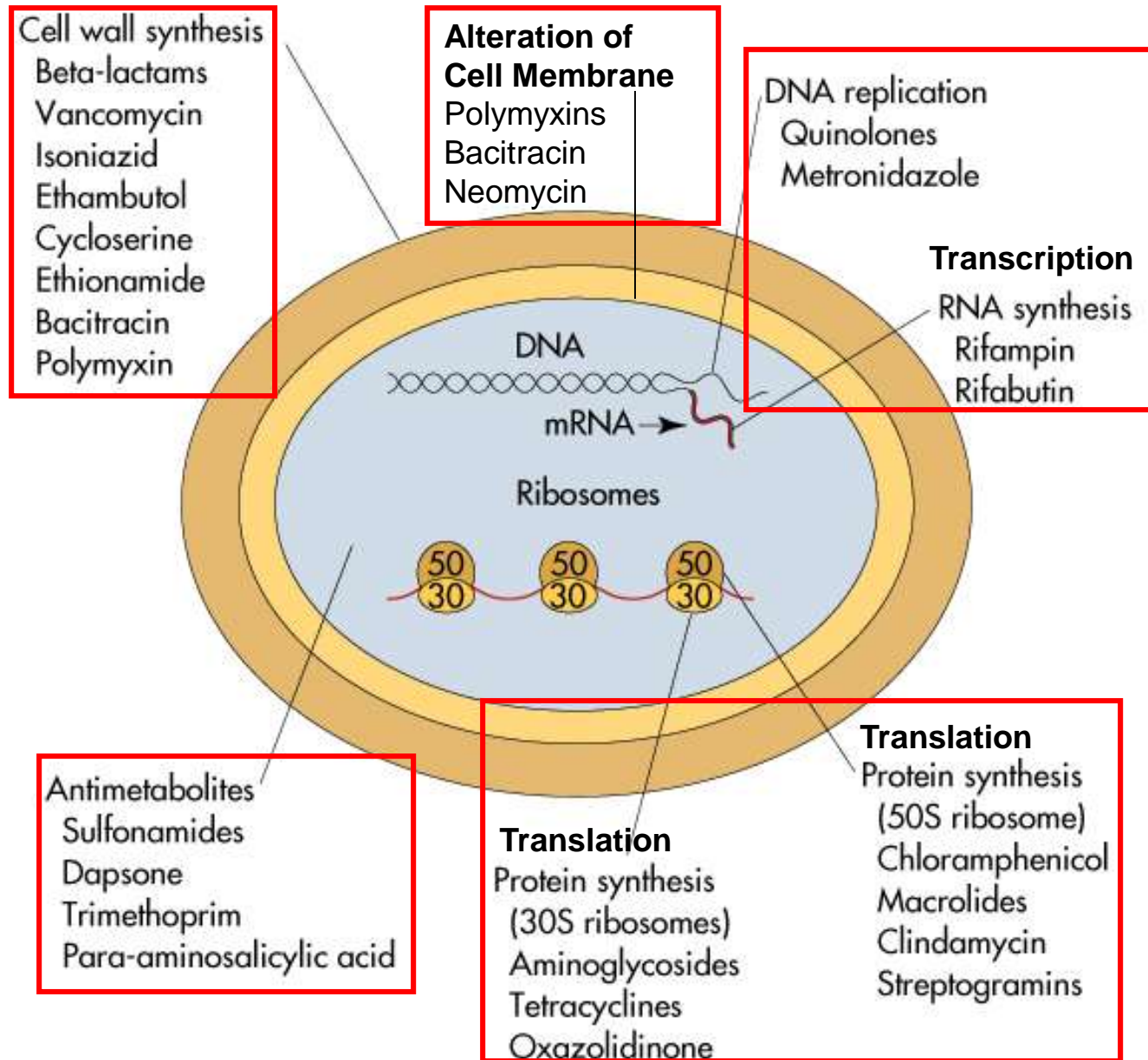


- Once inside the cell...
  - Bind 30S ribosomal subunit
  - Blocks binding of aminoacyl-tRNA to acceptor site on mRNA-ribosome complex
  - Protein synthesis is inhibited = bacteriostatic effect

