

Neuropsychiatry Block

Pharmacology Team 438

Drugs Used in Depression Old & New

Objectives

By the end of the lecture , you should know:

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

Color index:

Black : Main content

Red : Important

Blue: Males' slides only

Pink : Females' slides only

Grey: Extra info or explanation

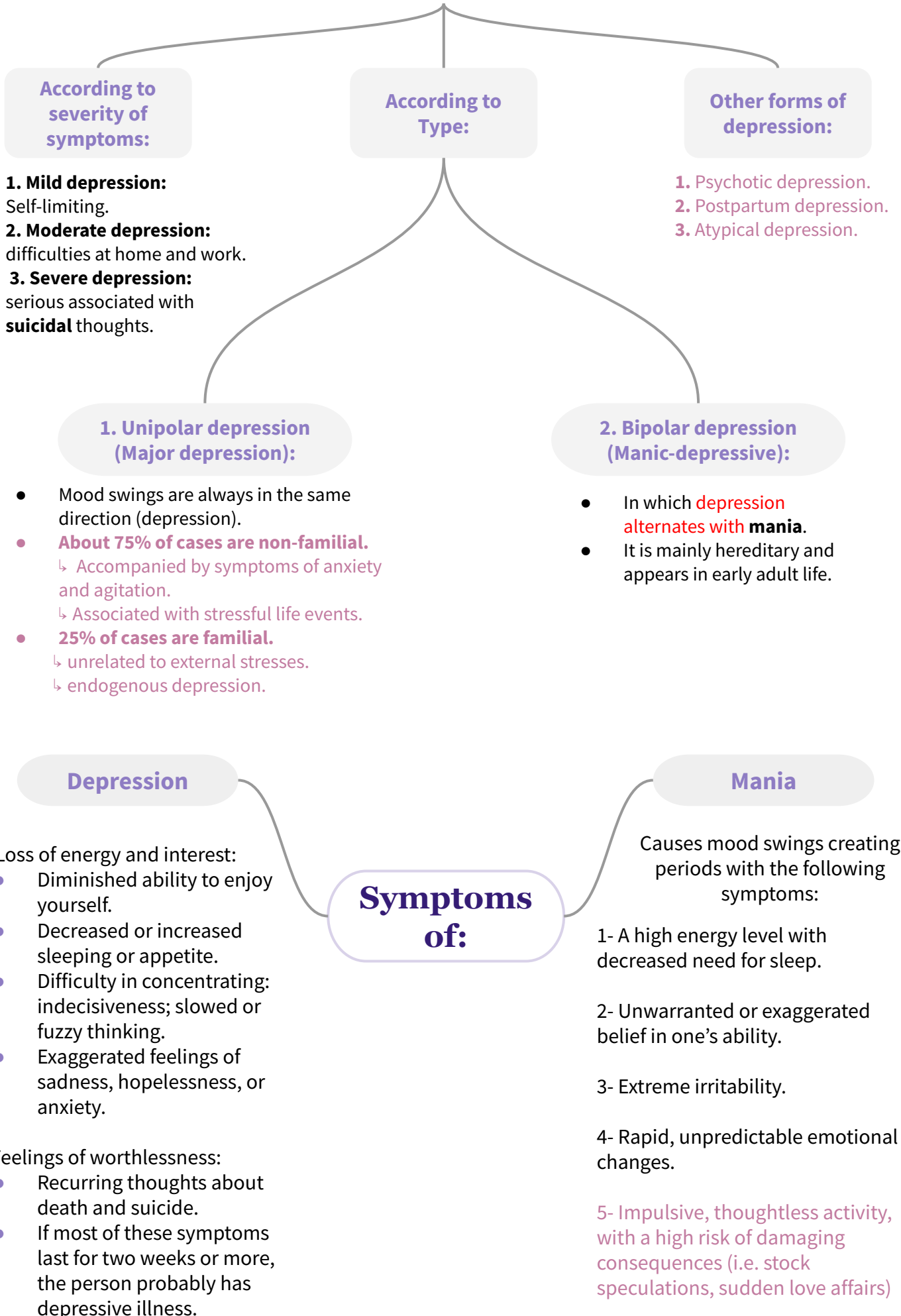
Green : Dr. notes

Editing File

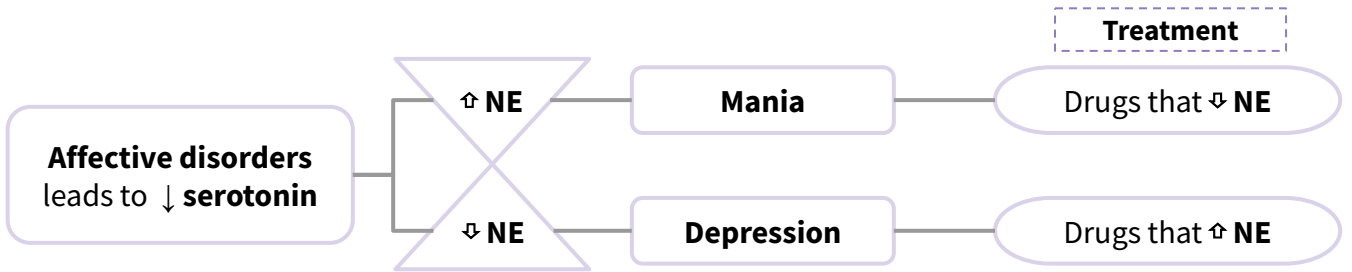
Depression

Depression is a very common psychiatric disorder that is related to the “**mood**” (Affective disorder).

