

IS LETHAL INJECTION
A HUMANE WAY TO
KILL PEOPLE?

Philip D. Hansten
Professor Emeritus
University of Washington



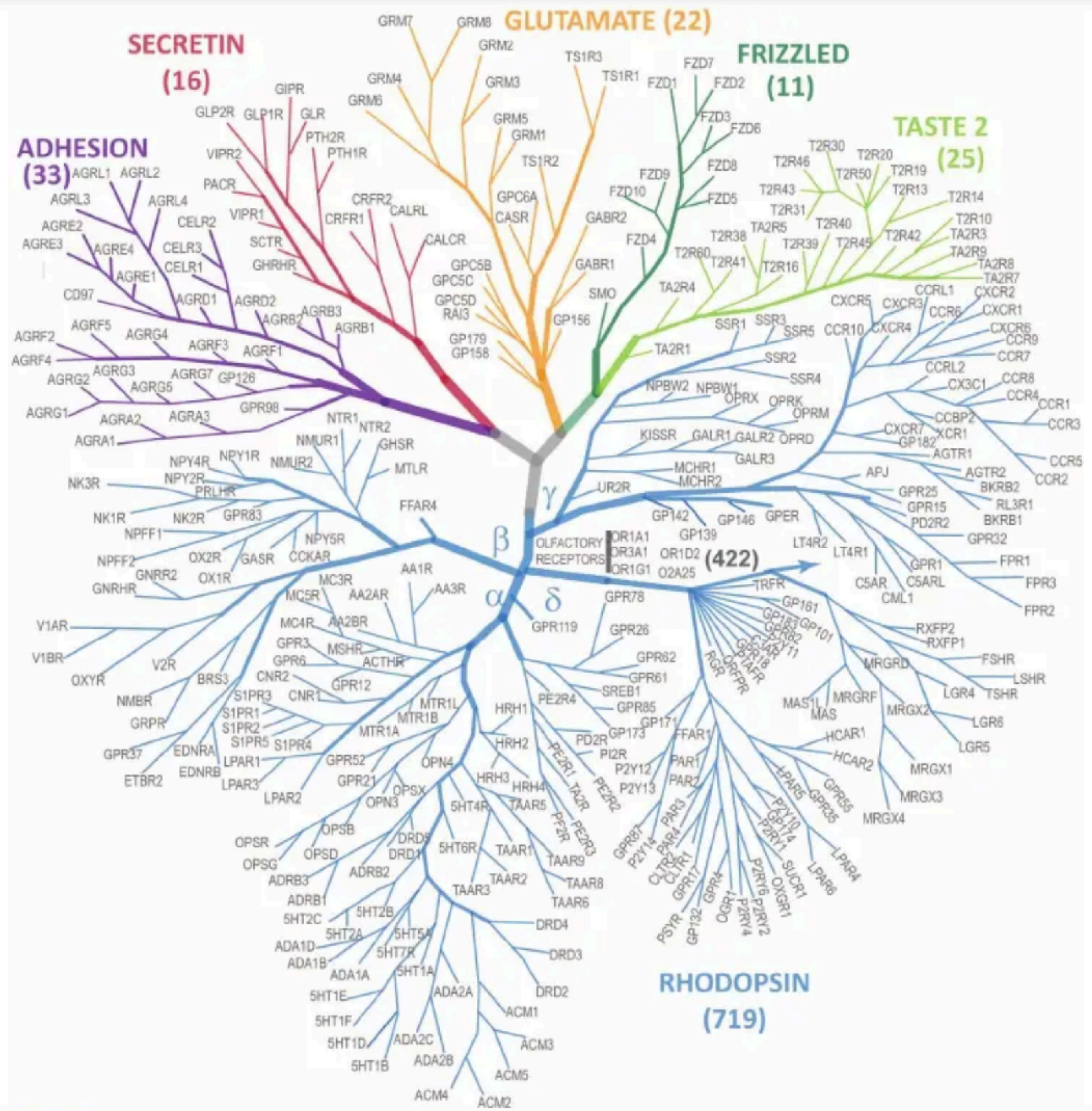
WHY IS USING DRUGS TO KILL PEOPLE SO PROBLEMATIC?