# Mupirocin

- Prevents the attachment of Isoleucine –tRNA
- produced by *Pseudomonas fluorescens*
- Active against only staphylococci and streptococci
- Lokale effect against MRSA (Baktroban)
- Topical treatment of impetigo

# Antibiotic Mechanisms of Action

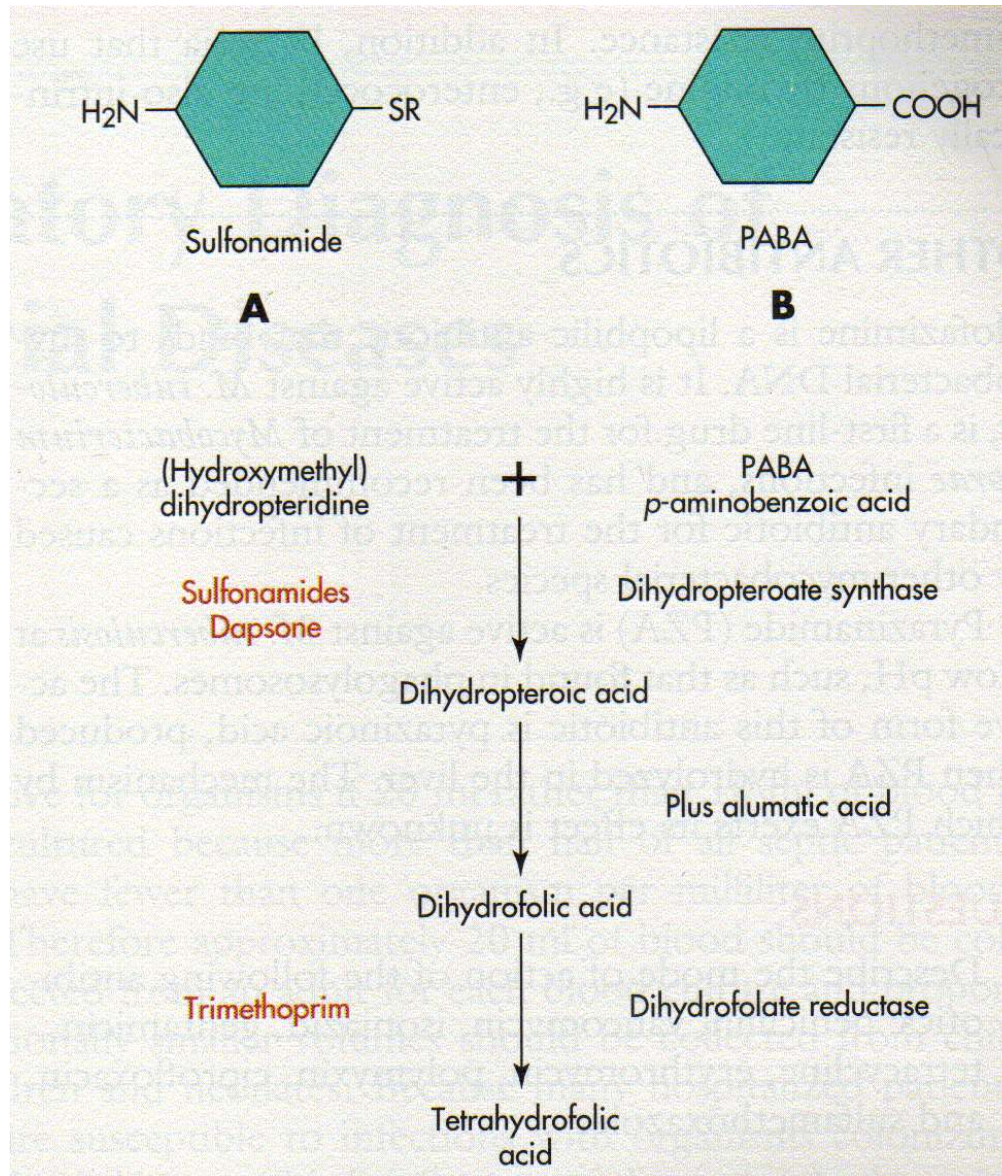


# **ANTIBIOTICS ACTING AS ANTIMETABOLITES**

- **Sulfonamides**
- **Trimethoprim plus sulfamethoxazole**

# Mechanism of Action

## ANTIMETABOLITE ACTION



# Trimethoprim/Sulphamethoxazole

- Good activity against Gr (+) and Gr (-) organisms: MRSA, very active against PCP. Covers *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, *Nocardia*, and enteric gram-negative rods.
- Exceptions: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, Group A strep, enterococcus, Gr (-) anaerobes.
- Toxicity: GI upset, rash can progress to SJS and TEN, thrombocytopenia, leucopenia, hepatitis; hyperkalemia
- SMX:TMP is a 5:1 ratio, in oral and IV dosage forms.

# **SULFONAMIDE-RESISTANCE**

- **Results from multiple mechanisms.**
- **Altered dihydropteroate synthetase.**
- **Cross-resistance among all sulfonamides.**