Classification of Depression



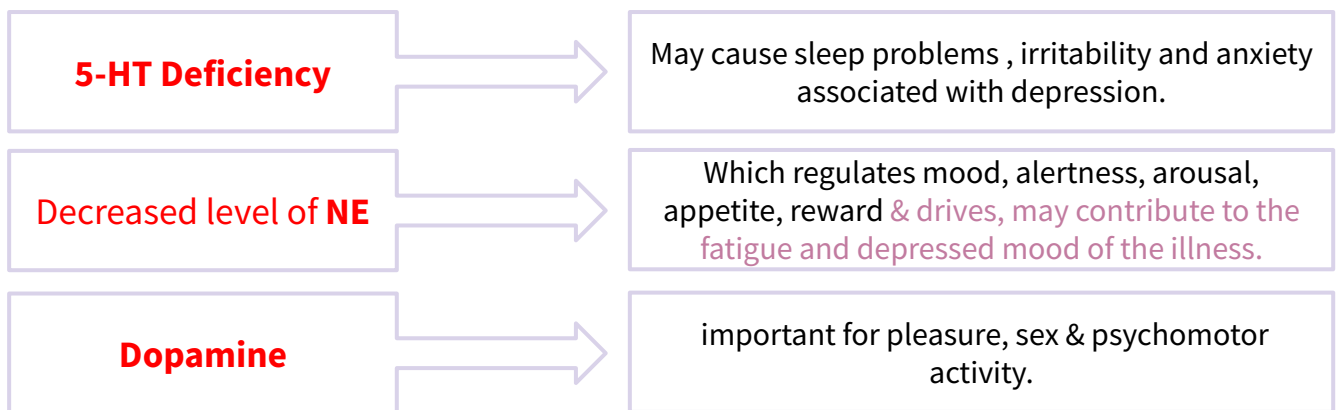
Biochemical Theory of Affective Disorders



What is the evidence to support this theory?

- **Amphetamine** causes **Mania**.
- while, **Reserpine**¹ and **Methyldopa**¹ produce **Depression** (these drugs deplete **NE** and **Dopamine** storage).

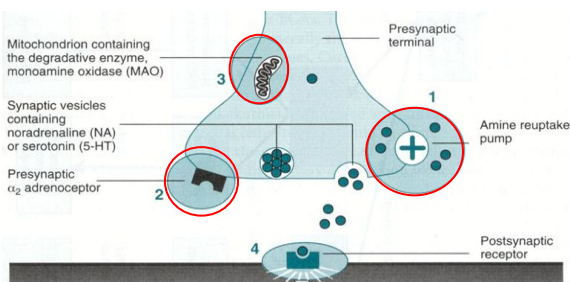
Pathophysiology of depression



What are the features of drugs that should be used for treatment of depression?

