

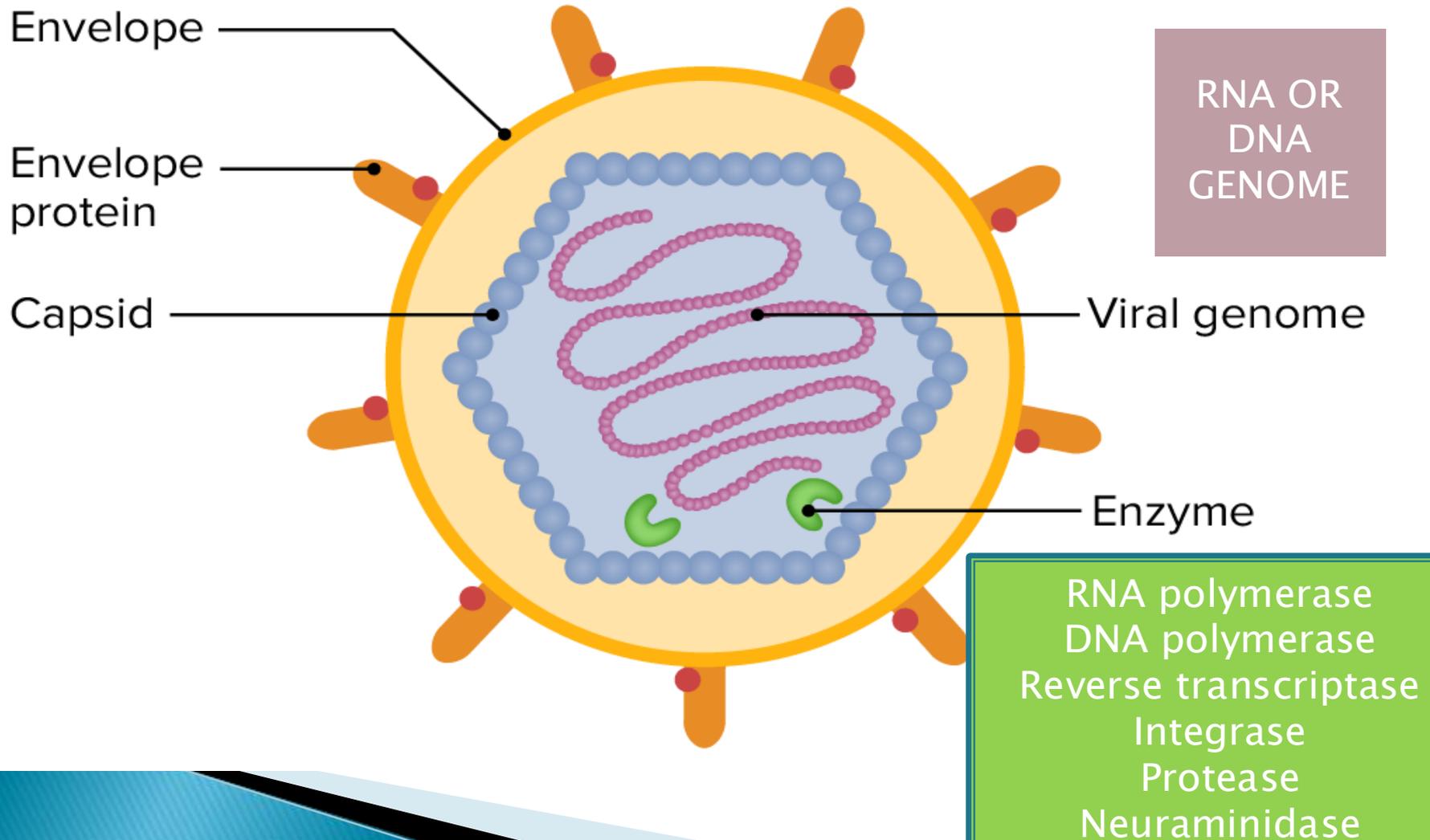


# Antiviral drugs

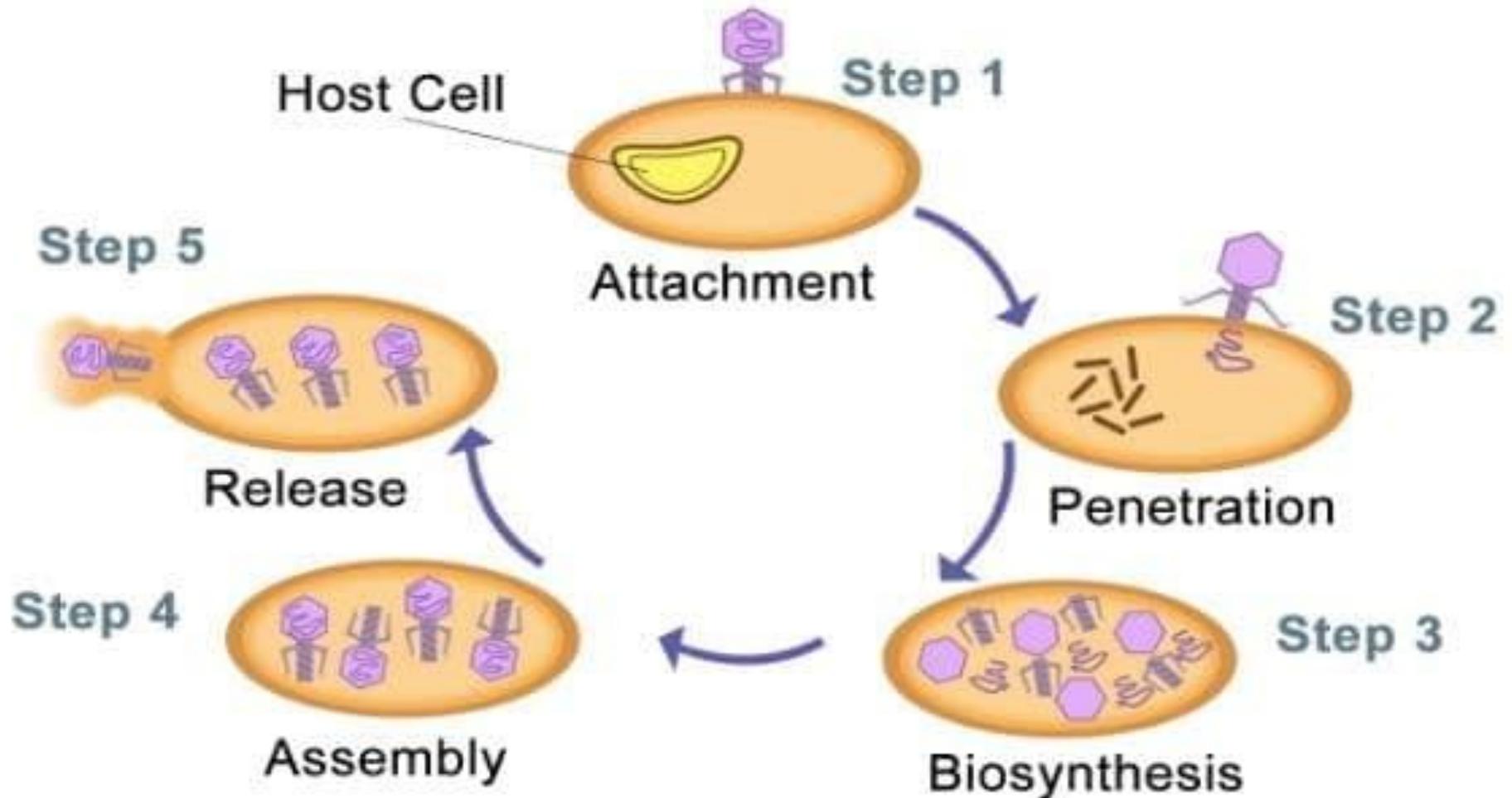
*Prepared by*

Assistant professor / HEBA AHMED HASSAN  
Clinical pharmacology department  
Faculty of medicine – MUTAH University  
(2025-2026)