# **ANTIBIOTICS AFFECTING NUCLEIC ACID SYNTHESIS.**

- **Fluoroquinolones**
- **Metronidazole**
- **Rifampin**

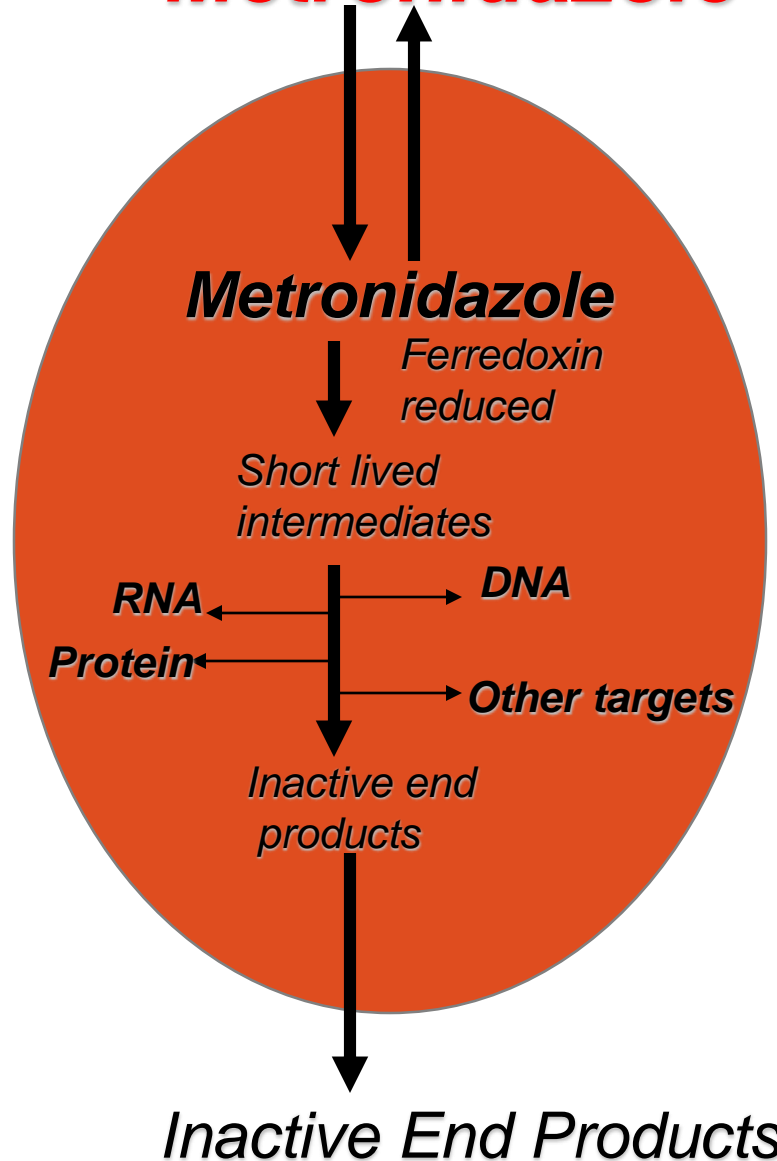
# Rifampin

binds to RNA polymerase

- ✓ active against gram positive cocci
- ✓ bactericidal for *Mycobacterium*
- ✓ used for treatment and prevention of meningococcus

***Metronidazole***

***Mechanism of  
action of  
metronidazole on  
an anaerobic  
organism***



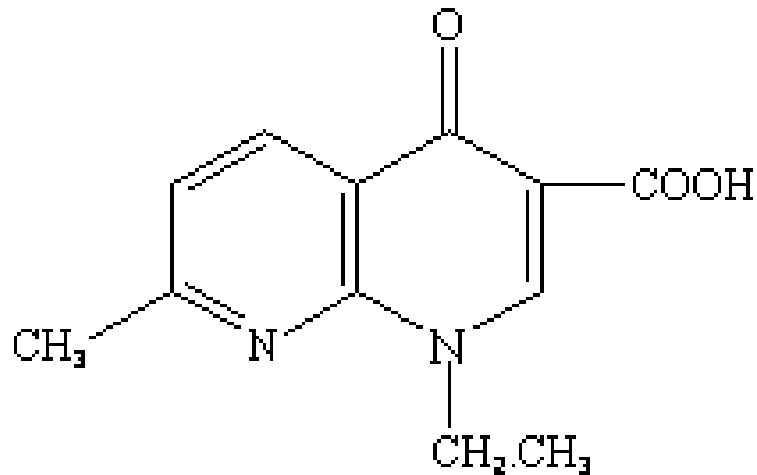
# Metronidazole

- Mechanism of action:
  - Enters bacteria via cell diffusion
  - Activated via single reduction step by bacteria → forms radicals → reacts with nucleic acid → cell death