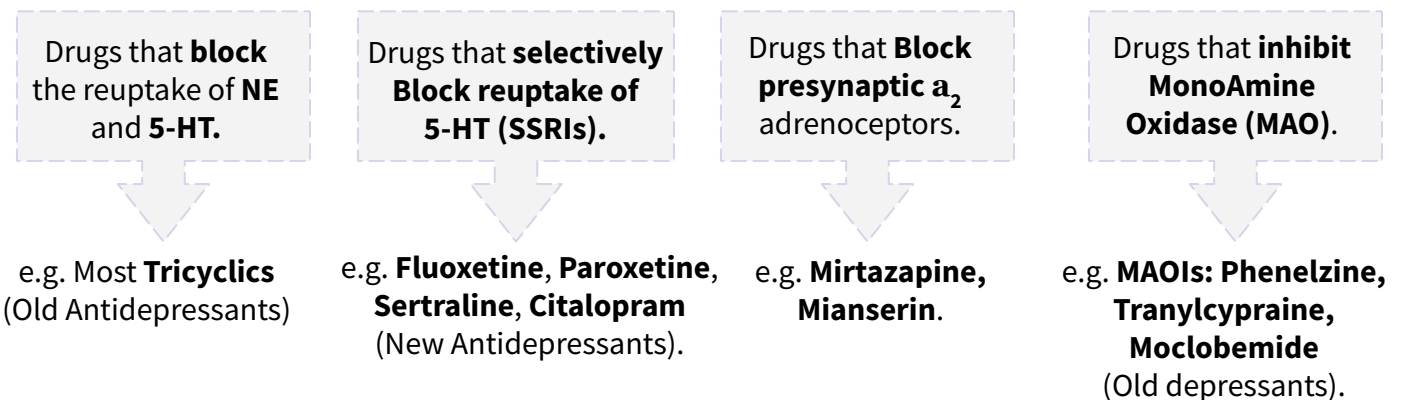
Simply to **increase the levels of these amines.**

★ Site of Action for Antidepressants²



- 1 **Monoamine (NE or / and 5-HT) reuptake inhibitors.**
- 2 Blockade of **presynaptic α_2 receptors.**
- 3 inhibition of **MAO enzyme.**

Classification of antidepressants based on site of action:



1- used as hypertensive, cause depression.

2- Questions from the Doctor:

Q1. what are **Monoamine (NE or / and 5-HT) reuptake pump inhibitors?** Q2. what Blocks **presynaptic α_2 receptors?** Q3. what inhibit **MAO enzyme?**

Antidepressants available in the market (Worldwide)

Class	Drugs
1. Tricyclics (TCAs) and Tetracyclics	Tetracyclics: Amoxapine, Maprotiline Tricyclics: Imipramine, Nortriptyline, Clomipramine, Trimipramine , Protriptyline , Doxepin , Desipramine, Amitriptyline.
2. Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	Tranlycypamine, Phenelzine, Moclobemide.
3. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)	Fluoxetine, Fluvoxamine, Citalopram, Sertraline, Paroxetine, Escitalopram.
4. Serotonin and Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI)	Venlafaxine, Duloxetine.
5. Serotonin-2 Antagonist and Reuptake Inhibitors (SARIs)	Nefazodone, Trazodone.
6. Norepinephrine and Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor (NDRI)	Bupropion.
7. Noradrenaline Reuptake Inhibitor (NRI)	Reboxetine.
8. Noradrenergic and Specific Serotonergic Antidepressant (NaSSA)	Mirtazapine.
9. Serotonin Reuptake Enhancer	Tianeptine

Slow Onset of Action



Antidepressants do not act immediately (show clinical effects after 3 weeks)¹ indicating that secondary adaptive changes must occur before the benefit is gained.



The most consistent **adaptive change** seen with antidepressant drugs is the **downregulation of beta-, alpha-2 and 5-HT2 receptors**. **These receptors mediate negative feedback on monoamine release in the brain**



Desensitization (down-regulation) of β -adrenoceptors (decrease c-AMP) is very important and is related to clinical response.

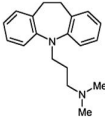
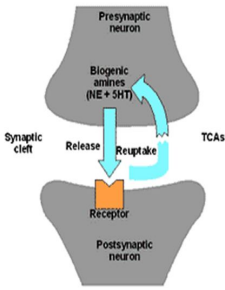
¹ - it is very important to alert the patient that the drug takes a minimum of 3 weeks, because the patient might stop using the drug thinking it doesn't work.