VARIABILITY

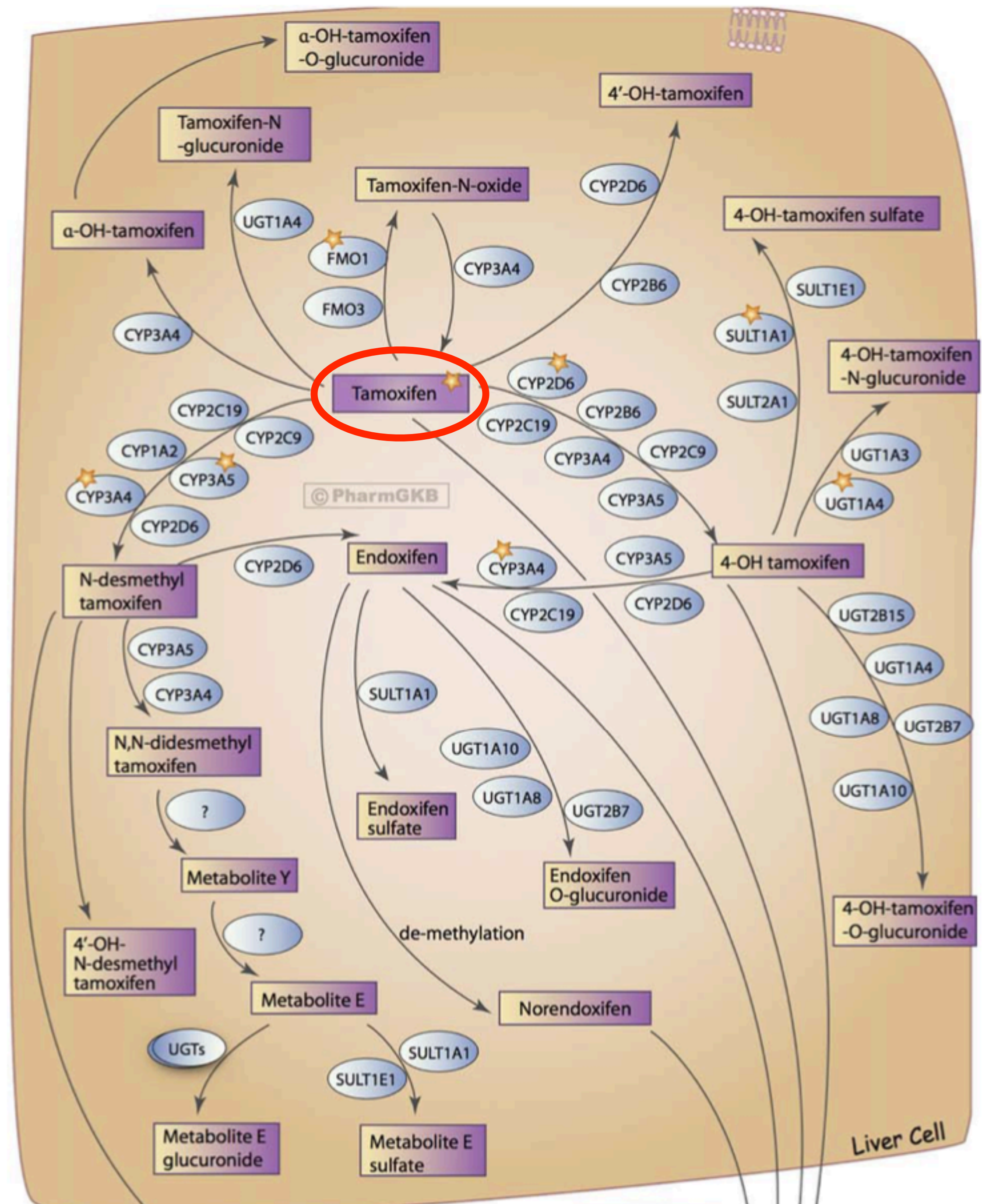
The Astonishing
Complexity of
Human Biology
and Drug Action



G-Protein Coupled Receptors (GPCRs)



