

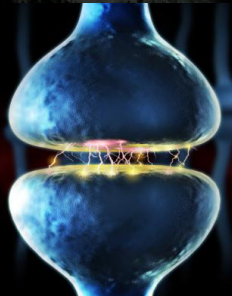
King Saud University  
College of Medicine  
2nd Year, 1st Block



# L6&7: Drugs used in depression



# CNS Block





## **Objectives :**

- 1. Realize neurotransmitter defects in different types of depression.**
- 2. Elaborate on how antidepressants generally act.**
- 3. Classify the existing antidepressant into older (TCAs & MAO Is) and newer groups (SSRIs, SNRIs, NRIs, NAASs, NDRI, SARIs).**
- 4. Expand on pharmacology of each group; setting examples, discussing pharmacodynamic potentials, pharmacokinetic differences, varied indications, contraindications and side effects.**
- 5. Enumerate augmenting drugs used in depression.**

# Mind map

## Antidepressant drugs

### MONOAMINE OXIDASE (MAO) INHIBITORS

### TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Selective Reversible Inhibitors

Non Selective Inhibitors (MAO-A & MAO-B)

First generation

- 1) Moclobemide, (MAO-A)
- 2) Selegiline, (MAO-B)

- 1) Reversible (Tranylcypromine)
- 2) Irreversible (Phenelzine)

- Tertiary amines:
- Imipramine (Tofranil)
  - Amitriptyline (Elavil)

- Secondary amines
- Desipramine (Norpramin)
  - Nortriptyline (Pamelor)

### New Antidepressant drugs

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)

Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (NRIs)

Serotonin Antagonists & Reuptake Inhibitors (SARIs)

Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

Noradrenergic & Specific Serotonergic Antidepressants (NaSSAs)