Old Antidepressants

1. Tricyclic antidepressant

2. Monoamine Oxidase inhibitors

Tricyclics (TCAs)


<p>Drug</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCAs are the oldest class of antidepressant drugs. Tricyclic (They have characteristic three-ring nucleus): Imipramine, Nortriptyline, Clomipramine, Desipramine, Amitriptyline, Trimipramine, Doxepin. Tetracyclic Antidepressants (They have four-ring nucleus): Amoxapine, Maprotiline. 	
<p>MOA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tricyclics block reuptake pumps for both 5HT and NE in nerve terminals by competing for binding site of the transport protein, so ↑ conc. of NE & serotonin in the synaptic cleft & at the receptor site. Clomipramine, Imipramine, Amitriptyline have more potency for inhibition of 5HT uptake pump. Nortriptyline, Desipramine have more potency for inhibition of NE uptake pump. 	
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevate mood. Improve mental alertness. Increase physical activity. The antidepressant effect may develop after several weeks of continued treatment (2-3 weeks). In non-depressed patients: They cause sedation, confusion & motor incoordination. ¹ 	
<p>P.K</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak levels: 2-6 hours post ingestion. They are "lipophilic" in nature, therefore they are well absorbed from the GIT and readily cross the blood brain barrier to penetrate CNS. Elimination: hepatic oxidation. ★ TCAs are metabolized in the liver by demethylation (Imipramine to Desipramine, Amitriptyline to Nortriptyline) and by hydroxylation into metabolites that retain the biological activity of the parent compounds. 	
<p>ADR</p>	<p>TCAs block: 1- α1 adrenergic receptors 2- H1 histamines receptors 3- M1 cholinergic receptors 4- 5HT2 receptors.</p> <p>Adverse effects of TCAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-cholinergic: Dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation & urine retention, aggravation of glaucoma. Anti-histaminic: Sedation, confusion. → H1 receptor effects. Anti-adrenergic: Postural hypotension², arrhythmias, conduction defects. Weight gain, sexual dysfunction & impotence. Lower seizure threshold. ★ TCAs have narrow therapeutic index: toxicity can develop; excitement, Delirium, respiratory depression, convulsions, coma, atropine-like effects, cardiac arrhythmias, sudden death.³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TADs are highly protein bound and have a large volume of distribution → Therefore hemodialysis is not effective for treatment of TCA toxicity. 	

1- these effects show immediately(not after 3 weeks) and are not affected by the downregulation of the receptors. So it is again important to alert the patient of (1) the delayed onset of action (2) these ADRS which will show immediately.

2- the doctor need to tell the patient during consultation.

3- which is why TCAs are avoided with suicidal patients because an OD is much more dangerous than other antidepressants(there's no antidote & hemodialysis isn't effective)

Tricyclics (TCAs) cont...

<p>Uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endogenous (Major) Depression → moderate to severe. • Panic attack /acute episode of anxiety. ★ Imipramine because is used for treatment of nocturnal enuresis in children and geriatric patients because it constricts internal urethral sphincter (anti-muscarinic effect). • Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). • Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). • Attention Deficit Hyperkinetic Disorder (ADHD). • Chronic neuropathic pains or unexplained body pains. 
<p>Drug interactions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCAs are strongly bound to plasma protein, therefore their effect can be potentiated by drugs that compete for their plasma protein binding site (Aspirin and Phenylbutazone). • TCAs are metabolized by liver microsomal enzymes, therefore their effect can be reduced by inducers of liver microsomal enzymes (Barbiturates), or potentiated by inhibitors of liver microsomal enzymes (Oral contraceptives, Antipsychotics, and SSRIs). • TCAs (Inhibitors of Monoamine reuptake) should not be given with MAOIs (Inhibitors of Monoamine degradation) → cause hypertensive crisis. • Additive to anti-psychotics and anti-parkinsonisms → increase anti-cholinergic effects.
<p>C.I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCAs should not be used in patients with Glaucoma or with enlarged prostate because of their atropine-like action. • TCAs (if given alone) are contraindicated in manic-depressive illness, because they tend to "switch" the depressed patient to the "manic" phase, therefore, they should be combined with "lithium salts".¹ • Seizure disorder.(TCAs increases NA level in brain)

