PHARM.D • YEAR 1

Pharmaceutical Inorganic Chemistry

CHAPTER 14

Cathartics

PPT CHAPTER COVER



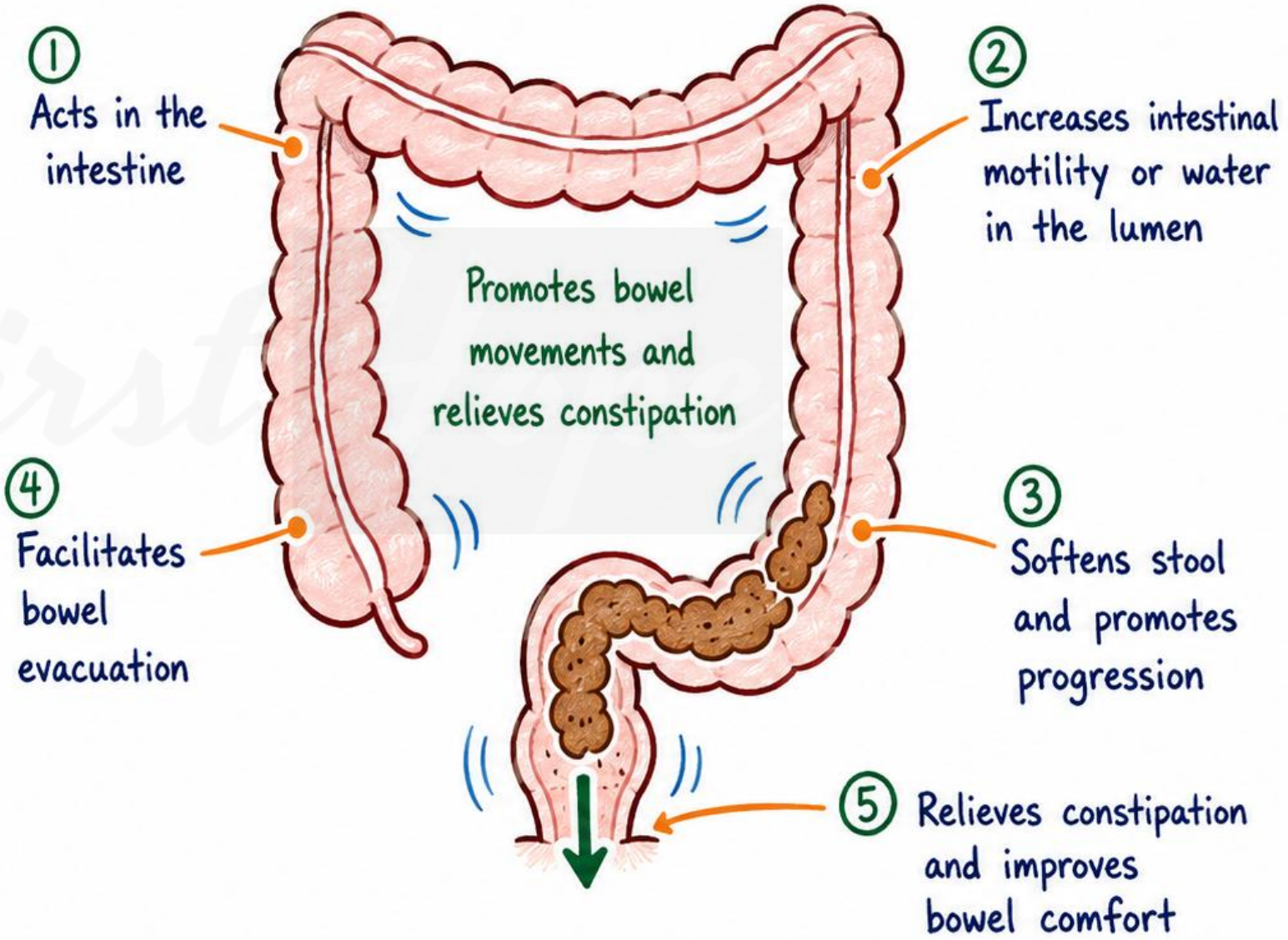
Cathartics and Laxatives: Overview

1) Overview

- Cathartics, also known as laxatives, are substances that promote bowel movements and relieve constipation.