Nefazodone

Trazodone

- Fluvoxamine
- Fluoxetine
- Paroxetine
- Sertraline
- Citalopram

Venlafaxine

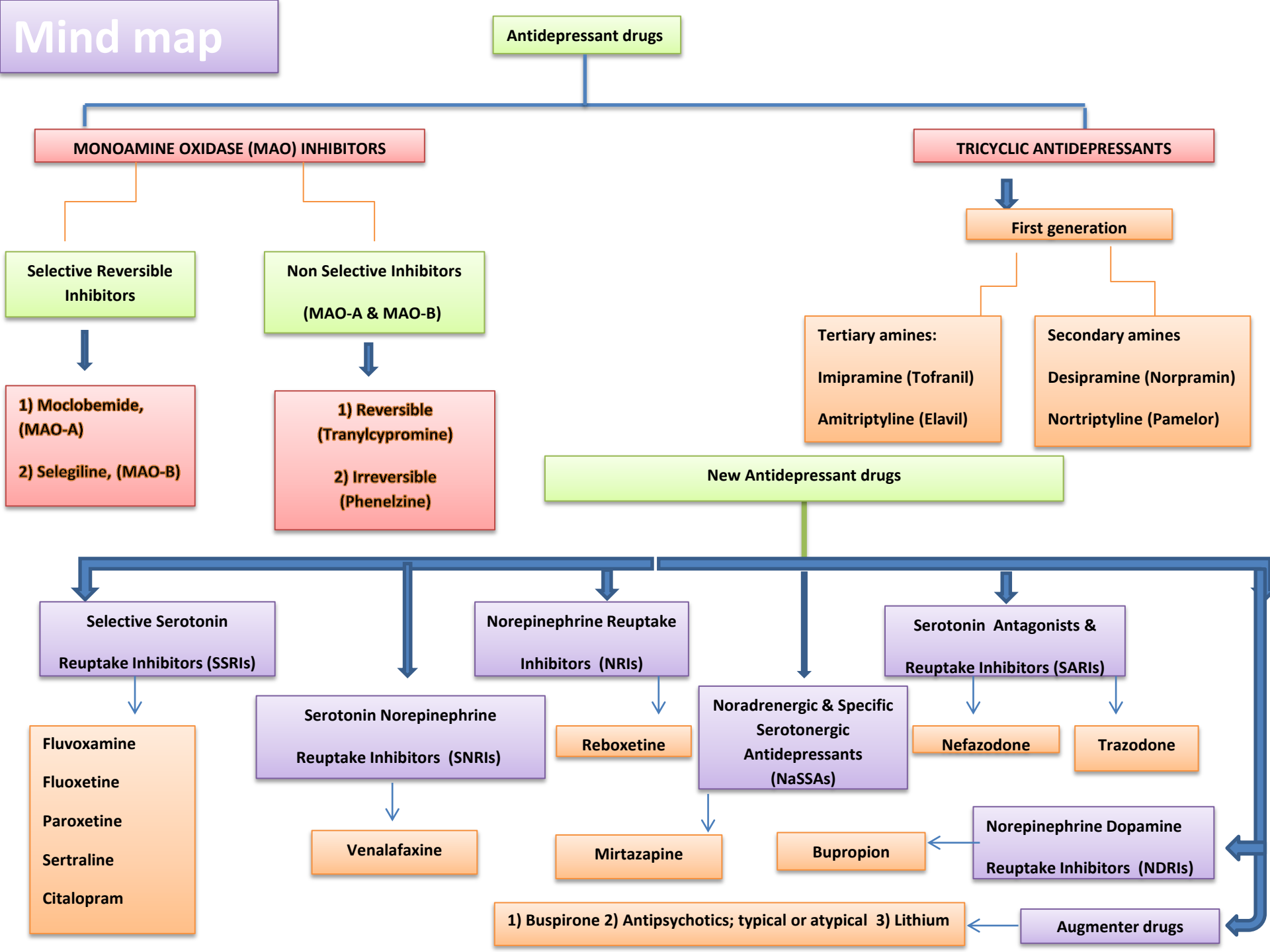
Mirtazapine

Bupropion

Norepinephrine Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors (NDRIs)

- 1) Buspirone
- 2) Antipsychotics; typical or atypical
- 3) Lithium

Augmenter drugs



# introduction

## Depression

Disturbance in MOOD, biological changes, though changes & behavioral changes.

Classification of depression

**Unipolar Depression**  
Mood swings are always in the same direction  
common in elder /associated with stressful life effects  
↓5HT & NE

**Bipolar Depression**  
Depression alternates & oscillates with **mania**  
common develops early in life.  
↑5HT & NE

## Antidepressants

All drugs **take weeks to manifest** their clinical effect → indicating that **secondary adaptive** changes must occur before the benefit is gained

The **delay presents** → (**down regulated**) synthesis & release of transmitter at synaptic cleft with enhanced signaling at postsynaptic serotonergic & adrenergic

Treatment should continue 6 months at full therapeutic doses before withdrawal.  
Withdrawal of drugs must be very gradual otherwise withdrawal symptoms

# Classification of antidepressant drugs

OLD Group	Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)
	Monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI)
NEW Group	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI)
	Noradrenergic & Specific Serotonergic Antidepressants (NaSSAs)
	Serotonin Antagonists & Reuptake Inhibitors (SARIs)
	Serotonin and Norepinephrine reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)
	Norepinephrine Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors (NDRIs)
	Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (NRIs)

## Augmenter drugs

Some antidepressants work better in some patients when used in combination with another drug.

