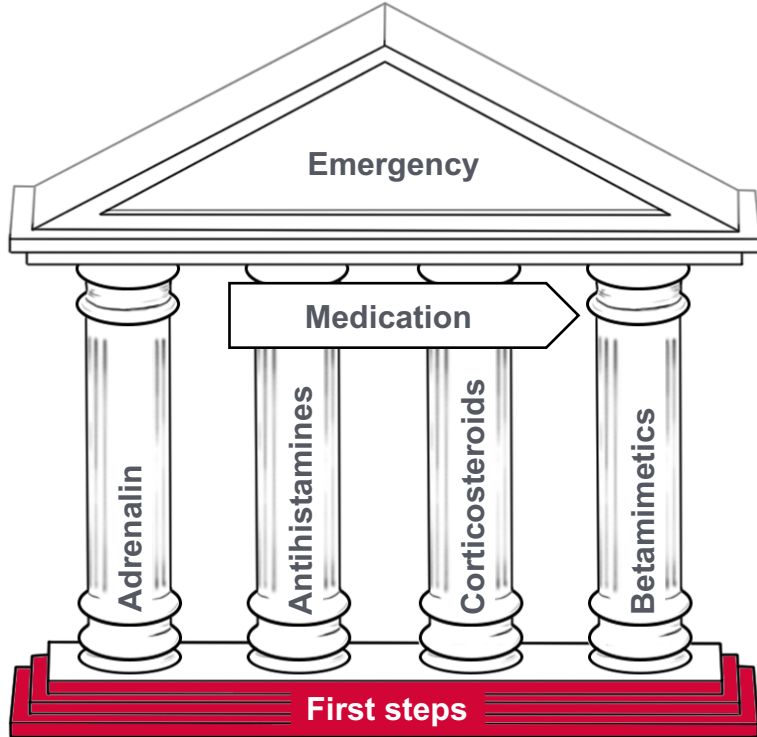


**University  
of Basel**

# **Medication in an emergency**

Prof. Andreas J. Bircher

# First steps



- Immediately call help if first symptoms of anaphylaxis occur
- Remove source (if possible, eg stinger or consumption of suspicious food)
- Take comfortable position