MonoAmine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)

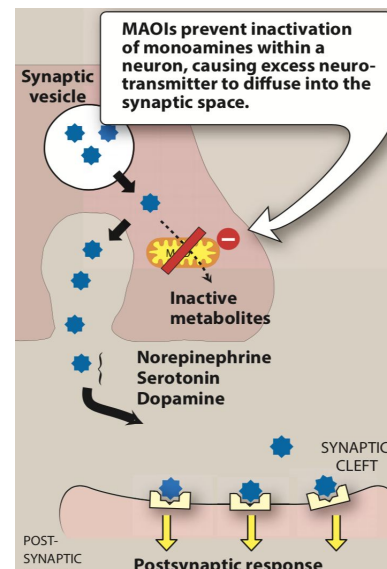
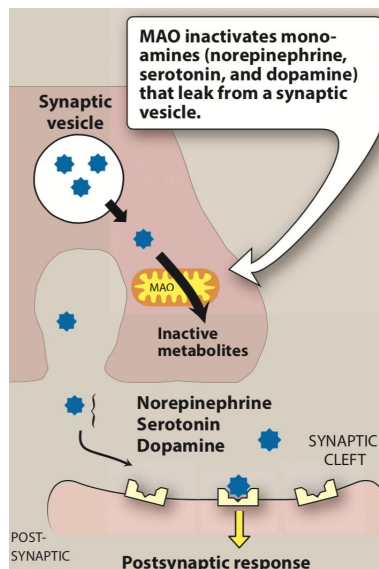
MAO is a mitochondrial enzyme found in nearly all tissues, and they exist in **two** forms:

responsible for **NE, 5-HT** catabolism. It also metabolizes **tyramine** of ingested food.



more selective for **dopamine** metabolism.

Mechanism of action of MAOIs:



¹- lithium is a mood stabilizer.

MAO-A or MAO-B

- 1. Moclobemide:** Antidepressant action, short acting (**MAO-A**).
- 2. Selegiline:** used in treatment of **Parkinsonism** (**MAO-B**).



