

Adenosine

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Adenosine is both a [chemical found in many living systems](#) and a [medication](#). As a medication it is used to treat certain forms of [supraventricular tachycardia](#) that do not improve with [vagal maneuvers](#).^[1] Common side effects include chest pain, feeling faint, shortness of breath along with [tingling of the senses](#).^[1] Serious side effects include a worsening [dysrhythmia](#) and [low blood pressure](#).^[1] It appears to be safe in pregnancy.^[1]

It is a [purine nucleoside](#) composed of a [molecule](#) of [adenine](#) attached to a [ribose](#) sugar molecule ([ribofuranose](#)) [moiety](#) via a β -N₉-[glycosidic bond](#).^{[2][3][4]} Derivatives of adenosine are widely found in nature and play an important role in [biochemical](#) processes, such as energy transfer—as [adenosine triphosphate](#) (ATP) and [adenosine diphosphate](#) (ADP)—as well as in [signal transduction](#) as [cyclic adenosine monophosphate](#) (cAMP). Adenosine itself is a [neuromodulator](#), believed to play a role in promoting [sleep](#) and suppressing arousal. Adenosine also plays a role in regulation of blood flow to various organs through [vasodilation](#).^{[5][6][7]}

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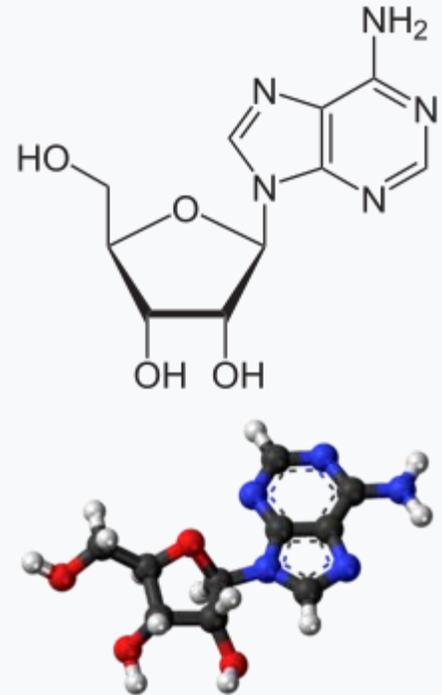
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Medical uses [edit]

Adenosine



Clinical data

Trade names

Adenocard; Adenocor; Adenic; Adenoco; Adeno-Jec; Adenoscan; Adenosin; Adrekar; Krenosin

Synonyms

SR-96225 (developmental code name)

AHFS/Drugs.com Monograph

Pregnancy category

C

(adenosine may be safe to the fetus in pregnant women)

Routes of administration

Intravenous

ATC code

[C01EB10](#) ([WHO](#))

Legal status

Legal status

In general: R (Prescription only)

Pharmacokinetic data

Supraventricular tachycardia [[edit](#)]

In individuals with [supraventricular tachycardia](#) (SVT), adenosine is used to help identify and convert the rhythm.

Certain SVTs can be successfully terminated with adenosine.^[8] This includes any [re-entrant arrhythmias](#) that require the AV node for the re-entry, e.g., [AV reentrant tachycardia](#) (AVRT), [AV nodal reentrant tachycardia](#) (AVNRT). In addition, [atrial tachycardia](#) can sometimes be terminated with adenosine.

Fast rhythms of the heart that are confined to the [atria](#) (e.g., [atrial fibrillation](#), [atrial flutter](#)) or [ventricles](#) (e.g., [monomorphic ventricular tachycardia](#)) and do not involve the AV node as part of the re-entrant circuit are not typically converted by adenosine. However, the ventricular response rate is temporarily slowed with adenosine in such cases.