- Spectrum of activity:
  - Anaerobic bacteria
  - Microaerophilic bacteria
  - Protozoa
- Resistance:
  - Rare
  - Mechanism: decreased activation (↓ redox reaction) of drug

# Quinolones

# Quinolones

- Parent drug: nalidixic acid



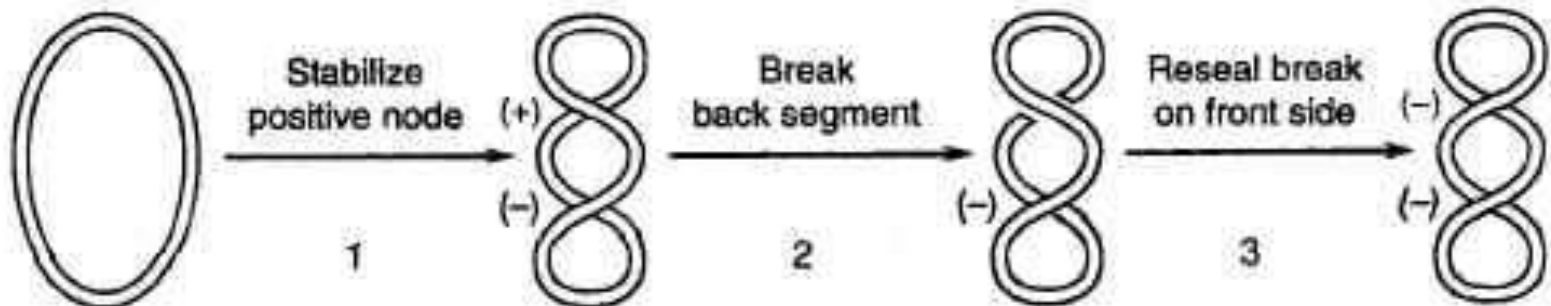
# Classification

- Quinolones (1<sup>st</sup> generation)
  - Highly protein bound
  - Mostly used in UTIs
- Fluoroquinolones (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation)
  - Modified 1<sup>st</sup> generation quinolones
  - Not highly protein bound
  - Wide distribution to urine and other tissues; limited CSF penetration.