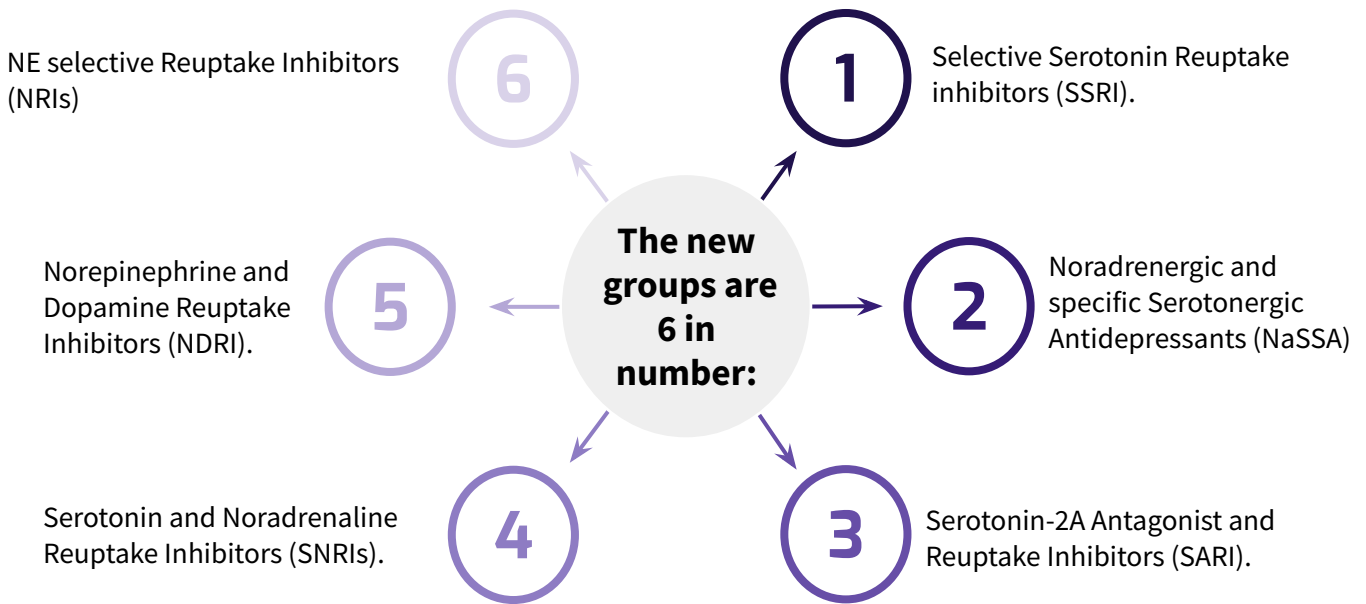
MAO-A & MOA-B

- 1. Tranylcypromine (Irreversible).**
 - 2. Phenelzine (Irreversible)** long acting.
- *The effect of irreversible MAOIs persists for period of 2-3 weeks after stopping treatment, time needed by the body to synthesize new enzyme.

Drugs	Phenelzine	Tranylcypromine	Moclobemide ¹	Selegiline
Type	Non-selective (act on MAO A & B).		★ Selective & Reversible.	Selective & Irreversible
	Irreversible long acting (2-3 weeks).	Irreversible.	- Act on MAO-A. - Anti-depressant action. - Short acting.	- Act on MAO-B. - Used in the treatment of Parkinsonism.
Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only used for refractory cases and in atypical depression where phobia and anxiety are prominent symptoms. ● limited uses because: 1.ADRs 2.food and drug interactions. 3.low antidepressant efficacy = Low Benefit/ risk ratio. 			
ADRs	1. Antimuscarinic effects 2. Postural hypotension. 4. sleep disturbance.		3. Sedation. 5. Weight gain.	Specific ADRs for (Phenelzine): 1. Sexual dysfunction. 2. Hepatotoxicity.
Drug interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pethidine: MAOIs interact with the opioid receptor agonist (pethidine) which may cause severe hyperpyrexia, restlessness, coma, hypotension. The mechanism still unclear – but it is likely that an abnormal pethidine metabolite is produced because of inhibition of normal demethylation pathway. ● Levodopa: Precursor of dopamine can interact with MAOIs leading to mania and hypertensive crisis. ● Amphetamine and Ephedrine: Indirectly acting sympathomimetic can interact with MAOIs causing the liberation of accumulated monoamines in neuronal terminals leading to hypertensive crisis. ● TCAs: (inhibitors of monoamine reuptake) can interact with MAOIs (inhibitors of monoamine degradation) leading to hypertensive crisis. ● MAOIs & SSRIs: Serotonin syndrome. (give 1-2 weeks gap before initiating SSRIs) 			
Interaction with tyramine (Cheese reaction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This occurs when Tyramine are taken with MAOIs. ● Tyramine rich foods include old cheese, concentrated yeast products, Pickled or smoked fish, Red beans, Red Wine, Chicken liver, Sausages. ● Tyramine in food is normally degraded in the in the gut by MAO-A. ● Since the enzyme is inhibited by MAOIs, tyramine from ingested food is absorbed, and then taken up into adrenergic neurons where it is converted into octopamine (a false transmitter) which causes massive release of (NE) and may result in hypertensive crisis(severe hypertension, severe headache and fatal intracranial hemorrhage). <p>★ The special advantage claimed for Moclobemide is that, No cheese reaction occurs with its use.</p>			

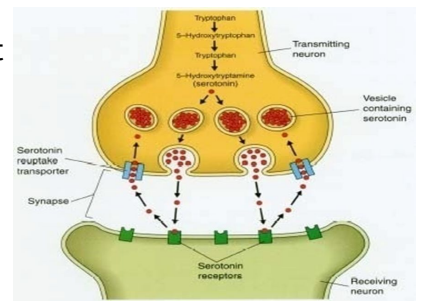
1. Maclobemide has the least sedation, anticholinergic, hypotension effect (Least toxic).