# Virus structures



# Steps of virus replication



1. BINDING TO CELL SURFACE RECEPTORS

HOST CELL

3. UNCOATING

Rev. transcriptase

RNA polymerase

4. REPLICATION

RNA viruses

viral RNA

8. RELEASE

Neuraminidase

DNA viruses

DNA polymerase

Integrase

viral DNA

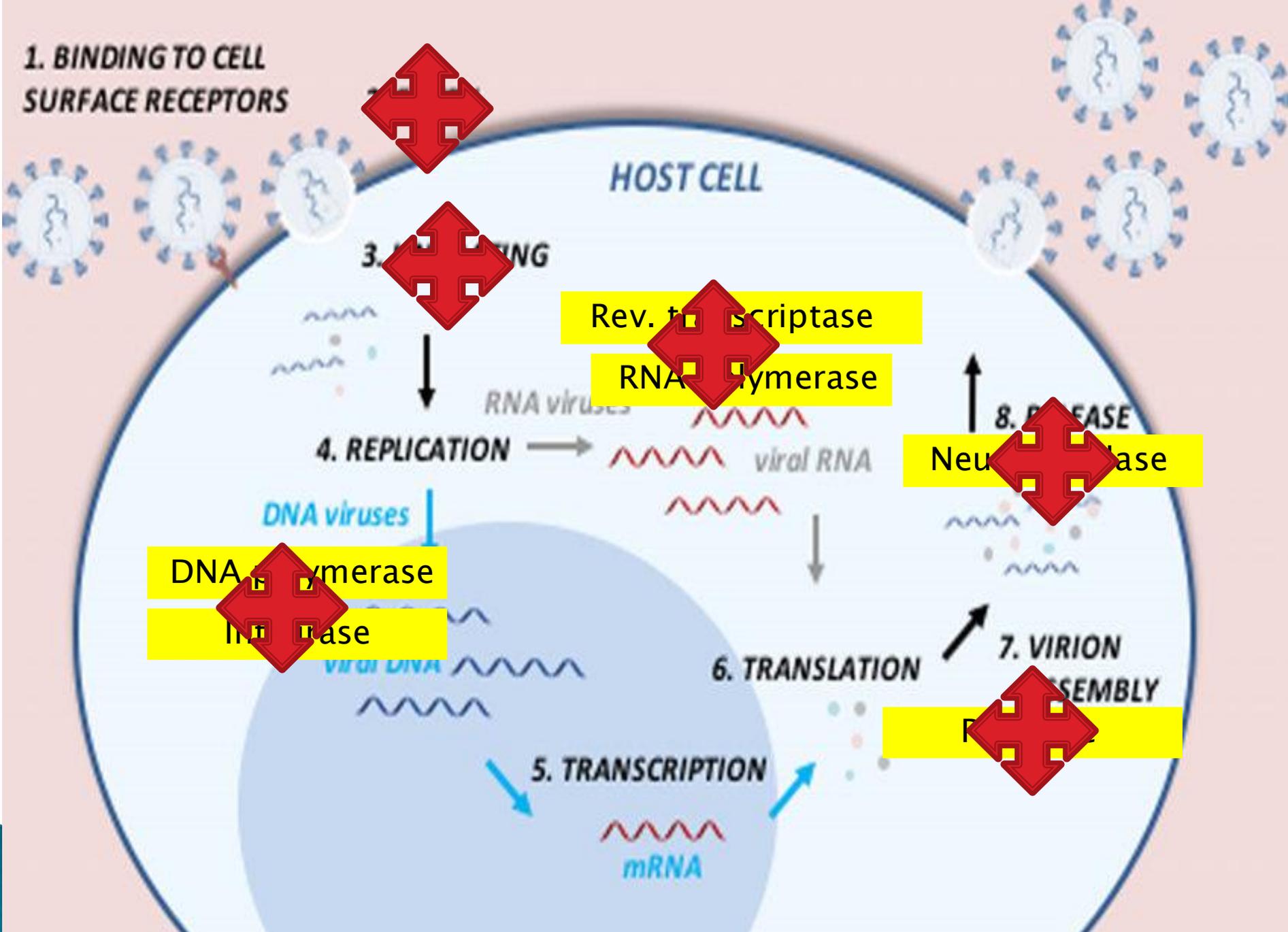
6. TRANSLATION

7. VIRION ASSEMBLY

5. TRANSCRIPTION

mRNA

Protease



**Antiviral drugs**

```
graph TD; A[Antiviral drugs] --- B[Anti-herpetic drugs]; A --- C[Anti-influenzal drugs]; A --- D[Anti-HIV drugs]; E((Anti-hepatitis drugs))
```

