2025/06/25 18:30 1/1 Alpha-adrenergic agonist

## Alpha-adrenergic agonist

Adrenergic alpha-agonists (or alpha-adrenergic agonists) are a class of sympathomimetic agents that selectively stimulates alpha-adrenergic receptors. The alpha-adrenergic receptor has two subclasses  $\alpha 1$  and  $\alpha 2$ . Alpha 2 receptors are associated with sympatholytic properties. Alpha-adrenergic agonists have the opposite function of alpha-blockers. Alpha adrenoreceptor ligands mimic the action of epinephrine and norepinephrine signaling in the heart, smooth muscle, and central nervous system, with norepinephrine being the highest affinity. The activation of  $\alpha 1$  stimulates the membrane-bound enzyme phospholipase C, and activation of  $\alpha 2$  inhibits the enzyme adenylate cyclase. Inactivation of adenylate cyclase in turn leads to the inactivation of the secondary messenger cyclic adenosine monophosphate and induces smooth muscle and blood vessel constriction.

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