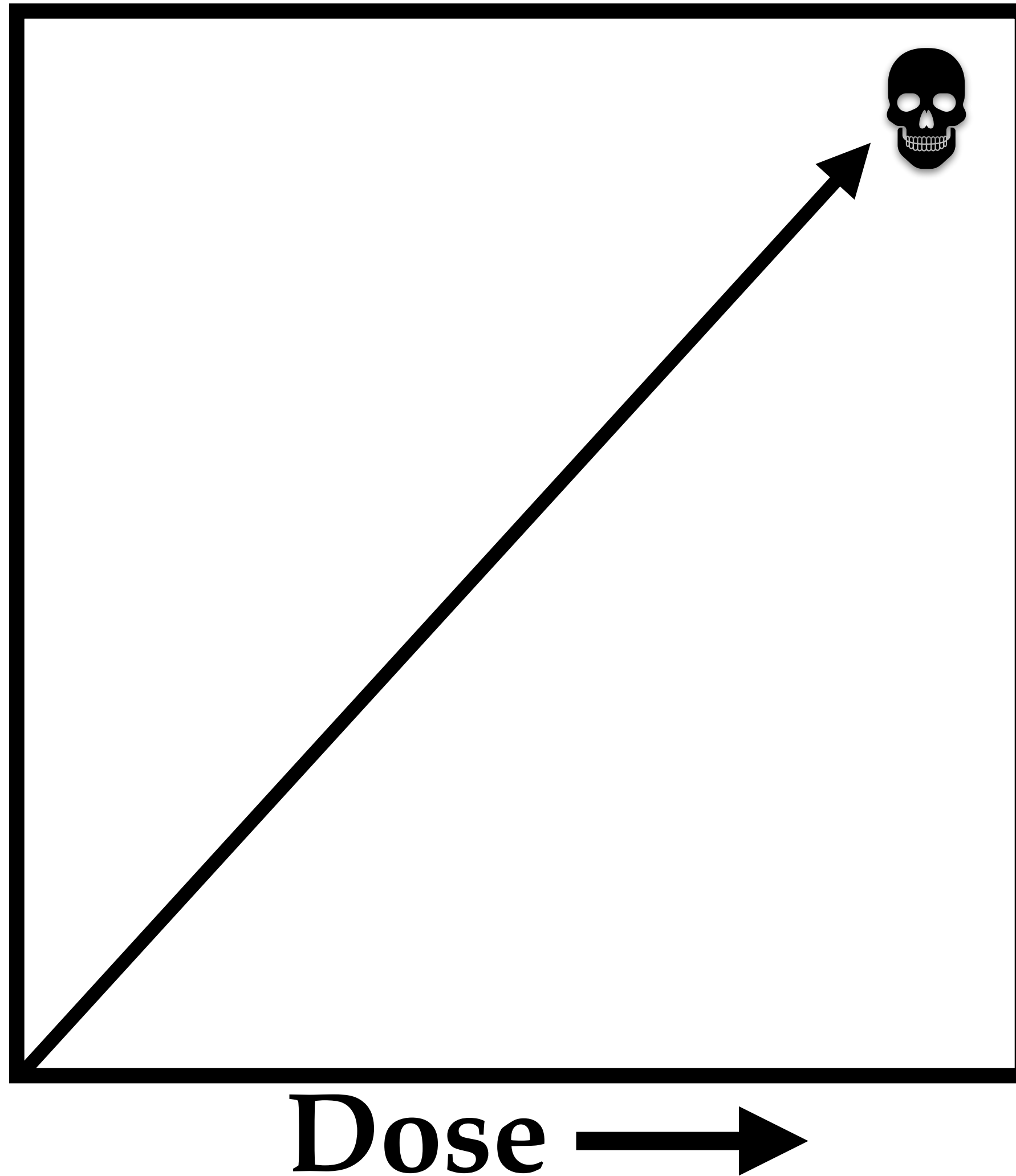
Tamoxifen Metabolism