Anti-  
hepatitis  
drugs

**Anti-herpetic  
drugs**

**Anti-influenzal  
drugs**

**Anti-HIV drugs**

# -Anti-herpetic drugs (DNA VIRUS)

1–Acyclovir, famciclovir, valacyclovir

2–Ganciclovir, Valganciclovir

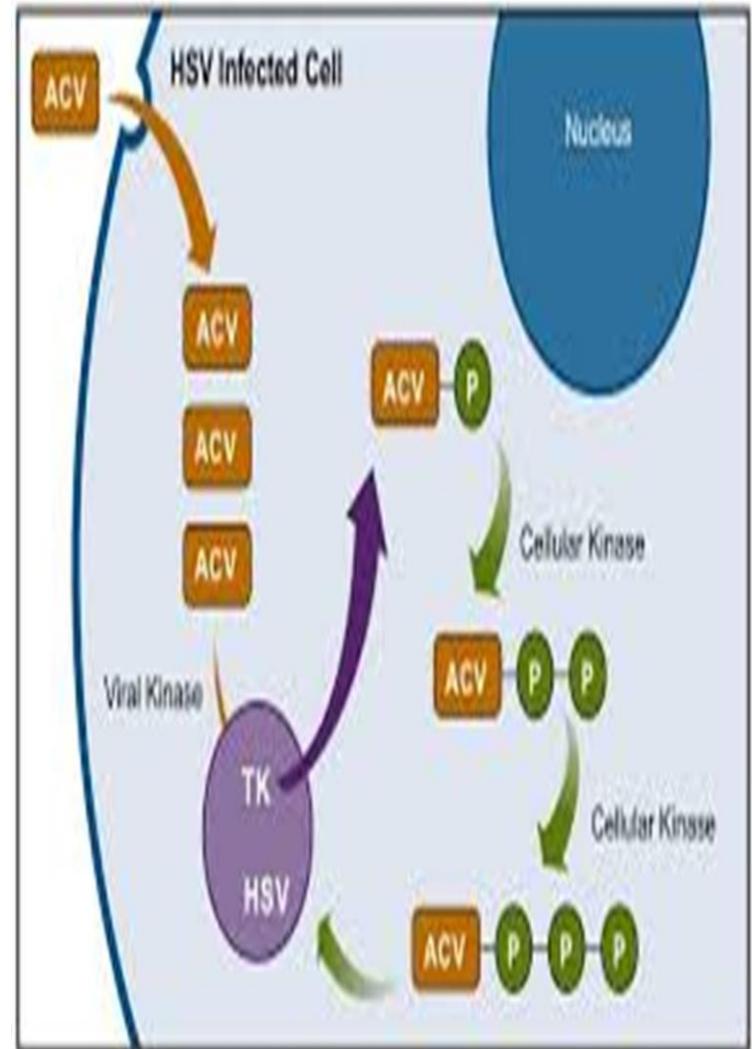
3–Foscarnet



# 1-Acyclovir- famciclovir- valacyclovir

## Activation Guanosine analogs

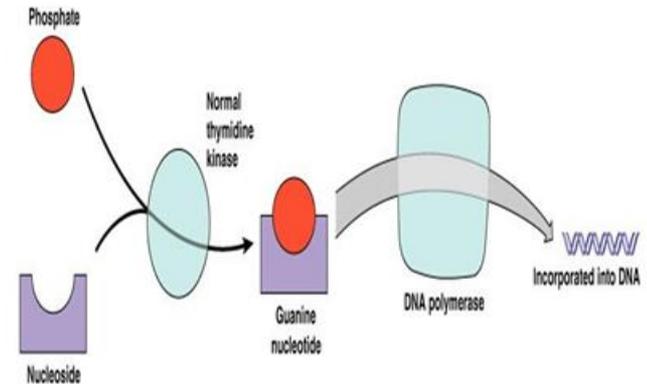
- ▶ Mono-phosphorylated by HSV/VZV thymidine kinase (TK) (not phosphorylated in uninfected cells → few adverse effects).
- ▶ They are further activated by host-cell kinases to the triphosphates



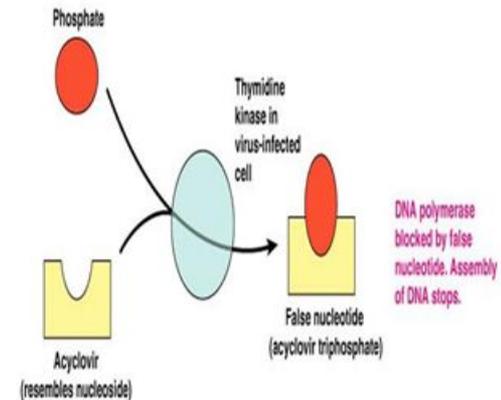
# Mechanism of action

- Triphosphates are substrates for viral **DNA polymerase** → incorporated into the DNA molecule → **chain terminations**

## Mechanism of Action of Acyclovir



(b) The enzyme thymidine kinase combines phosphates with nucleosides to form nucleotides, which are then incorporated into DNA.



(c) Acyclovir has no effect on a cell not infected by a virus, that is, with normal thymidine kinase. In a virally infected cell, the thymidine kinase is altered and converts the acyclovir (which resembles the nucleoside deoxyguanosine) into a false nucleotide—which blocks DNA synthesis by DNA polymerase.

## ▶ Clinical uses:

- ✓ Treatment of herpes simplex (1,2) and varicella zoster virus infections (**drug of choice**)
- ✓ Prophylaxis in immunocompromised patients

## ▶ Toxicity

- ✓ Crystalluria & nephropathy so Maintain good hydration

## Notes

- ❖ No role in post-herpetic neuralgia
- ❖ Valacyclovir is a prodrug of acyclovir (oral=IV acyclovir)
- ❖ For herpes zoster, use famciclovir

# 2-Ganciclovir

**Activation:** Monophosphorylated by CMV kinase → effective against CMV.

**Mechanism of action:** Like acyclovir.

## **Clinical uses:**

- ✓ Treatment & prophylaxis of **cytomegalic virus infection** (especially immunocompromized patients).

