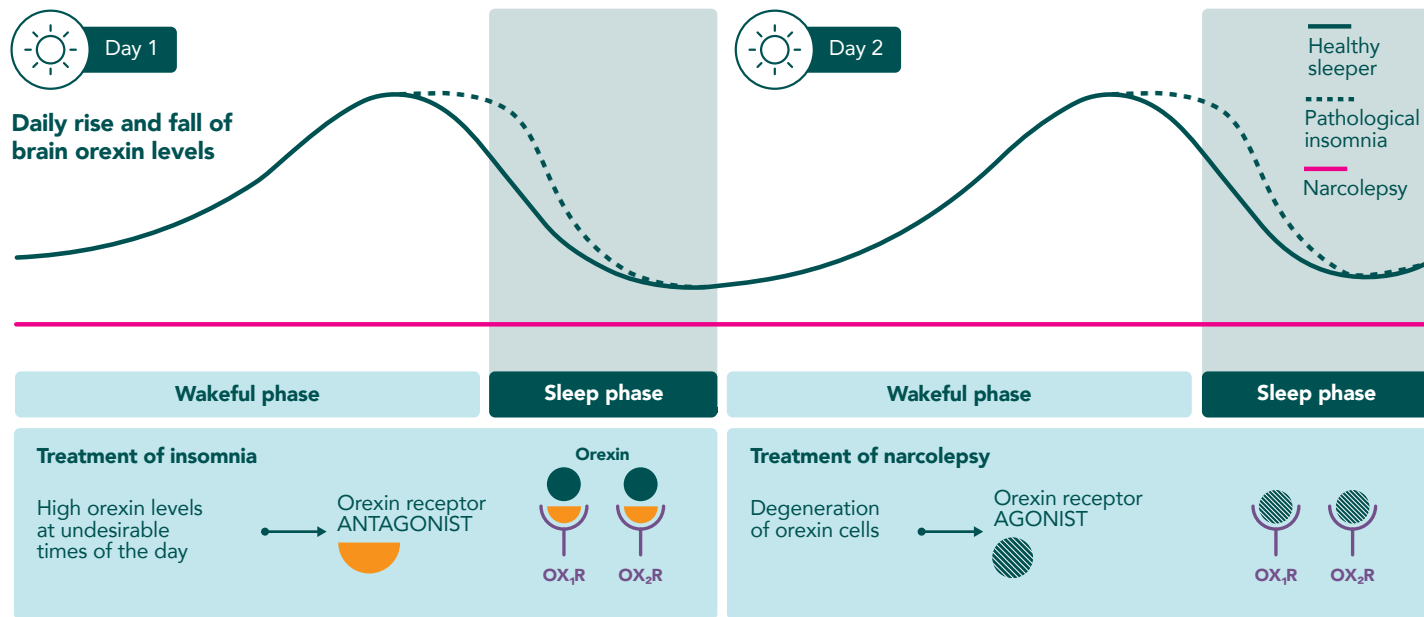


Orexin and the human wake-sleep rhythm



Key point: • Some forms of insomnia may be due to sustained release of hypocretin/orexin which can prolong wakefulness. Orexin receptor antagonists treat insomnia by competing with endogenous orexin to occupy the orexin receptors (OX₁R and OX₂R).

• Narcolepsy occurs due to degeneration of hypocretin/orexin neurons, resulting in low levels of orexin. Narcolepsy may be effectively treated with an orexin receptor agonist. Such compounds have not yet been approved for use.

SUN,Y., TISDALE, R.K., KILDUFF, T.S., HYPOCRETIN /OREXIN, RECEPTOR PHARMACOLOGY AND SLEEP PHASES; in FNN VOLUME 45.
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