# Mechanism of Action

- Dual MOA:
  1. Inhibition of bacterial DNA Gyrase (Topoisomerase II)
    1. Formation of quinolone-DNA-Gyrase complex
    2. Induced cleavage of DNA
  2. Inhibition of bacterial Topoisomerase IV
    1. Mechanism poorly understood

## Mechanism of DNA Gyrase



# Quinolones

- Drugs: norfloxacin, ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin
- Mechanism of action:
  - Inhibit bacterial DNA synthesis by inhibiting DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV → rapid cell death
  - Post antibiotic effect: lasts 1 to 2 hours, increases with increasing concentration
- Mechanism of resistance:
  - Chromosomal:
    - Alter target enzymes: DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV
    - Decreased drug penetration: Pseudomonas, E. coli
  - Plasmid: seen in some K. pneumoniae and E. coli
  - Mutations in both target enzymes are needed to produce significant resistance

# Antibiotic Resistance Cycle

Increased Antibiotic Use

Limited treatment alternatives  
➡ More antibiotics  
➡ Increased mortality

Increased healthcare resource use



Increase in resistant strains

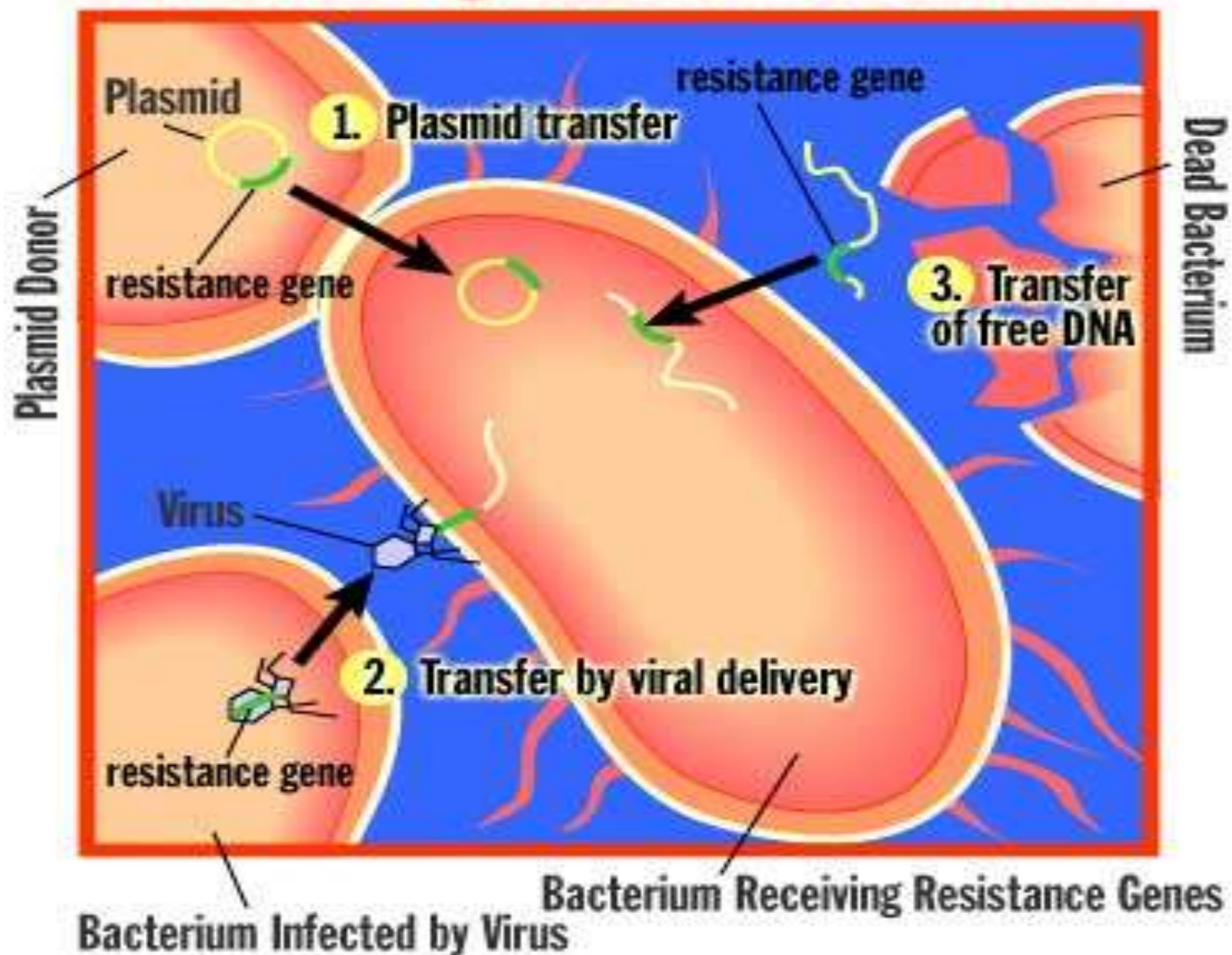
Ineffective empiric therapy  
➡ Increased morbidity  
➡ More antibiotics