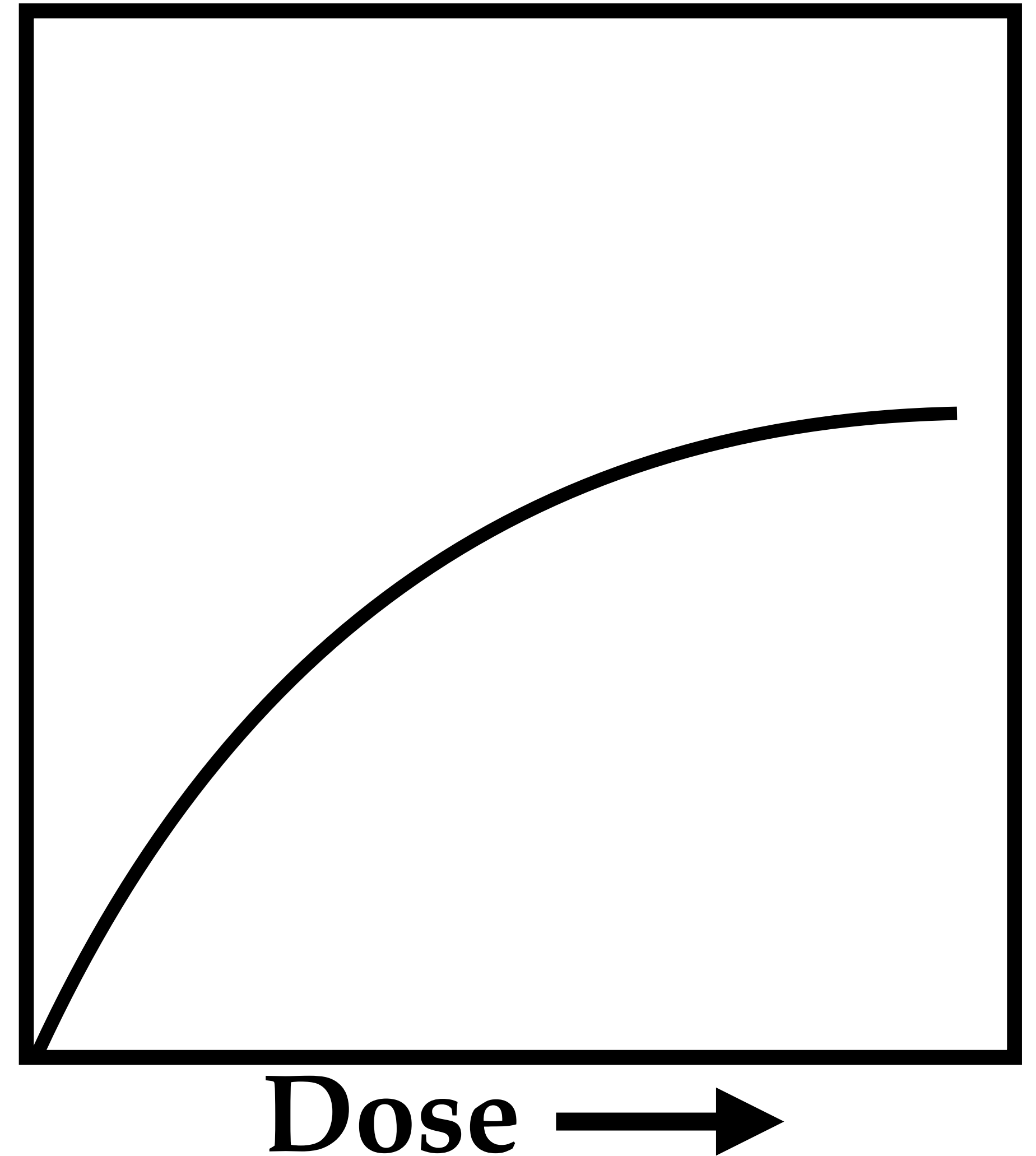
Klein DK, et al. Pharmacogenet Genomics. 2013;23:643.