The Most imp augmenter drugs: **Buspirone**

**NOTE:** Some drugs can cause depression like; Clonidine and methylodopa. While amphetamine cause mania.

# A) OLD GROUP

## 1. Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)\*:

NAME	Imipramine	Amitriptyline	Desipramine
M.O.A	It blocks NE & serotonin reuptake into the neuron		
Pharmacokinetic	Lipophilic with <b>High plasma protein binding</b> , Some of them give active metabolites: Imipramine → Desipramine - Amitriptyline → Nortriptyline		
Clinical use	1- Severe depression.* 2- Panic disorder 3- Nocturnal Enuresis in children*	1- Severe depression 2- Chronic pain. 3- anxiety. 4- IBS*.5-Migraine. 6- Anorexia nervosa. 7- Obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD).	Severe depression
Adverse effect	They're drugs with broad spectrum of pharmacological effects at many receptors 1- Sedation (Because of histamine receptor) 2- Cardiovascular effects (Tachycardia and hypotension) 3- Anticholinergic effects (Dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention) 4- Weight gain 5- Seizure 6- Hypomania 7- sexual dysfunction & impotence <b>Early in use</b> → aggravate suicidal thoughts specially in young aged <b>During use</b> → narrow therapeutic index → toxicity can develop <b>stopage of use</b> → Withdrawal Symptoms; characterized by cholinergic rebound Flu-like symptoms.		
Antidote of TCAs	1- NaCO3 (To protect the heart & increase the binding) 2- Diazepam (For seizure) 3- Gastric lavage <u>plus</u> charcoal فحم (For absorption of organic compound)		

\***NOT** used for elderly people. \* التبول الليلي \*Irritable bowel syndrome

\*Elevate mood, Improve mental alertness & Increase physical activity



## 2. Monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI)

- MAO inhibitors increase level of NE & Serotonin :
- MAO-A** responsible for NE, 5-HT catabolism. It also metabolizes **tyramine** of ingested food.
- MAO-B** is **more selective for dopamine** metabolism
- USED** in **Patient resistant to other therapy, atypical depression\*** & In **treatment of social anxiety** (agrophobia)
- RARLEY** used, because food-drug, and drug-drug interactions = **Low benefit/risk** ratio
- Has **anticholinergic effect** like; (Tachycardia, dry mouth, constipation etc.. )

Name of drug	Phenelzine	Tranlycypromine	Selegiline	Moclobemide
	Non –selective		Selective reversible	
Type	irreversible	Reversible	MAO-B	MAO-A
ADRS	Antimuscarinic effects, Postural hypotension, Sedation, sleep disturbance, Weight gain			
Specific ADRS	Sexual Dysfunction Hepatotoxicity	-----	-----	-----
Interaction	1- Food contain <b>tyramine*</b> (like meat), <b>flue medications, local anesthetics &amp; TCA</b> lead to <b>hypertensive crisis</b> . 2- <b>pethidine</b> lead to hypotension and coma. 3- MAOIs taken together with SSRIs, lead to <b>serotonin syndrome*</b>			

\* **hyperthermia, muscle rigidity, cardiovascular collapse**

\*Tyramine is normally inactivated by MAO in gut, individuals receiving MAOI are unable to degrade tyramine obtain from the diet. Tyramine causes the releases of large amount of catecholamines.= Mainly NE leads to **hypertensive crisis**

## B) NEW GROUP

### 1. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI)

Name	Fluoxetine	Fluvoxamine	Citalopram	Sertraline	Paroxetine
M.O.A	Block the reuptake of serotonin				
Pharmacokinetic	*They have <b>long half live</b> (Fluoxetine 3-11 days), <b>Moderate length (~24hr): Sertraline, Paroxetine, Citalopram.</b> *metabolize in liver, <b>Strong inhibitors &gt; Fluoxetine, Paroxetine</b> <b>→↓ metabolism of TCA, neuroleptic, some antiarrhythmic, β-blockers.</b>				
Clinical use	1- <b>Best drugs for depression</b> (few side effect). 2- Used in premature ejaculation 3- Panic disorder. 4- OCD*. 5- Anorexia nervosa*. 6- Bulimia nervosa*				
Side effect	1- Nausea and vomiting (Act on 5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor). 2- ↓Appetite. 3- Impotence* in both gender. 4- Insomnia ( <b>except Paroxetine, cause sedative</b> )				
Interaction	<b>Serotonin Syndrome</b> →if combined with MAOIs				
NOTES	They're the best group of drugs of antidepressant Good for elderly people and cardiac patients				