## **Toxicity:**

- Myelo-suppression (Leucopenia, thrombocytopenia).
- Nephropathy

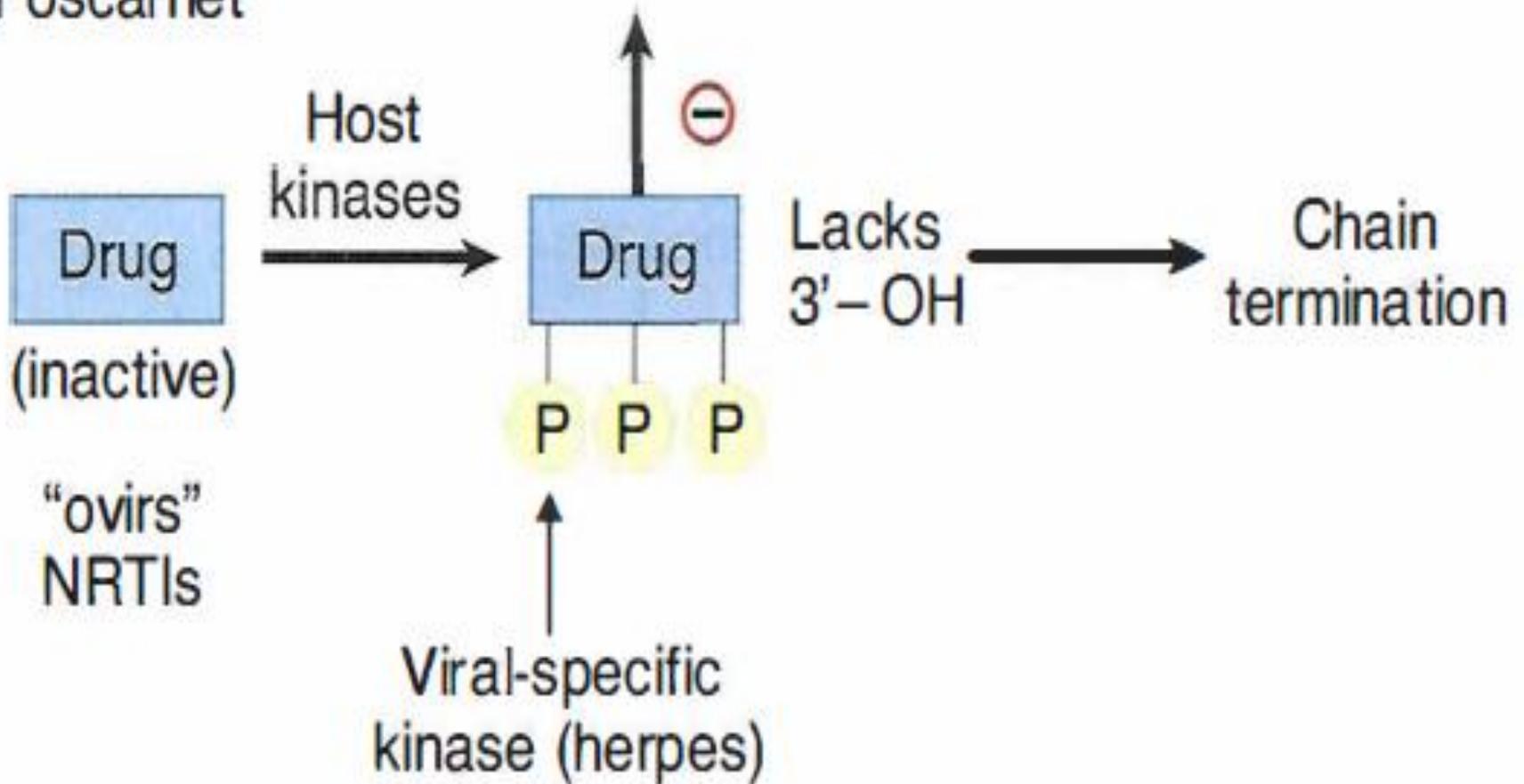
## **Notes:**

- ❖ **Valganciclovir** is a prodrug with **better bioavailability** (oral replacement for IV ganciclovir)

# 3-Foscarnet

- ✓ Doesn't require activation by viral or human kinases
- ▶ **Mechanism of action:**
  - ✓ Inhibition(-) of Viral DNA polymerase
  - ✓ (-) RNA polymerase
  - ✓ (-) HIV reverse transcriptase
- ▶ **Clinical uses:**
  - ✓ Ganciclovir-resistant **CMV infection**
  - ✓ Acyclovir-resistant **HSV infection**
- ▶ **Toxicity:**
  - ✓ Nephrotoxicity
  - ✓ Electrolyte disturbances that may cause seizures ( hypocalcemia & hypomagnesemia)

NNRTIs  $\xrightarrow{\ominus}$  DNA Polymerase (DNA- or RNA-directed)  
Foscarnet



Common Mechanism for “ovirs” and NRTIs

# Anti influenza ( RNA VIRAL)

Amantadine & rimantadine

Oseltamivir & Zanamivir

Baloxavir & marboxil

# 1-Amantadine & Rimantadine

## ▶ **Mechanism of action:**

- ✓ Block attachment (M2 proton channel blocker), penetration, and uncoating of influenza A virus

## ▶ **Clinical uses:**

- ❖ Influenza A prophylaxis (no longer useful due to high resistance).
- ❖ Adjuvant anti-Parkinsonian effect (with rapid tolerance).

## ▶ **Toxicity:**

- ✓ Nervousness, Insomnia, Seizures with overdose, and Atropine-like action

# 2-Oseltamivir & Zanamivir



## ▶ Mechanism of action:

inhibit neuraminidases of influenza A & B → viral clumping → prevents new viral particles from being released in the body.