Because of the effects of adenosine on AV node-dependent SVTs, adenosine is considered a class V [antiarrhythmic agent](#). When adenosine is used to [cardiovert](#) an abnormal rhythm, it is normal for the heart to enter ventricular [asystole](#) for a few seconds. This can be disconcerting to a normally conscious patient, and is associated with angina-like sensations in the chest.^[9]

Nuclear stress test [[edit](#)]

Adenosine is used as an adjunct to thallium (Tl 201) or technetium (Tc99m) myocardial perfusion scintigraphy (nuclear stress test) in patients unable to undergo adequate stress testing with exercise.^[10]

Dosage [[edit](#)]

When given for the evaluation or treatment of a [supraventricular tachycardia](#) (SVT), the initial dose is 6 mg to 12 mg, depending on standing orders or provider preference,^[11] given as a rapid [parenteral infusion](#). Due to adenosine's extremely short half-life, the IV line is started as proximal (near) to the heart as possible, such as the [antecubital fossa](#). The IV push is often followed with an immediate flush of 10-20 ccs of saline. If this has no effect (i.e., no evidence of transient AV block), a dose of 12 mg can be given 1–2 minutes after the first dose. Some clinicians may prefer to administer a higher dose (typically 18 mg), rather than repeat a dose that apparently had no effect.^{[[dubious](#) - [discuss](#)]} When given to dilate the arteries, such as in a "stress test", the dosage is typically 0.14 mg/kg/min, administered for 4 or 6 minutes, depending on the protocol.

The recommended dose may be increased in patients on theophylline, since methylxanthines prevent binding of adenosine at receptor sites. The dose is often decreased in patients on dipyridamole (Persantine) and diazepam (Valium) because adenosine potentiates the effects of these drugs. The recommended dose is also reduced by half in patients presenting [congestive heart failure](#), [myocardial infarction](#), [shock](#), [hypoxia](#), and/or hepatic or renal insufficiency, and in [elderly](#) patients.

Bioavailability	Rapidly cleared from circulation via cellular uptake
Protein binding	No
Metabolism	Rapidly converted to inosine and adenosine monophosphate
Elimination half-life	cleared plasma <30 seconds – half-life <10 seconds
Excretion	can leave cell intact or can be degraded to hypoxanthine, xanthine, and ultimately uric acid

Identifiers

IUPAC name	[show]
CAS Number	58-61-7  
PubChem CID	60961 
IUPHAR/BPS	2844 
DrugBank	DB00640  
ChemSpider	54923  
UNII	K72T3FS567 
KEGG	C00212  
ChEBI	CHEBI:16335  
ChEMBL	ChEMBL477  
ECHA InfoCard	100.000.354  

Chemical and physical data

Formula	C ₁₀ H ₁₃ N ₅ O ₄
Molar mass	267.241 g/mol
3D model (JSmol)	Interactive image 
SMILES	[show]
InChI	[show]
 (what is this?) (verify)	

Drug interactions [edit]

[Dipyridamole](#) potentiates the action of adenosine, requiring the use of lower doses.

[Methylxanthines](#) (e.g., [caffeine](#), found in coffee, or [theophylline](#) in tea, or [theobromine](#), as found in chocolate) competitively antagonize adenosine's effects; an increased dose of adenosine may be required. By nature of caffeine's [purine](#) structure,^[12] it binds to some of the same receptors as adenosine.^[12] The pharmacological effects of adenosine may be blunted in individuals taking large quantities of [methylxanthines](#).^[13]^[*citation needed*]

Contraindications [edit]

Common [contraindications](#) for adenosine include

- [Asthma](#), traditionally considered an absolute [contraindication](#). This is being contended and it is now considered a relative contraindication (however, selective adenosine antagonists are being investigated for use in treatment of asthma)^[14]
- Decompensated heart failure
- [Long QT syndrome](#)
- Poison/drug-induced tachycardia
- Second- or third-degree [heart block](#) (without a pacemaker)
- Severe hypotension
- [Sick sinus syndrome](#) (without a pacemaker)

When administered via a central lumen catheter, adenosine has been shown to initiate [atrial fibrillation](#) because of its effect on atrial tissue. In individuals with [accessory pathways](#), the onset of atrial fibrillation can lead to a life-threatening [ventricular fibrillation](#). However, adenosine may be administered if equipment for cardioversion is immediately available as a backup.