Increased hospitalization  
➡ More antibiotics

# Resistance to antimicrobial drugs

- Natural
  - Chromosomal
- Acquired (mutation and genetic recombination)
  - Plasmid
  - Integron
  - Transposone

# Transferring Resistance Genes



## Gene Transfer Facilitates the Spread of Drug Resistance

Resistant and non-resistant bacteria exist

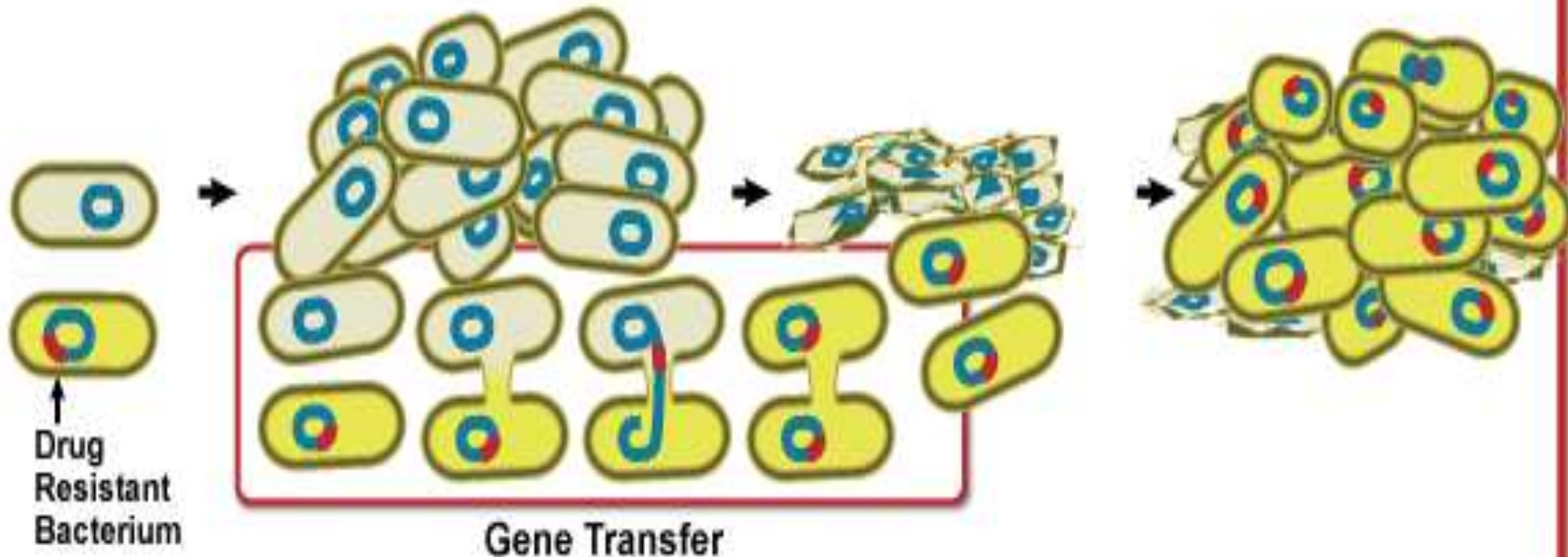
Bacterium multiply by the billions

Non-resistant bacteria receive new DNA.