# Medication in an emergency



Adrenalin autoinjector

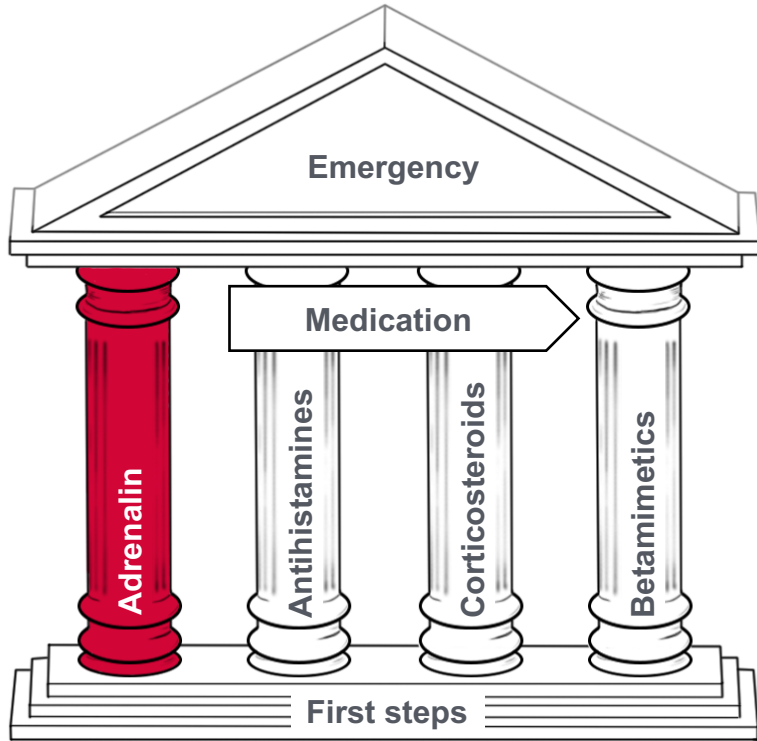


Antihistamines and  
corticosteroid tablets



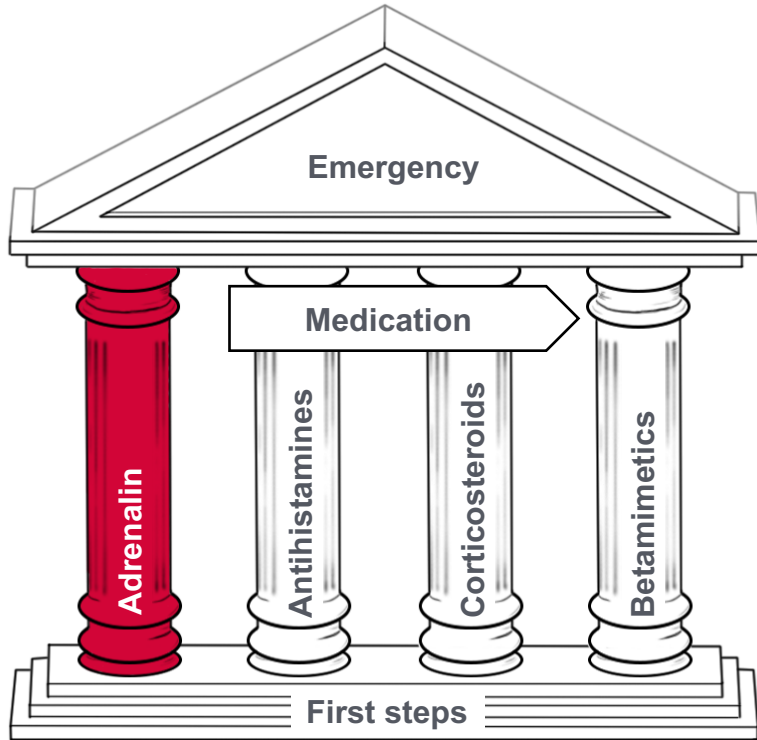
Betamimetics inhaler

# Adrenalin autoinjector



- First drug to administer, starts to act within minutes
- Increases heart rate and blood pressure, dilates bronchi, constricts blood vessels, reduces leaking of serum

# Adrenalin autoinjector



## Doses

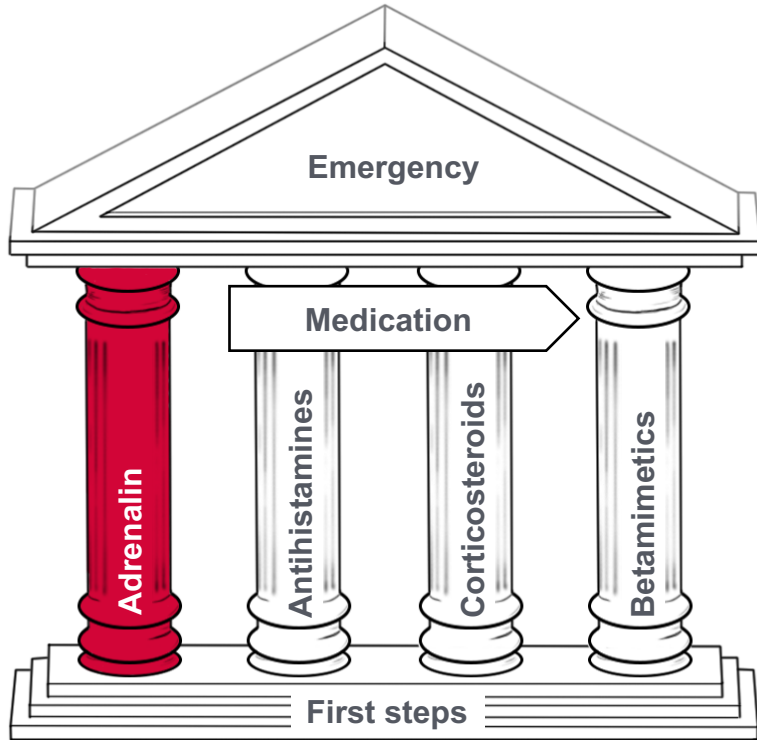
Junior device (150  $\mu\text{g}$ ):

- for children weighing 7.5 to 25 kg

Adult device (300  $\mu\text{g}$ ):

