

Psychiatric Medications

Most psychiatric medications take 3 to 8 weeks to show a positive effect, some longer. Tell your doctor if you have been diagnosed with a failing or diseased liver, with heart problems, with kidney disease, with high blood pressure, or with diabetes. Sometimes your physician may only see you sitting down, so remind him/her if you are shorter or thinner than average when deciding on the right dosage of a medicine. Due to slowed down metabolism, seniors usually require a smaller dose of all medicines. Always keep a list of all prescribed and over the counter medicines and herbals you are taking with you, especially hormone medications. Show them to your doctor. You can ask your druggist to check to see if you are taking any drugs that are contraindicated: don't go well together and cause serious interactions. Nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol are also drugs.

Try to take the amount of medication that allows you to function well with the least side effects. Your physician can make adjustments in dosage to deal with unwanted side effects.

ANTIPSYCHOTICS are used primarily to eliminate hallucinations and delusions, to help you become more organized in your thinking and speech. They may help you show and feel emotion and make decisions. They are not addictive.

Typical Antipsychotics also called First Generation Medicines

Chlorpromazine (Thorazine)-the first medicine in the U.S. for schizophrenia in 1955

Mesoridazine (Serentil)

Thioridazine (Mellaril)

Fluphenazine (Prolixin, Permitil)

Molindone (Moban)

Thiothixene (Navane)

Haloperidol (Haldol)

Perphenazine (Trilafon)

Trifluoperazine (Stelazine)

Loxapine (Loxitane)

Pimozide (Orap)

Atypical Antipsychotics also called 2nd Generation Agents/Medicines. These medicines are used to help you with disorganization, inability to relate to others, agitation, hearing voices, odd thinking patterns.

Clozapine (Clozaril) approved by the FDA in 1989, the first atypical.

Risperidone (Risperdal)

Olanzapine (Zyprexa)

Ziprasidone (Geodone)

Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel)

Aripiprazole (Abilify)

MOOD STABILIZERS

Lithium carbonate (Lithobid, Eskalith, Lithonate, Lithotabs)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol) psychomotor seizures and trigeminal neuralgia

Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal)

Divalproex sodium (Depakote) also used for epilepsy and migraine
Lamotrigine (Lamictal)

ANTI-ANXIETY AGENTS are all habit forming

Alprazolam (Xanax)
Diazepam (Valium)
Meprobamate (Miltown, Equanil)
Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)
Oxazepam (Serax)
Lorazepam (Ativan)
Clonazepam (Klonopin)
Mephobarbital (Mebaral)
Clorazepate (Tranxene)

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Tricyclic Antidepressants prolong the impact of chemicals in the brain that affect nerve activity.

Amitriptyline (Elavil)
Doxepin (Adapin, Sinequan)
Protriptyline (Vivactil)
Clomipramine (Anafranil)
Imipramine (Tofranil)
Trimipramine (Surmontil)
Desipramine (Norpramin)
Nortriptyline (Pamelor)

Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)- require a special diet

Phenelzine (Nardil)
Tranylcypromine (Parnate)

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) have milder side effects

Citalopram (Celexa)
Fluvoxamine (Luvox)
Sertraline (Zoloft)
Fluoxetine (Prozac) the first SSRI
Paroxetine (Paxil)
Escitalopram (Lexapro)

Other antidepressants including tetracyclics

Amoxapine (Asendin)
Mirtazapine (Remeron)
Trazodone (Desyrel)
Bupropion (Wellbutrin and Zyban)
Nefazodone (Serzone)
Venlafaxine (Effexor)
Maprotiline (Ludiomil)

Combination Drugs

Chlordiazepoxide & amitriptyline (Limbitrol) antianxiety & antidepressant

Chlordiazepoxide & clidinium (Librax) antianxiety & antispasmodic

Perphenazine & amitriptyline (Etrafon, Triavil) antipsychotic & antidepressant

Olanzapine & fluoxetine (Zyprexa & Prozac) antipsychotic & antidepressant

Memory-enhancing Medications

Tacrine (Cognex)

Donepezil (Aricept)

Side Effect Medications

Benztropine mesylate (Cogentin)

Trihexyphenidyl (Artane)

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)

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