2) Types

- Cathartics include laxatives that act through different mechanisms to facilitate bowel evacuation.
  - → 1. Laxatives
  - → 2. Laxatives



Bulk-Forming and Stool-Softening Agents

① Bulk-Forming Mechanism:

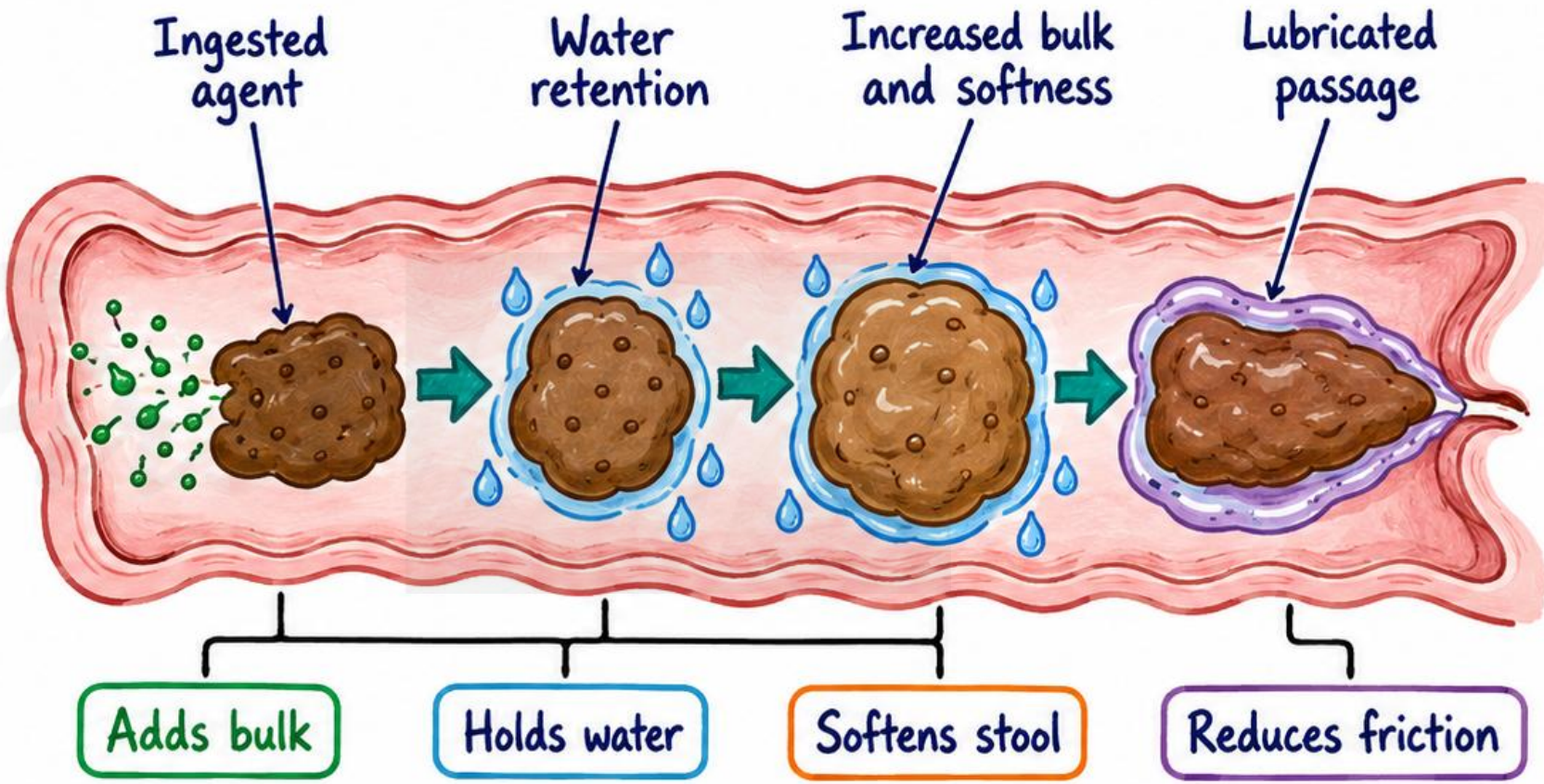
Increase the bulk and water content of the stool, making it easier to pass.

② Stool Mechanism:

Soften the stool by increasing its water content, facilitating easier passage.

③ Coating Mechanism:

Coat the stool and intestinal lining, reducing friction and allowing for easier passage.

