

14864 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

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The amphetamine-like drugs fall into the general category of sympathomimetic agents. That is, they mimic a part or all of the responses seen from activation of the sympathetic nervous system, the so-called fight or flight mechanism of the body. These responses include: an increase in blood flow to the heart, lungs, skeletal muscle and brain; stimulation of the heart with an increase in cardiac output; dilatation of the bronchi and bronchioles of the lungs to allow more efficient oxygenation of the blood; and, central nervous system stimulation counteracting fatigue and increasing mental alertness.

Metabolic effects include elevation in blood glucose and fatty acids and an increase in metabolism mainly through breakdown of fatty acids.

It is important to recognize that there are numerous drugs in this category which produce sympathomimetic actions in various degrees. Therefore were amphetamine products, for example, to be removed from the market, other commercially available drugs could be substituted for them.