BARBITURATES VS. MIDAZOLAM

Barbiturates



Midazolam

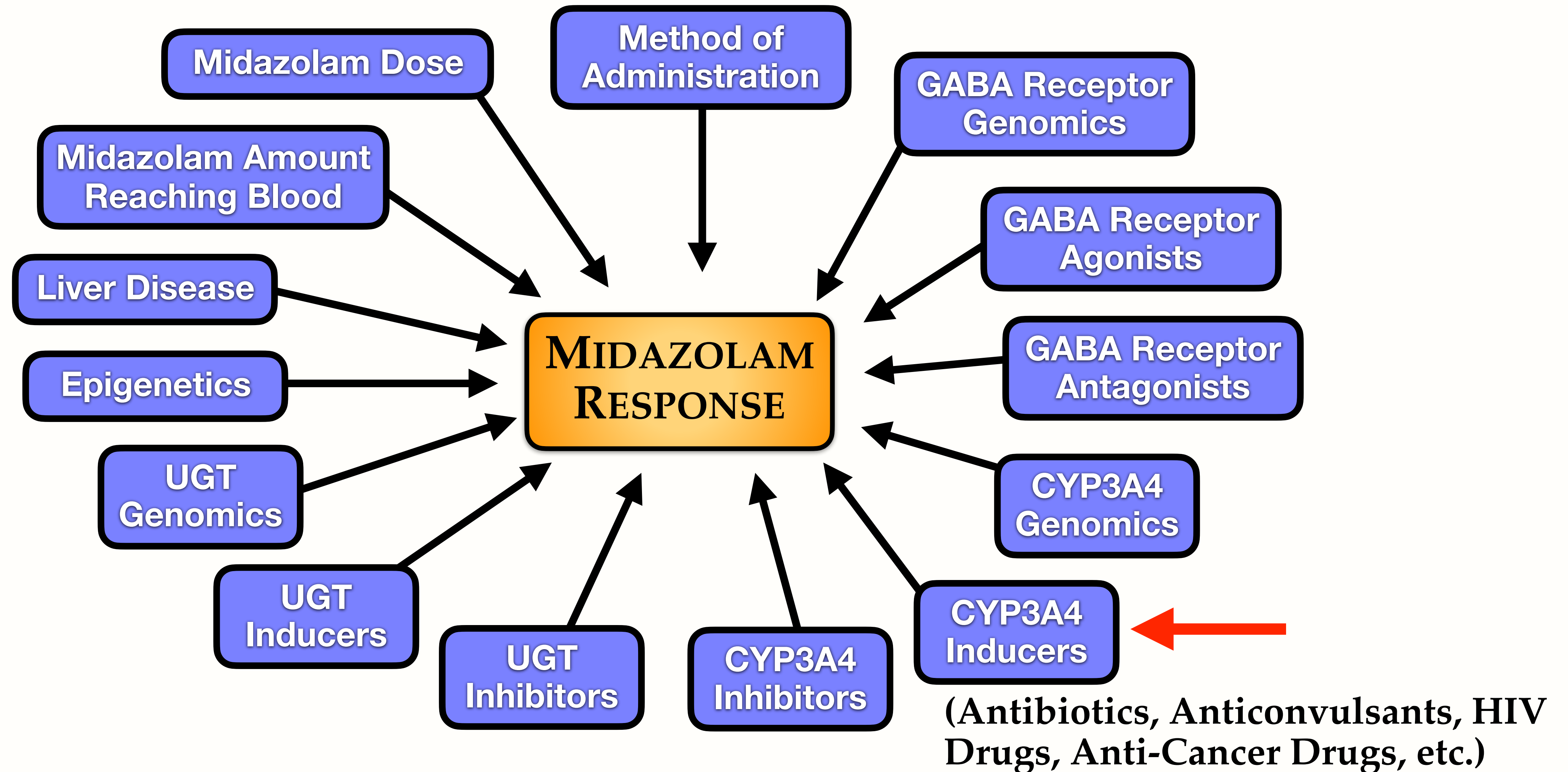


↑
Sedation

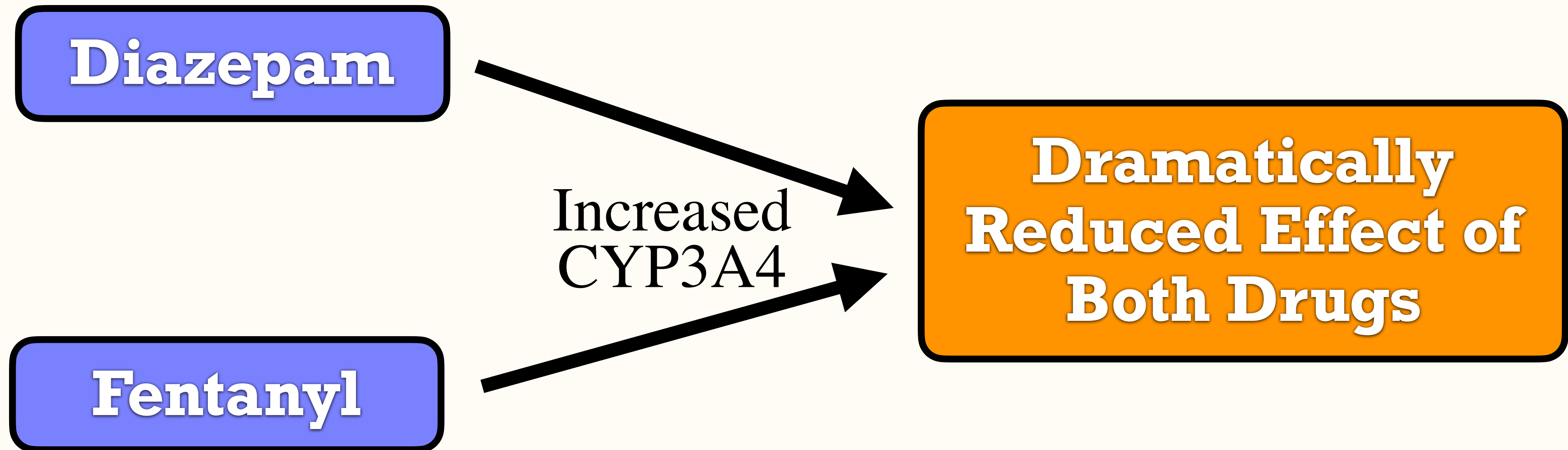
Dose →

Dose →

MANY FACTORS CAN AFFECT MIDAZOLAM RESPONSE

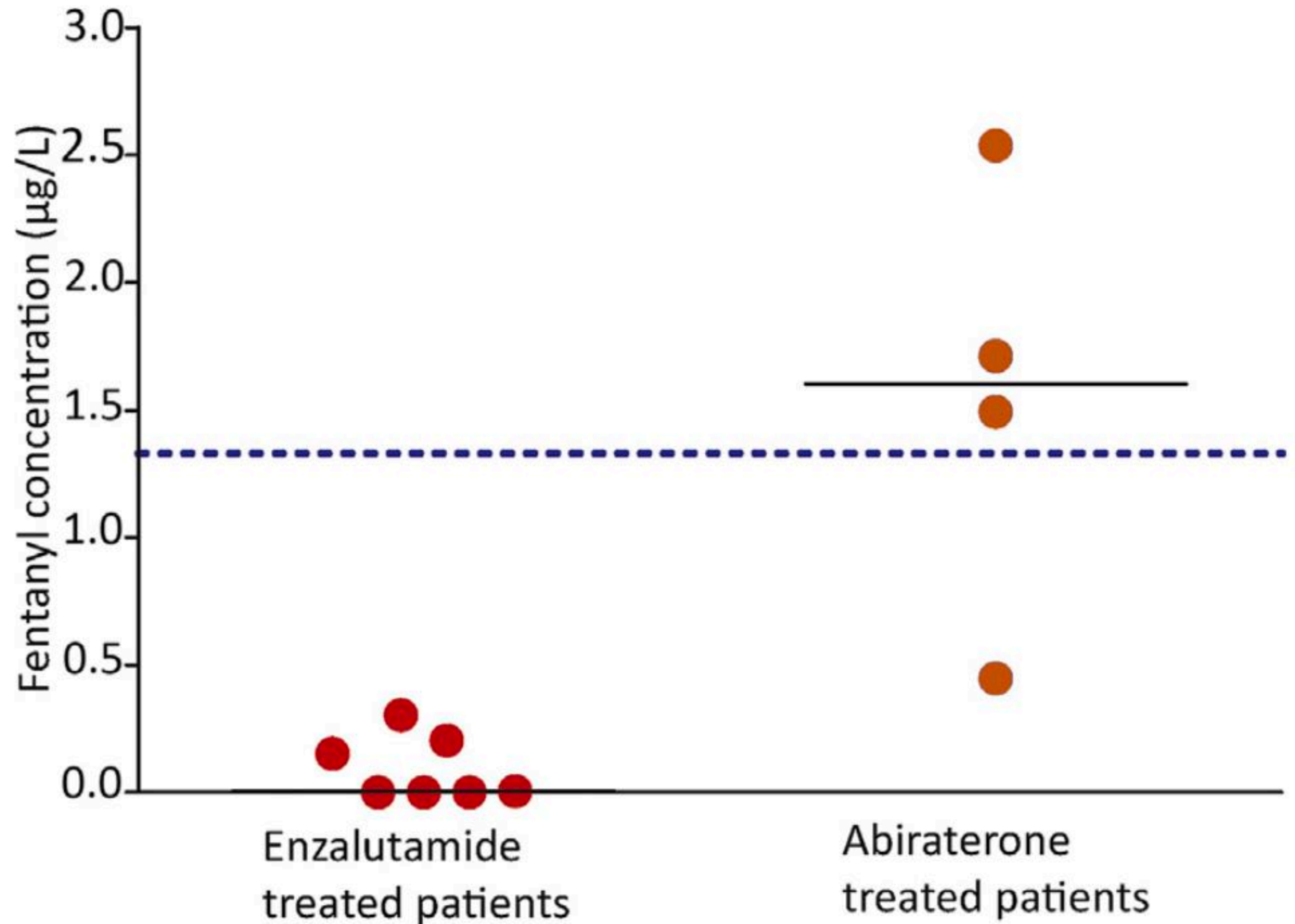


FENTANYL + DIAZEPAM USED BY NEBRASKA



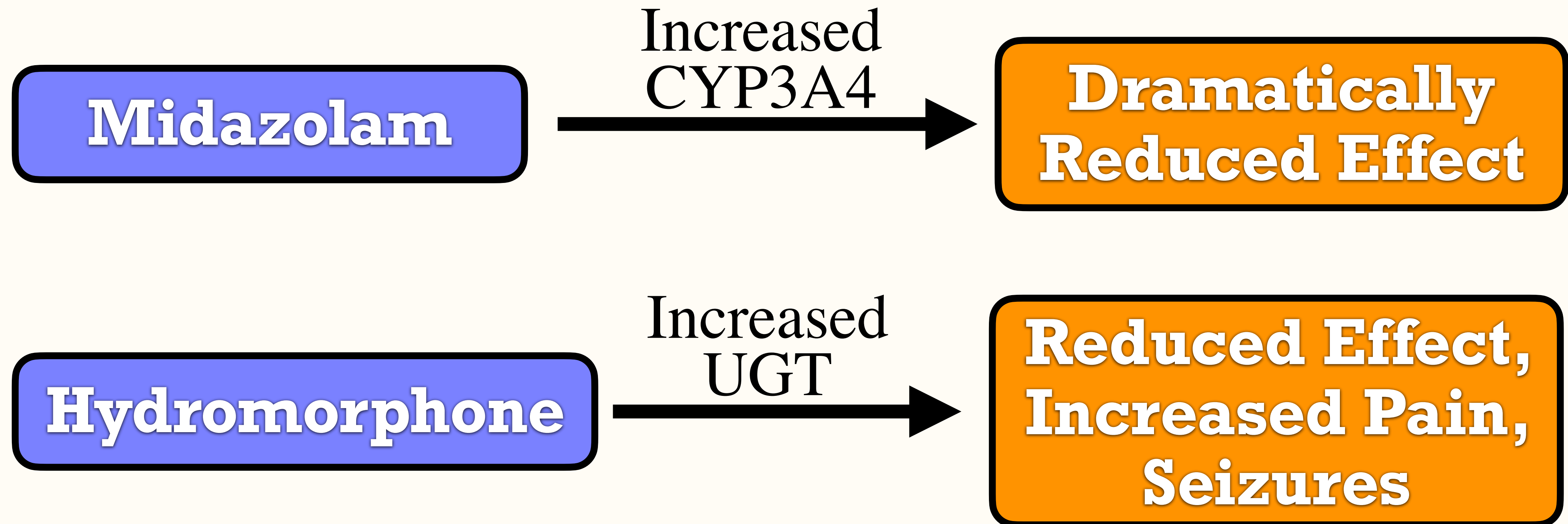
FENTANYL + ENZALUTAMIDE

Prostate Cancer Patients Taking Enzalutamide Had Markedly Reduced Fentanyl Levels in Blood Compared to Patients on Abiraterone



Benoist G et al. Eur Urol. 2019;75:349-353.

HYDROMORPHONE + MIDAZOLAM USED BY ARIZONA AND OHIO



CAN WE MAKE KILLERS SUFFER SINCE THEY MADE VICTIMS SUFFER?

**“Some people
are so evil they
deserve to die
in agony.”**