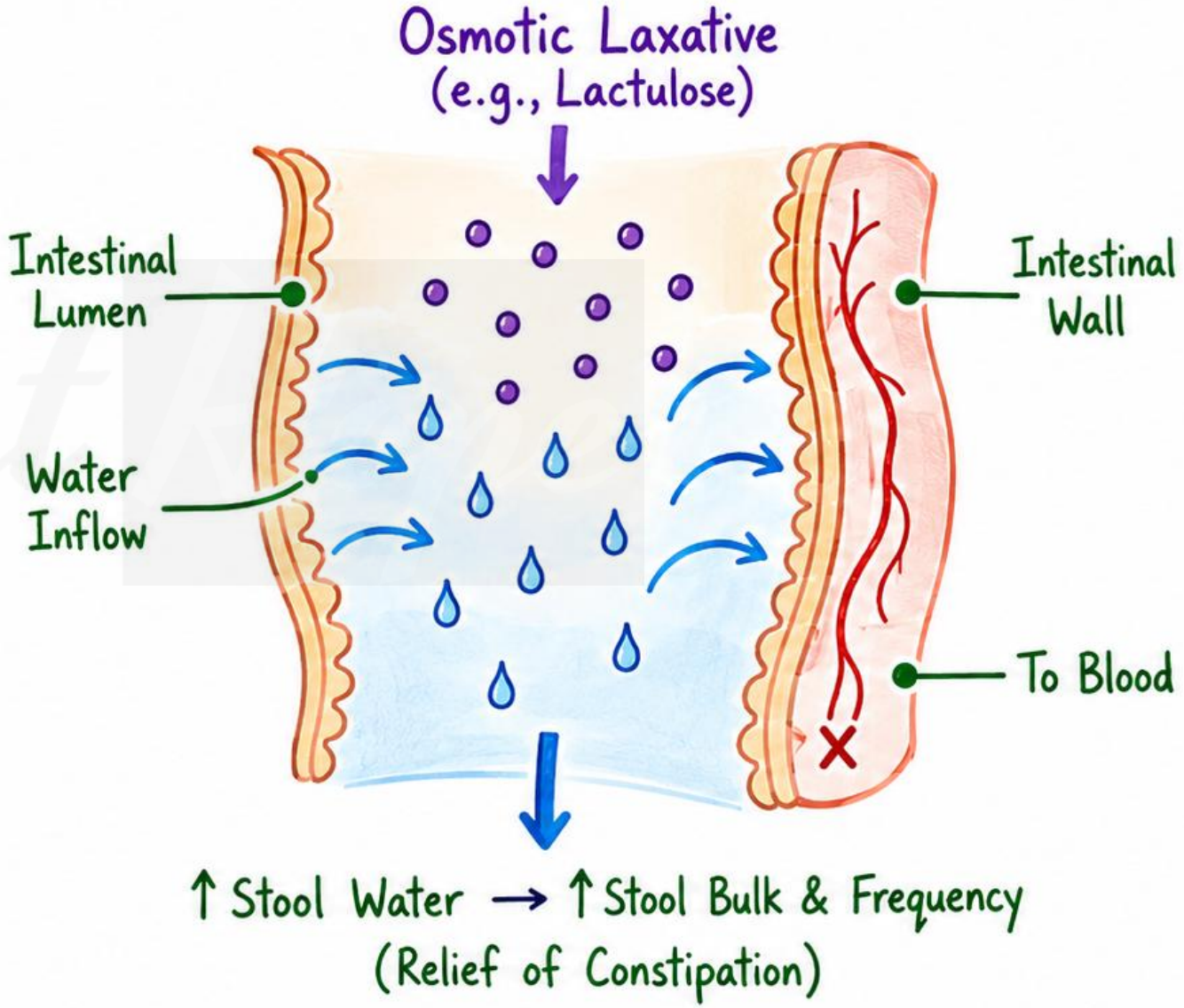


⇒ These agents work by increasing stool bulk and water, softening it, and coating the stool and intestinal lining for smoother passage.