- for persons weighing 25 kg or more

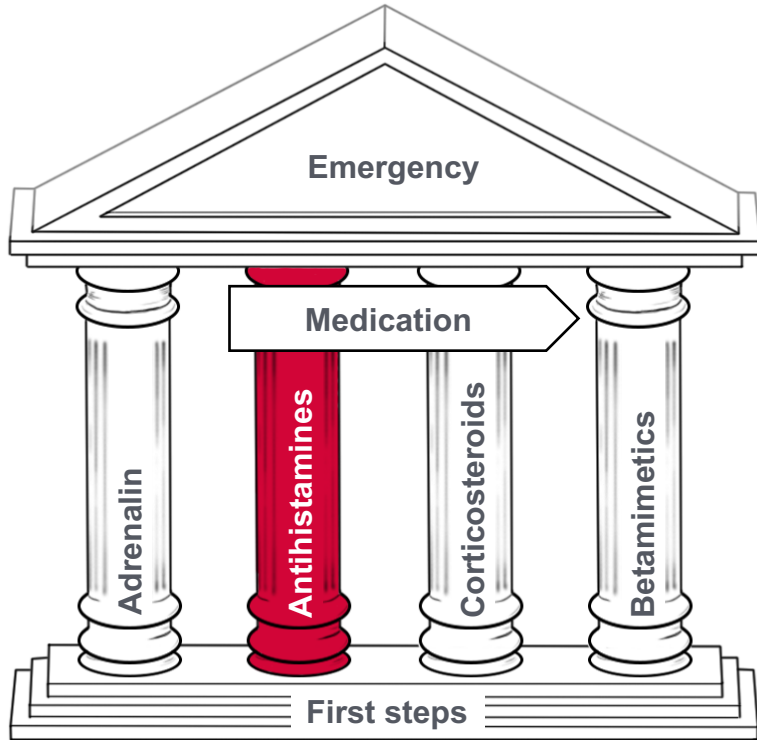
# Adrenalin autoinjector



## Side effects

- Increased heart rate
- Sweating
- Tremor
- Paleness
- Nervous feelings

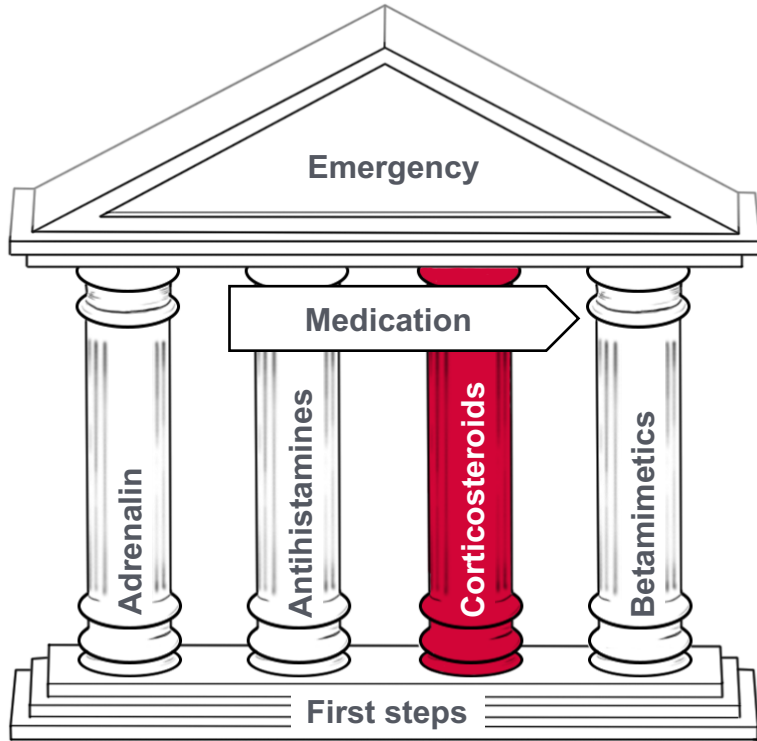
# Antihistamines



- Should be taken as early as possible, onset of action between 30 – 60 min
- Reverse pruritus, urticaria and gastrointestinal symptoms, and prevent later symptoms

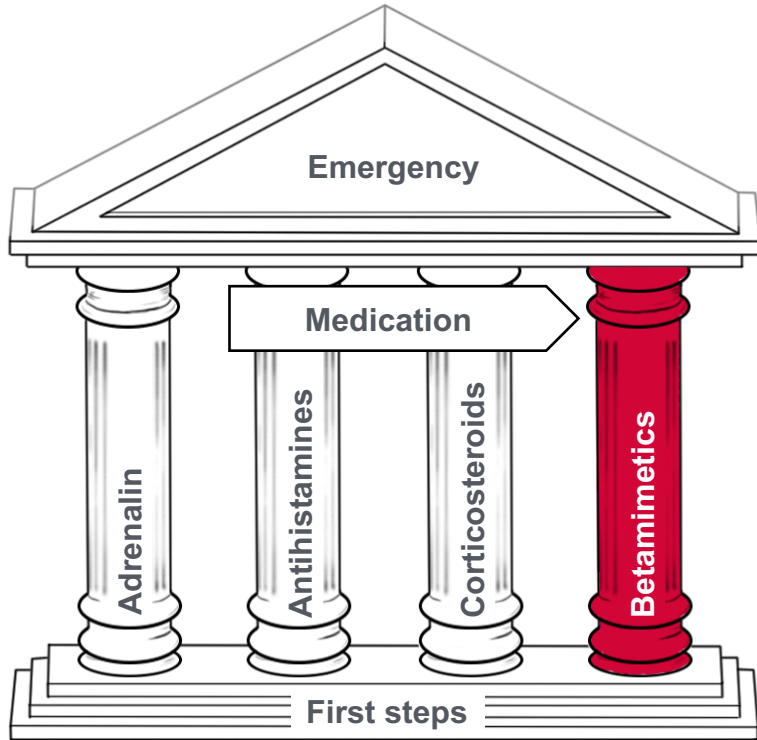


# Corticosteroids



- Should be given early, onset of action is several hours
- Block newly generated mediators including leukotrienes and cytokines

# Betamimetics inhaler



- Helps to treat concurrent asthma and severe bronchospasm