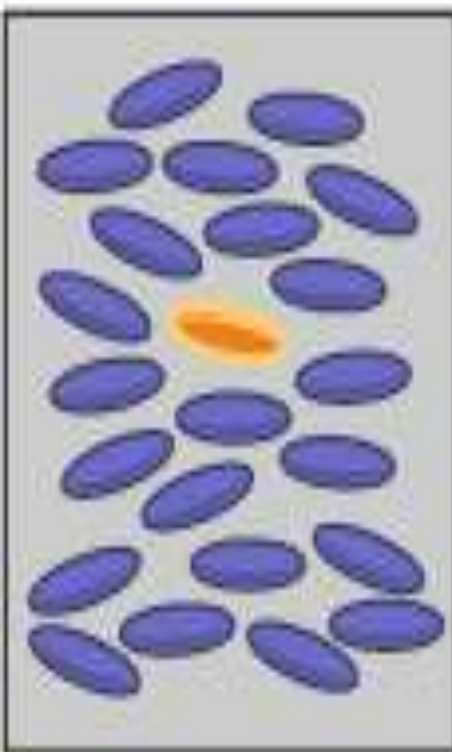
Drug resistant bacteria multiply and thrive.

Bacteria that have drug resistant DNA may transfer a copy of these genes to other bacteria.

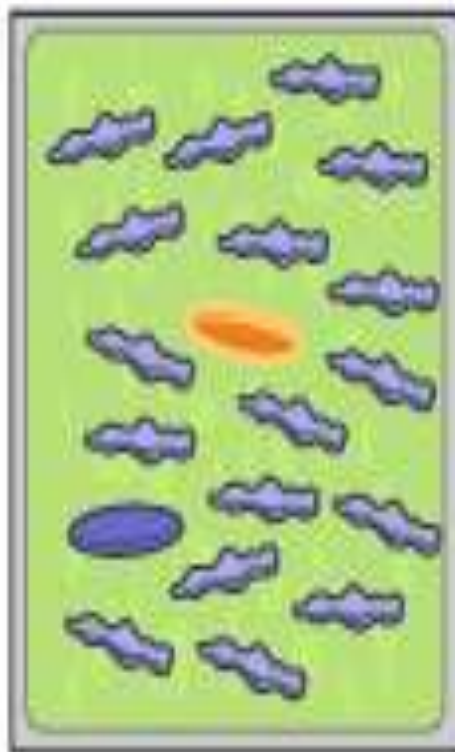
Non-resistant bacteria become resistant. In the presence of drugs, only drug-resistant bacteria survive.



1  
A bunch of bacteria,  
including a resistant  
variety...



2  
...get bathed in  
antibiotics. Most  
of the normal  
bacteria die.