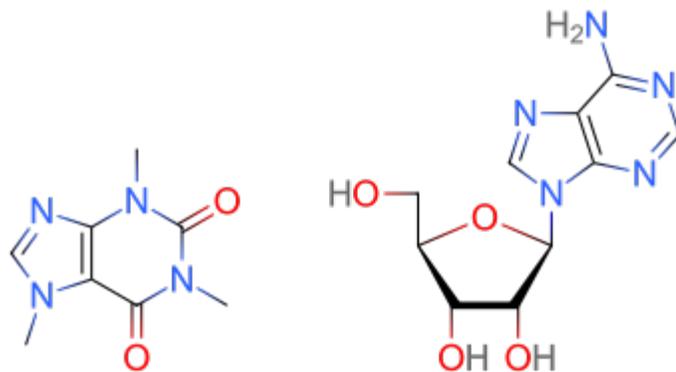
Side effects [edit]

Many individuals experience facial flushing, a temporary rash on the chest, lightheadedness, [diaphoresis](#), or nausea after administration of adenosine due to its vasodilatory effects. [Metallic taste](#) is a hallmark side-effect of adenosine administration. These symptoms are transitory, usually lasting less than one minute. It is classically associated with a sense of "impending doom", more prosaically described as apprehension. This lasts a few seconds after administration of a bolus dose, during transient [asystole](#) induced by intravenous administration. In some cases, adenosine can make patients' limbs feel numb for about 2–5 minutes after administration intravenously depending on the dosage (usually above 12 mg).

Pharmacological effects [edit]

Adenosine is an endogenous purine nucleoside that modulates many physiological processes. Cellular signaling by adenosine occurs through four known adenosine receptor subtypes ([A₁](#), [A_{2A}](#), [A_{2B}](#), and [A₃](#)).^[15]

Extracellular adenosine concentrations from normal cells are approximately 300 nM; however, in response to cellular damage (e.g. in inflammatory or [ischemic](#) tissue), these concentrations are quickly elevated (600–1,200 nM). Thus, in regard to stress or injury, the function of adenosine is primarily that of cytoprotection preventing tissue damage during instances of [hypoxia](#), [ischemia](#), and seizure activity. Activation of [A_{2A}](#) receptors produces a constellation of responses that in general can be classified as anti-



Caffeine

Adenosine

[Caffeine](#)'s principal mode of action is as an [antagonist](#) of adenosine receptors in the brain.

inflammatory.^[16]

Adenosine receptors ^[edit]

Main article: [Adenosine receptor](#)

All adenosine receptor subtypes (A₁, A_{2A}, A_{2B}, and A₃) are [G-protein-coupled receptors](#). The four receptor subtypes are further classified based on their ability to either stimulate or inhibit [adenylate cyclase](#) activity. The A₁ receptors couple to G_{i/o} and decreases cAMP levels, while the A₂ adenosine receptors couple to G_s, which stimulates adenylyl cyclase activity. In addition, A₁ receptors couple to G_o, which has been reported to mediate adenosine inhibition of Ca²⁺ conductance, whereas A_{2B} and A₃ receptors also couple to G_q and stimulate [phospholipase](#) activity. Researchers at Cornell University have recently shown adenosine receptors to be key in opening the blood-brain barrier (BBB). Mice dosed with adenosine have shown increased transport across the BBB of amyloid plaque antibodies and prodrugs associated with Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, and cancers of the central nervous system.^[17]

Ghrelin/growth hormone secretagogue receptor ^[edit]

Adenosine is an [endogenous agonist](#) of the [ghrelin/growth hormone secretagogue receptor](#).^[18] However, while it is able to increase [appetite](#), unlike other agonists of this receptor, adenosine is unable to induce the secretion of [growth hormone](#) and increase its plasma levels.^[18]

Mechanism of action ^[edit]

When it is administered intravenously, adenosine causes transient [heart block](#) in the [atrioventricular \(AV\) node](#). This is mediated via the [A₁-receptor](#), inhibiting adenylyl cyclase, reducing cAMP and so causing cell hyperpolarization by increasing K⁺ efflux via [inward rectifier K⁺ channels](#), subsequently inhibiting Ca²⁺ current.^[19] It also causes endothelial-dependent relaxation of smooth muscle as is found inside the artery walls. This causes dilation of the "normal" segments of arteries, i.e. where the [endothelium](#) is not separated from the tunica media by [atherosclerotic plaque](#). This feature allows physicians to use adenosine to test for blockages in the coronary arteries, by exaggerating the difference between the normal and abnormal segments.