## ▶ Clinical uses:

- ❖ Prevention & treatment of influenza A & B (48h)

## Side effects:

**Oseltamivir:** nausea, vomiting, headache

**Zanamivir:** bronchospasm ( avoid in asthma/COPD)

**Neuropsychiatric effects** (rare, esp. children)

# 3- Baloxavir and marboxil

- Cap-dependent endonuclease inhibitors

## ◆ Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits viral RNA polymerase (PA subunit)

Block cap snatching from host mRNA

## ◆ Spectrum

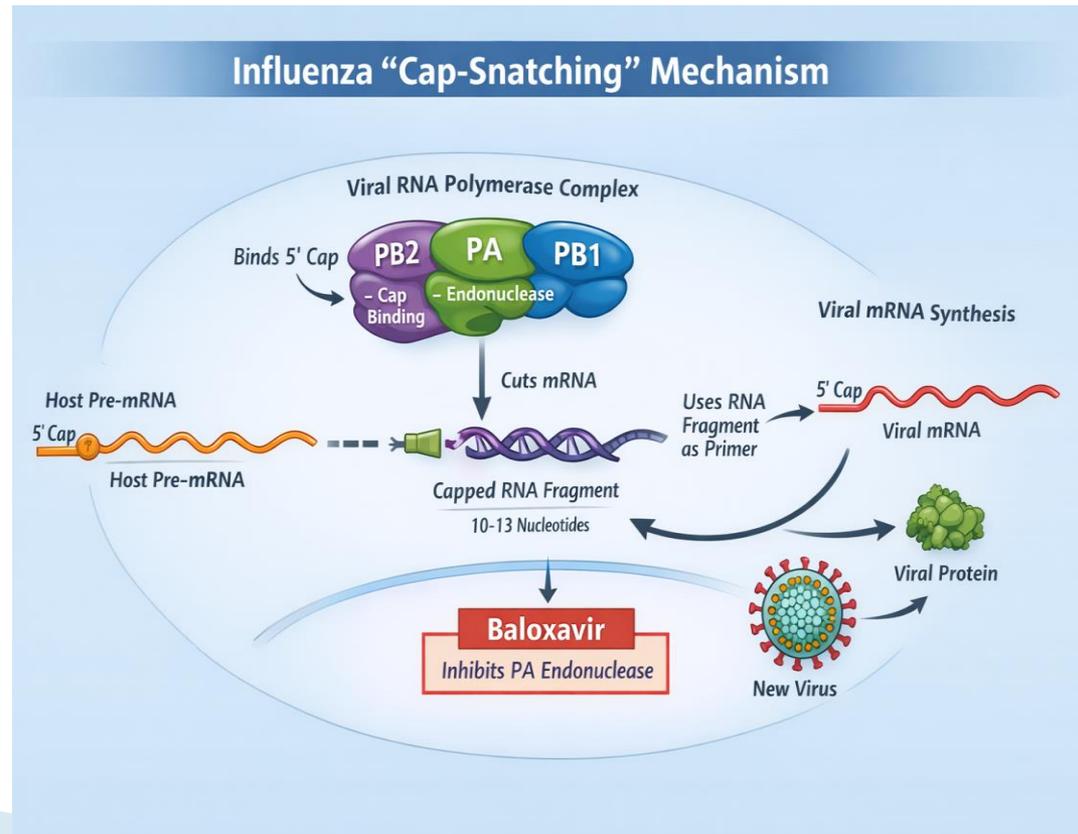
- Influenza A & B

## ◆ Advantages

- Oral Single-dose therapy
- Rapid viral load reduction

## ◆ Adverse Effects

- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Headache



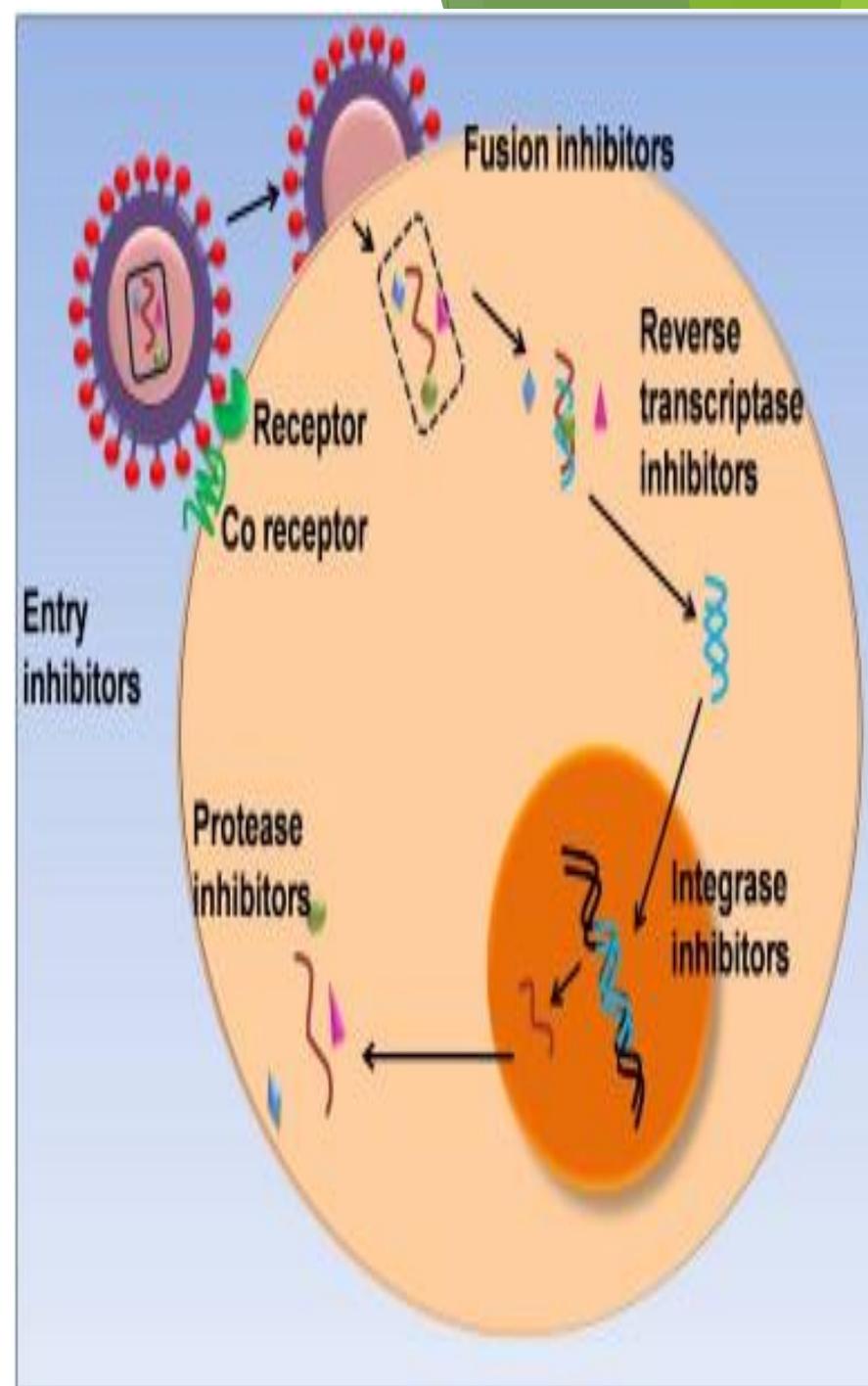
# Anti-HIV drugs

Fusion inhibitors

Reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs).

*Protease inhibitors (PIs).*

*Integrase inhibitors*



- ▶ Highly active antiretroviral therapy (**HAART**) is often initiated on the time of diagnosis.
- ▶ Strongest indication is for patients with AIDS-defining illness, **low CD4+** (< 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>), or **high viral load**.
- ▶ **Regimen** consists of **3 drugs** (to prevent resistance):
  - \_ 2 NRTIs and 1 of the following (NNRTIs, protease inhibitors, or integrase inhibitors).

# Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs):

- ▶ 1- Zidovudine.      2- Lamivudine.
- ▶ 3- Tenofovir      4- Didanosine