3  
The resistant  
bacteria multiply  
and become more  
common.



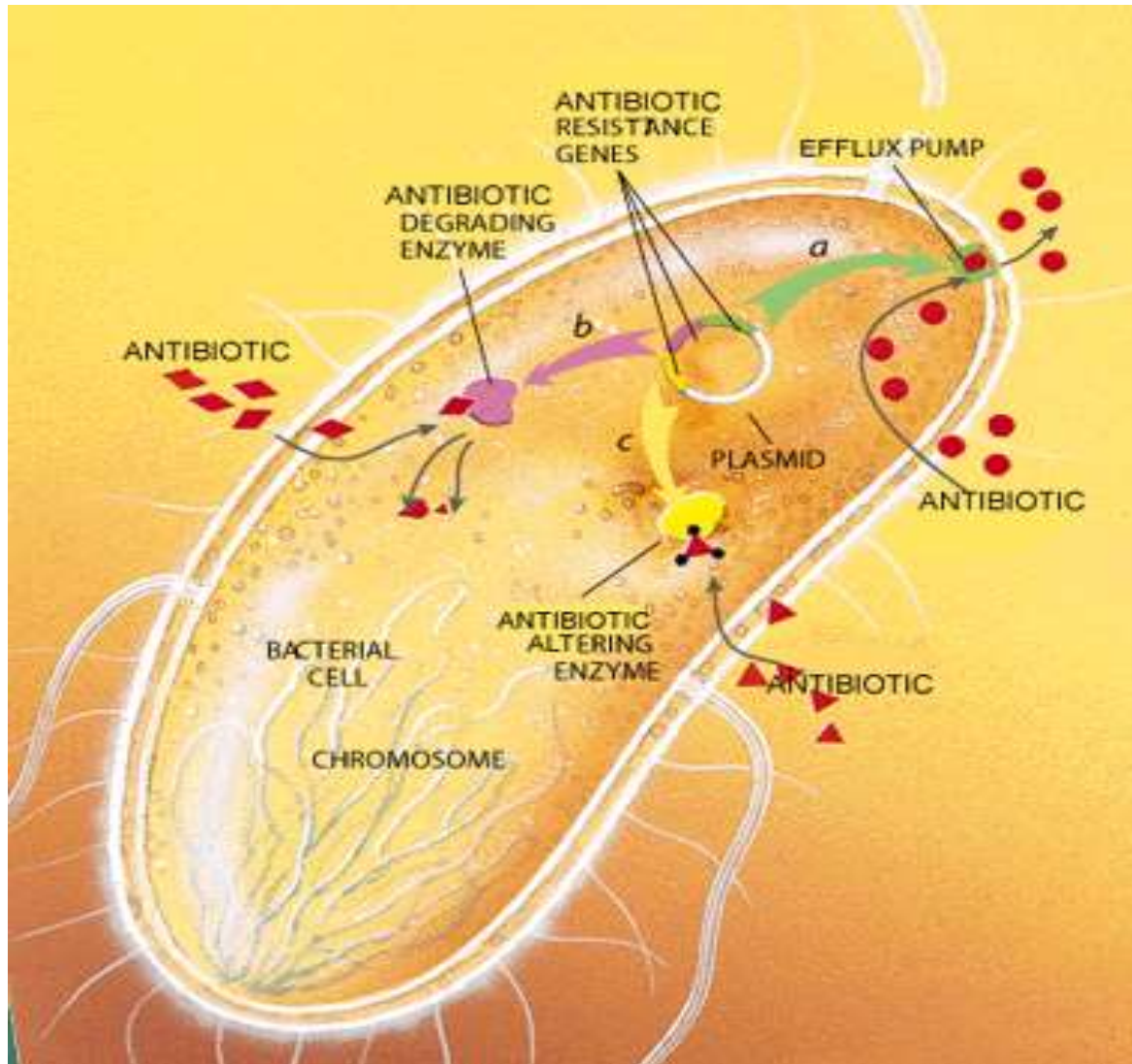
4  
Eventually, the  
entire infection  
evolves into a  
resistant strain.



 normal bacterium  
 resistant bacterium

 dead bacterium

# Resistance mechanisms



- Enzymatic degradation (beta-lactamases)
- Permeability changes (outer membrane protein)
- Target modification (Penicillin binding protein)
- Efflux pumps

**Thank you for your attention!**