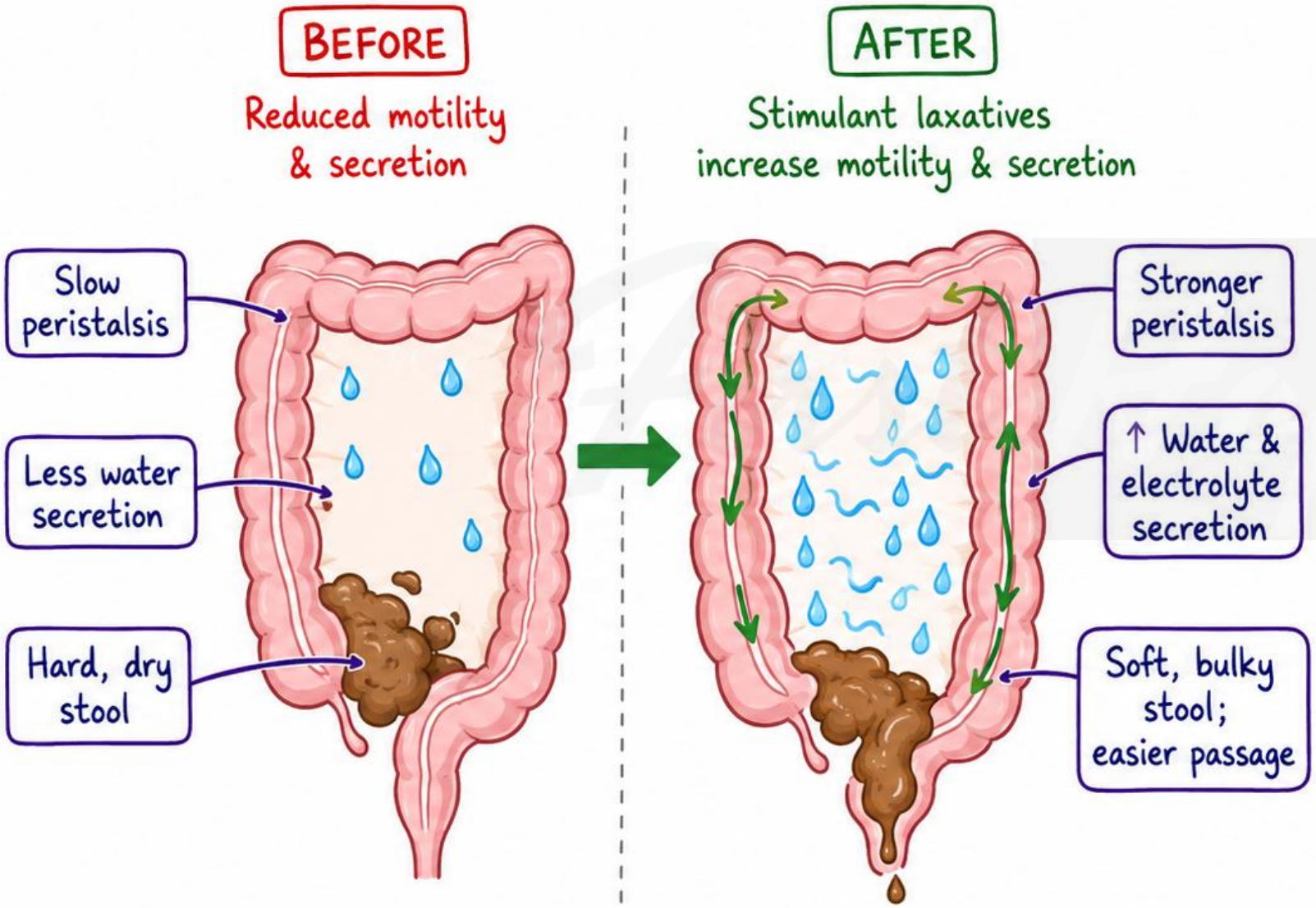
Lubricant and Osmotic Laxatives

Definition: Osmotic laxatives are poorly absorbed, water-soluble substances that retain water in the intestinal lumen, increasing stool bulk and frequency.

Key_point: They are effective without being absorbed, and relieve constipation by promoting watery, soft stools.



Stimulant Laxatives and Prokinetics



1. Stimulant Laxatives

- Act on intestinal motility and secretion.
- Increase peristalsis and intestinal fluid secretion.
- Result: softer, bulkier stool and effective bowel evacuation.

2. Prokinetics (not laxatives)

- Therapeutic class that enhances gastrointestinal motility.
- Used for motility disorders (e.g., gastroparesis, ileus).
- Do not act as laxatives.

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