## Mechanism of action:

- ▶ Phosphorylated by host kinases (except tenofovir).
- ▶ Competitive inhibition of reverse transcriptase and is incorporated into viral DNA, leading to chain termination.

## Clinical use:

**Main component of HAART.**

# Zidovudine

*Is used for general prophylaxis and for prevention of vertical transmission in pregnancy.*

## **Toxicity:**

- *Bone marrow depression (can be reversed by granulocyte colony stimulating factor [G-CSF] and erythropoietin).*
- *Peripheral neuropathy and myopathy.*
- *Lactic acidosis.*

# Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs).

▶ *Efavirenz, Etravirin.*

▶ ***Mechanism:***

- Bind to and inhibit reverse transcriptase, inhibiting DNA synthesis.
- No need for phosphorylation
- Not competitive (binds to a site other than the site of NRTIs).

▶ ***Toxicity:***

- Rash & hepatotoxicity (common with all members).
- Efavirenz causes vivid dreams and is contraindicated with pregnancy.

## ***Protease inhibitors (PIs).***

▶ Atazanavir, Lopinavir, Ritonavir.

▶ Mechanism :

- HIV-1 **protease** cleaves the polypeptide products of the viral mRNA into functional parts, which then allow the assembly and maturation of new viruses.
- PIs act by ***inhibiting*** this enzyme.
- ***Ritonavir*** (enhancer): is usually combined with other PIs, increasing their activity by inhibiting CYP450.

► Toxicity:

- Hyperglycemia (insulin resistance) & lipodystrophy.
- Nausea & diarrhea.
- Drug-drug interactions.