The administration of adenosine also reduces blood flow to coronary arteries past the occlusion. Other coronary arteries dilate when adenosine is administered while the segment past the occlusion is already maximally dilated, which is a process called coronary steal. This leads to less blood reaching the ischemic tissue, which in turn produces the characteristic chest pain.

Metabolism ^[edit]

Adenosine used as a [second messenger](#) can be the result of *de novo* [purine biosynthesis](#) via [adenosine monophosphate](#) (AMP), though it is possible other pathways exist.^[20]

When adenosine enters the circulation, it is broken down by [adenosine deaminase](#), which is present in [red cells](#) and the vessel wall.

[Dipyridamole](#), an inhibitor of [adenosine nucleoside transporter](#), allows adenosine to accumulate in the blood stream. This causes an increase in coronary vasodilatation.

[Adenosine deaminase deficiency](#) is a known cause of immunodeficiency.

Research ^[edit]

Viruses [[edit](#)]

See also: *[Nucleoside analogue](#)*

The adenosine analog [NITD008](#) has been reported to directly inhibit the recombinant RNA-dependent [RNA polymerase](#) of the [dengue virus](#) by terminating its RNA chain synthesis. This suppresses peak [viremia](#) and rise in [cytokines](#) and prevented lethality in infected animals, raising the possibility of a new treatment for this [flavivirus](#).^[21] The 7-deaza-adenosine analog has been shown to inhibit the replication of the [hepatitis C virus](#).^[22] [BCX4430](#) is protective against [Ebola](#) and [Marburg](#) viruses.^[23] Such adenosine analogs are potentially clinically useful since they can be taken orally.

Anti-inflammatory properties [[edit](#)]

Adenosine is believed to be an [anti-inflammatory](#) agent at the A_{2A} receptor.^{[24][25]} Topical treatment of adenosine to foot wounds in [diabetes mellitus](#) has been shown in lab animals to drastically increase tissue repair and reconstruction. Topical administration of adenosine for use in wound-healing deficiencies and diabetes mellitus in humans is currently under clinical investigation.

[Methotrexate](#)'s anti-inflammatory effect may be due to its stimulation of adenosine release.^[26]

Central nervous system [[edit](#)]

In general, adenosine has an inhibitory effect in the [central nervous system](#) (CNS). [Caffeine](#)'s stimulatory effects are credited primarily (although not entirely) to its capacity to block adenosine receptors, thereby reducing the inhibitory tonus of adenosine in the CNS. This reduction in adenosine activity leads to increased activity of the [neurotransmitters dopamine](#) and [glutamate](#).^[27] Experimental evidence suggests that adenosine and adenosine agonists can activate [Trk receptor](#) phosphorylation through a mechanism that requires the adenosine A_{2A} receptor.^[28]

Hair [[edit](#)]

Adenosine has been shown to promote thickening of hair on people with thinning hair.^{[29][30]} A 2013 study compared topical adenosine with [minoxidil](#) in male [androgenetic alopecia](#), finding it was not superior to minoxidil and further trials were needed.^[31]

Sleep [[edit](#)]

The principal component of [marijuana](#), [delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol](#) (THC) and the [endocannabinoid anandamide](#) (AEA) induce [sleep](#) in [rats](#) by increasing adenosine levels in the [basal forebrain](#). They also significantly increase [slow-wave sleep](#) during the third hour, mediated by [CB1 receptor activation](#). These findings identify a potential [therapeutic use](#) of [cannabinoids](#) to induce sleep in conditions where sleep may be severely attenuated.^[32]

See also [[edit](#)]

- [Adenosine receptor](#)
- [Adenosine reuptake inhibitor](#)
- [List of growth hormone secretagogues](#)

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Neurotransmitters

[show]

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Nucleic acid constituents

[show]

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Antiarrhythmic agents (C01B)

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Purine receptor modulators

[show]

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GH/IGF-1 axis signaling modulators

[show]

Authority control

NDL: ·

Categories: [Adenosine receptor agonists](#) | [Antiarrhythmic agents](#)

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