\* Obsessive Compulsive Disorders

\* Anorexia nervosa: an eating disorder characterized by a fear of becoming fat (self-imposed starvation).  
SSRI relieve depression and fear, so patient will eat normally

\* Bulimia nervosa: eating disorder characterized by consuming a large amount of food in a short time followed by an attempt to rid oneself of the food consumed (purging),

\* ضعف جنسي



## 2. Noradrenergic & Specific Serotonergic Antidepressants (NaSSAs) ( $\alpha_2$ adrenoceptors antagonists)

NAME	Mirtazapine
M.O.A	Block presynaptic $\alpha_2$ adrenoceptors $\rightarrow$ $\uparrow$ NE & 5-HT (Serotonin)
Clinical use	Depressed patient having sleeping problems
Adverse effect	1- Sedation. 2- Weight gain. 3- $\uparrow$ Appetite (Block 5-HT <sub>3</sub> )
NOTES	<b>Best drug for cancer patient*</b>

## 3. Serotonin Antagonists & Reuptake Inhibitors (SARIs)

NAME	Trazodone	Nefazodone
M.O.A	1-Selective blocker of 5-HT reuptake	2-significant $\alpha$ - blocking effect
Adverse Effect	1-Hypotension 2- Sedation. 3-Blocks 5-HT <sub>2</sub> receptors ( <b>Priapism*</b> )	Less sedative effect

\***Priapism**: is a potentially painful medical condition, in which the erect penis does not return to its flaccid state.

\*Improves appetite,  $\downarrow$  nausea & vomiting ( 5-HT<sub>3</sub> blocking),  $\uparrow$  body weight, Sedation (potent antihistaminic), Less sexual dysfunction (5-HT<sub>2</sub> blocking) & Has no anti-muscarinic effect .

## 4. Serotonin and Norepinephrine reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Venlafaxine</b>
<b>M.O.A</b>	Blocking 5-HT and NE uptake
<b>Clinical use</b>	<b>1- Patient not respond to SSRI. 2- Neuropathic pain (EX. Diabetic neuropathy)</b>
<b>Adverse Effect</b>	Similar to <b>SSRI but may be withdrawal manifestations on discontinuation.</b> + <b>1-seizure 2- Constipation</b>

## 5. Norepinephrine Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors (NDRIs)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Bupropion</b>
<b>M.O.A</b>	Weak NE & Dopamine reuptake inhibitor
<b>Adverse effect</b>	<b>Seizures</b>
<b>Clinical use</b>	<b>1- Depression and bipolar disorder. 2- Used for smoking cessation (Main use).</b>
<b>Advantages</b>	<b>No sexual dysfunction → given in young</b>

## 6. Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (NRIs)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Reboxetine</b>
<b>M.O.A</b>	Only blocking NE uptake
<b>Clinical use</b>	<b>Depression</b>
<b>Adverse effect</b>	<b>1- Tremor 2- Tachycardia 3- urinary hesitancy*</b>
<b>NOTE</b>	<b>Safe to combine with SSRIs</b>

\*Difficulty in beginning the flow of urine

# Summary

Antidepressants receptors include mainly:

Histaminergic antagonism has been associated with sedation and drowsiness. Can contribute to increased appetite & weight gain.

Muscarinic-receptor antagonism is responsible for gastrointestinal disturbances; constipation, dry mouth, tachycardia, blurred vision, urine retention

$\alpha_1$ -adrenergic receptor may be responsible for dizziness and orthostatic hypotension

Antidepressants increase variably the availability of 5HT & NE at synapses

↑NE transmission → tremors, insomnia

↑5HT transmission → sedation, and a decrease in sexual drive.