**N.B.** No bone marrow depression.

## ***Integrase inhibitors.***

► **Raltegravir** and **Elvitegravir**

► ***Mechanism :***

Inhibit **the integration** of the viral genome into the host cell's DNA.

**First-line in the modern ART regimen**

Adverse effects: insomnia, headache, rare myopathy

# Fusion inhibitors:

- Used in **resistant HIV strains**
- Enfuvirtide: subcutaneous injection
- Maraviroc: requires tropism testing (only CCR5-tropic virus)

## Enfuvirtide

### ☒ Mechanism of action:

- It binds to the gp41 subunit of the viral envelope glycoprotein, preventing the fusion of the viral and cellular membranes.

### ▶ Adverse effects:

1. Injection site reaction and hypersensitivity.
2. Increased incidence of bacterial pneumonia

## Maraviroc

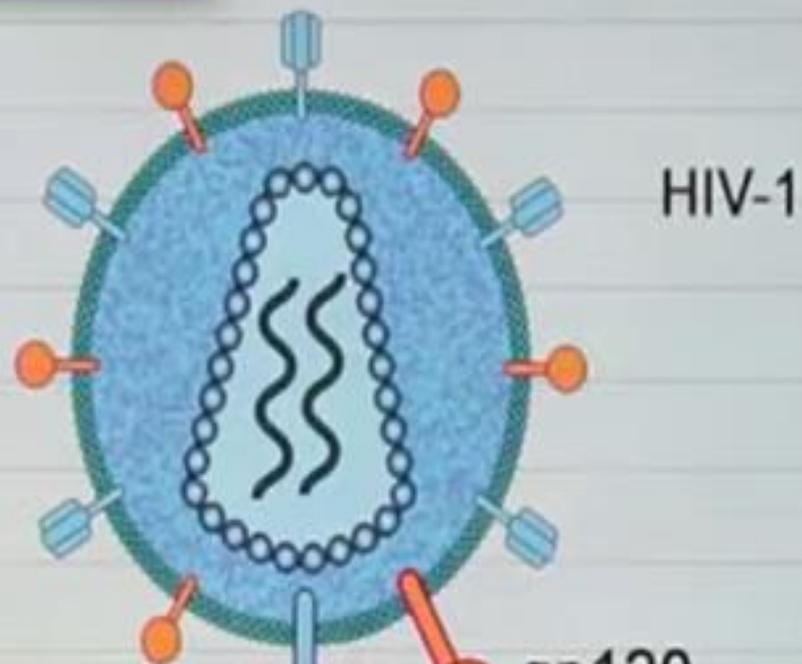
### ☒ Mechanism of action:

- binds specifically and selectively to the membrane host protein **CCR5**, one of two chemokine receptors necessary for entry of HIV into CD4+ cells

- ▶ So, it inhibits binding and entry of the virus into immune cells

### ▶ Adverse effects:

- ▶ 1- Cough
- ▶ 2-Diarrhea
- ▶ 3-Muscle and joint pain



Enfuvirtide



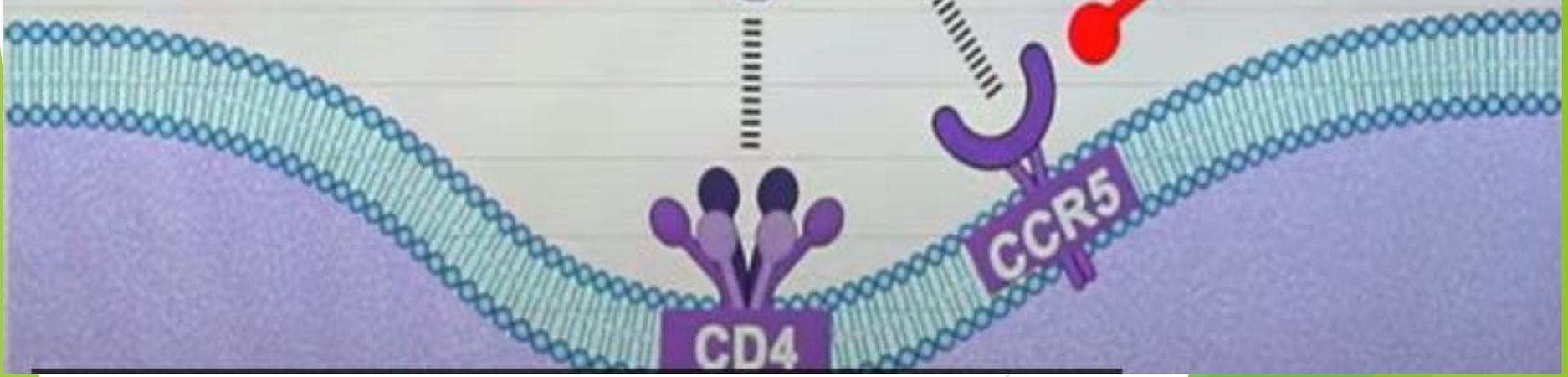
gp41



gp120



Maraviroc





**Thank  
You!!!**

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