CAN WE MAKE KILLERS SUFFER SINCE THEY MADE VICTIMS SUFFER?

There are 4 Big Problems with This Argument

1

Should we Lower Ourselves to Their Level?

We Don't Rape Rapists or Burn Down the Houses of Arsonists

WE CAN MAKE KILLERS SUFFER SINCE THEY MADE VICTIMS SUFFER?

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2

Many on Death Row Are NOT Heinous Killers

Death Row is NOT restricted to "The Worst of the Worst"



ISN'T THE DEATH PENALTY ONLY FOR THE WORST-OF-THE WORST?

**NO! All of
These Serial
Killers got
Life in Prison**



Gary
Ridgeway



Joseph
DeAngelo



Samuel
Little



ISN'T THE DEATH PENALTY ONLY FOR THE WORST-OF-THE WORST?

**Nathaniel Woods
Didn't Kill Anyone,
but He Was Sent to
Death Row & Executed
on March 5, 2020**



Nathaniel Woods
(1976 – 2020)

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We Execute People Who Are Truly Rehabilitated

Even the Pleas of Prison Personnel May be Ignored

“he actually makes the prison safer. There are very few inmates I can call fully rehabilitated. But without question, Scotty is one of them.”

Lidsey Veal, Jr., Mental Health Conselor

“just a really nice man”

Sgt. Taguana Burns



Scotty Morrow

A corrections officer looked me straight in the eyes and stated to me, “This is the best man in the world.”

Psychologist William Buchanan

“Rarely in my career as a prosecutor and a judge did I witness this level of remorse and acceptance of responsibility.”