## Antidepressants

### safe combinations

Bupropion +  
Desipramine

SSRIs + Mirtazapine,  
Reboxetine **or any other**  
**NRIs or SNRIs**

### age

approved for use in  
children; **fluoxetine**

Antidepressants good  
for elderly are **SSRIs**

### dangerous combinations

MAOIs + SSRIs →  
**Serotonin syndrome**

Paroxetine, Fluoxetine,  
Nefazodone + Desipramine,  
Nortryptiline → **severe sedation**  
**or toxicity**

# Summary

## Antidepressants

### sexual dysfunction

5HT<sub>2</sub> blocking action as **mirtazapine**, has minimal action on sexual dysfunction

more NE as **Bupropion**, have minimal sexual side effects

**Trazodone, nafazodone**,  
With dual action are better than SSRIs with respect to sexual side effects

### Sedation

Sedating ADDs are;  
**Amitriptyline, Paroxetine, Sertraline, Mirtazapine, Trazadone**,  
So better given **near bed time**

Less Sedating ADDs are;  
**Bupropion, Venlafaxine**,  
**MOA**, So can be **given in the morning** as some cause insomnia as side effect.

### appetite

Most **TCA**s ↑ **weight gain**

**SSRIs** → could suppress **appetite**. At least no weight gain with SSRIs.

**Mirtazepine**  
↑ **weight gain**

### Nausea & Vomiting

**SSRIs** → **nausea & vomiting**

# Summary of clinical uses

- I. **Endogenous Depression** ( SSRIs “first Choice”, New generation and Tricyclics)
- II. **Panic Disorders** ( Imipramine or SSRIs)
- III. **Obsessive Compulsive Disorders** (SSRIs and Clomipramine)
- IV. **Chronic pain** (Amitriptyline)
- V. **Anorexia nervosa and Bulimia** (SSRIs)
- VI. **Schizo-Affective Disorders** (Amoxapine or SSRI + Haloperidol)
- VII. **Premature ejaculation** (SSRI)
- VIII. **Anxiety disorders** (Amitriptyline)
- IX. **Migraine and Anxiety & IBS** (Amitriptyline)
- X. **Nocturnal Enuresis in children** (Imipramine)
- XI. **Neuropathic Pain** (SNRIs)
- XII. **Depression in Adolescence and young adults** (Bupropion)
- XIII. **Depression in cancer patient** (Mirtazapine)

# Quiz yourself

**Q1/ Which of the following drugs not given for prostatic hypertrophy patient?**

- A. Amitriptyline
- B. Fluoxetine
- C. Bupropion

**Q2/ Which of the following drugs given for someone want to quite smoking?**

- A. Mirtazapine
- B. Bupropion
- C. Imipramine

**Q3/ which of following given for epileptic patient?**

- A. Nefazodone
- B. SSRI
- C. Amitriptyline

**Q4/Which of following is best for cancer patients?**

- A. Trazodone
- B. Fluoxetine
- C. Mirtazapine

**Q5/ which of the following drugs not for elderly?**

- A. Tricyclic
- B. Monoamine oxidase
- C. Phenelzine

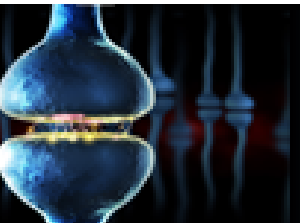
**Q6/ Which one can causes hypertensive crisis?**

- A. Imipramine
- B. Tranylcypromine
- C. Amitriptyline

**Q7/ which methods NOT used in antidote of TCAs?**

- A. Hemodialysis
- B. Gastric lavage
- C. Naco3

**Answers:** 1- A 2- B 3- B 4- C 5- A 6- B 7- A



# CNS Block

# THIS WORK WAS DONE BY :

Raneem Alotibi

Ahmed Aldakhil

Ahlam sallam

Abdulrahman al-thaqib

Ziyad alajlan

Contact us for any questions  
or comments :



[Pharma\\_433@yahoo.com](mailto:Pharma_433@yahoo.com)



[@pharma\\_433](https://twitter.com/pharma_433)

We hope that we made this lecture easier for you  
Good Luck !



# CNS Block