Judge Wendy Shoob

Scotty Morrow
Executed in Georgia
on May 2, 2019



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4

Some People We Execute Are Factually Innocent

Almost 200 People Exonerated & Released from Death Row

THE UNFATHOMABLE CRUELTY OF EXECUTING INNOCENT PEOPLE

THE THEORY OF
MORAL SENTIMENTS



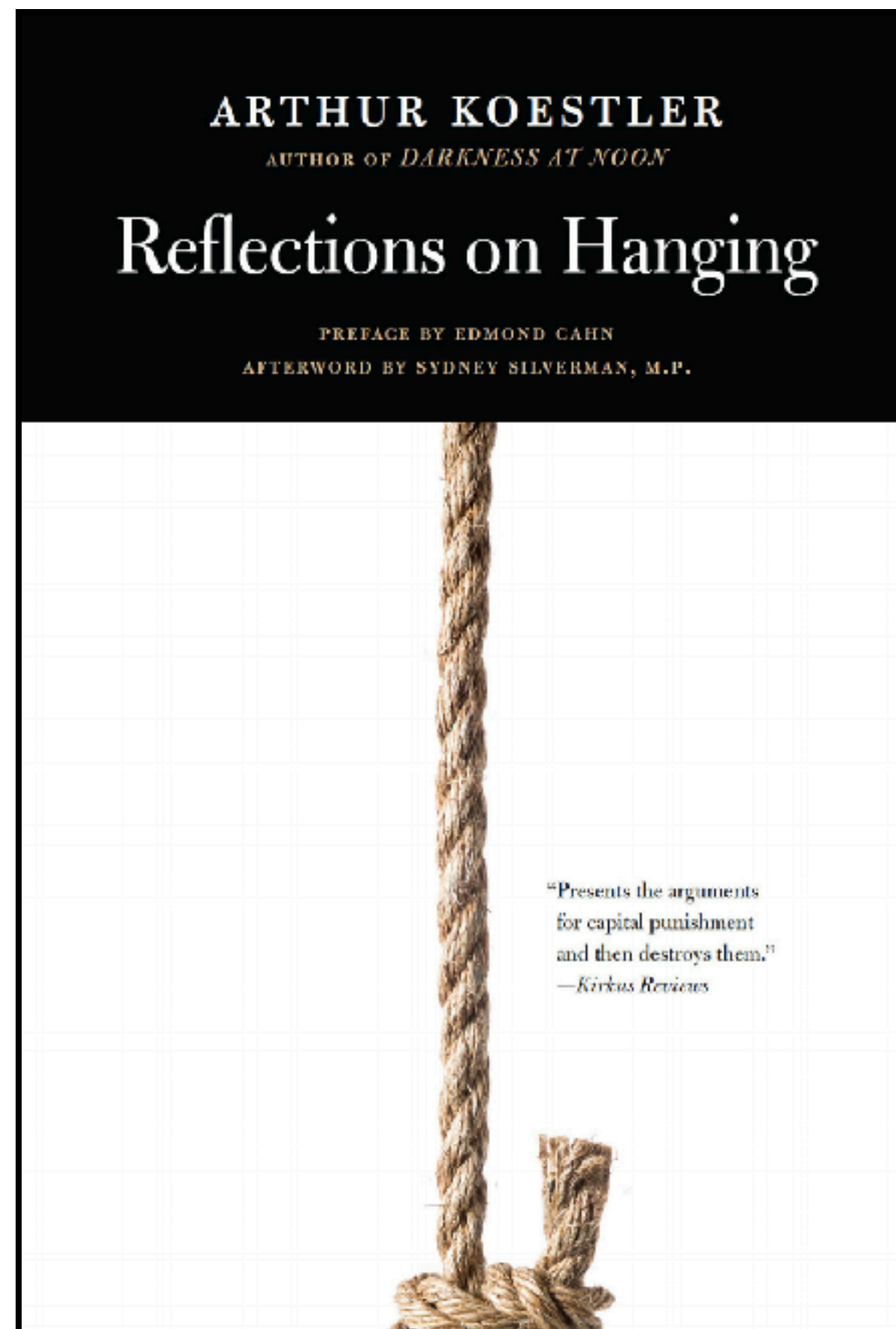
ADAM SMITH

(Published 1759)

“An innocent man, brought to the scaffold by the false imputation of an infamous or odious crime, suffers the most cruel misfortune which it is possible to suffer”

Adam Smith (1723–1790)

THE UNFATHOMABLE CRUELTY OF EXECUTING INNOCENT PEOPLE



(Published 1957)

"Innocent men have been hanged in the past and will be hanged in the future unless either the death penalty is abolished or the fallibility of human judgement is abolished."

Arthur Koestler (1905–1983)

HUMAN FALLIBILITY AND STUPIDITY

MEDPAGETODAY[®]

Fauci: COVID Lives On; Doc's Burnout Broke Her Heart;
Don't Cook Chicken in NyQuil

— Health news and commentary from around the Web gathered by *MedPage Today* staff

by [Amanda D'Ambrosio](#), Enterprise & Investigative Writer, MedPage Today September 20, 2022

**EVEN IF WE FOUND A LETHAL
INJECTION METHOD THAT
WAS QUICK, PAINLESS, AND
100% EFFECTIVE... IT WOULD
STILL BE CRUEL**

MOST SUFFERING TAKES PLACE IN THE YEARS AND DECADES BEFORE EXECUTION



Albert Camus
(1905–1983)

“...when our official jurists talk of putting to death without causing suffering, they don't know what they are talking about and above all, they lack imagination. The devastating degrading fear that is imposed on the condemned for months or years is a punishment more terrible than death...”

Reflections on the Guillotine (1957)

MOST SUFFERING TAKES PLACE IN THE YEARS AND DECADES BEFORE EXECUTION



Simone Weil
(1909–1943)

“The mind is then strung up to a pitch it can stand for only for a short time; but each new dawn reintroduces the same necessity; and days piled onto days make years. On each one of those days the soul suffers violence. Regularly, every morning, the soul castrates itself of aspiration, for thought cannot journey through time without meeting death on the way.”

The Iliad or the Poem of Force, 1940