New Antidepressant



1. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)

Drugs	Fluoxetine, Fluvoxamine, Sertraline, Paroxetine, Citalopram, Escitalopram.
General Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The most widely utilized class of antidepressants in clinical practice. ● This group act by increasing the level of serotonin (5-HT) in the synaptic gap by inhibiting its re-uptake within the brain. ● They are selective Because they affect only the reuptake pumps responsible for Serotonin only.
MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI): Binds to SERT → Block 5HT transport → increase 5-HT levels in synapse. ● They have No effect on NET (norepinephrine transporter) and they do not block mACh, H, or α1 Adrenoceptor → so no antimuscarinic nor sedative effects Except Paroxetine. ● They are nearly of comparable efficacy but of preferential response in each individual.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Most commonly prescribed antidepressants ● Lacks cardiovascular and anticholinergic side effects compared to TCAs ● In contrast to MAOIs, they do not cause 'cheese' reaction. ● Safer (low risk of overdose). ● Acute toxicity is less than that of MAOIs or TCAs.



SSRIs Cont...

<p>P.K</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T1/2 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Too long (3-11 days): Fluoxetine (Prozac). → Moderate length (~24hr): Sertraline, Paroxetine, Citalopram. • Metabolized by P450 then conjugation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → They are enzyme inhibitors. → Weak inhibitors → Sertraline, Citalopram → ↓ interaction → Strong inhibitors → Fluoxetine, Paroxetine → ↓ metabolism of TCAs, neuroleptics, some antiarrhythmics, β-blockers 																									
<p>Uses</p>	<p>Same as for TCA, but it is effective in the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Depression. 2) Anxiety Disorder. 3) Eating disorders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bulimia nervosa (fluoxetine). - Anorexia nervosa (restricting eating). 4) Post traumatic stress disorder.(PTSD) 5) Premenstrual dysphoric disorder. 6) Attention Deficit Hyperkinetic Disorder.(ADHD) 7) Treatment of premature ejaculation¹ → by stimulation of 5-HT2A. 																									
<p>ADRs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects of SSRIs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) GIT symptoms: Nausea, vomiting (due to 5-HT3 stimulation) and diarrhea² 2) Changes in appetite weight loss/gain (5-HT3 stimulation). 3) Sleep disturbances: Drowsiness with Fluvoxamine. 4) Anxiety & Tremors (if combined with other antidepressants). 5) Sexual dysfunction: Loss of libido, delayed ejaculation (5-HT2A stimulation). • Discontinuation syndrome:³ Symptoms are headache, malaise & flu-like symptoms, agitation, irritability & nervousness . • Side effects: <table border="1" data-bbox="606 1337 1282 1625"> <thead> <tr> <th>Drug</th> <th>Cardiotoxicity</th> <th>Nausea</th> <th>Anticholinergics</th> <th>Sedation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fluoxetine</td> <td>-</td> <td>++</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>fluvoxamine</td> <td>-</td> <td>+++</td> <td>-</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>paroxetine</td> <td>-</td> <td>++</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sertraline</td> <td>-</td> <td>++</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Drug	Cardiotoxicity	Nausea	Anticholinergics	Sedation	Fluoxetine	-	++	-	-	fluvoxamine	-	+++	-	+	paroxetine	-	++	+	+	Sertraline	-	++	-	-
Drug	Cardiotoxicity	Nausea	Anticholinergics	Sedation																						
Fluoxetine	-	++	-	-																						
fluvoxamine	-	+++	-	+																						
paroxetine	-	++	+	+																						
Sertraline	-	++	-	-																						
<p>Drug interactions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSRIs are potent inhibitors of liver microsomal enzymes. Therefore they should not be used in combination with TCAs because they can inhibit their metabolism increasing their toxicity. • SSRIs should not be used in combination with MAOIs because of the risk of life threatening "serotonin syndrome" : (tremors, hyperthermia, cardiovascular collapse and death). Both drugs require a "washout" period of 6 weeks before the administration of the other 																									

Fluoxetine

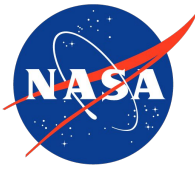
<p>Info:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Strong inhibitor, it differs from other members of this class in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It has a longer t1/2 (50 hrs). ○ Available as sustained release preparations → once weekly. ○ Its Metabolite norfluoxetine = potent as parent drug t1/2 (10 days). ○ Indicated in bulimia nervosa.
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1-fluvoxamine

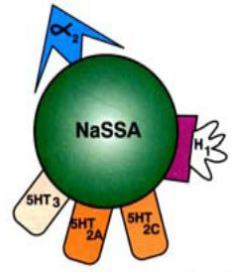
2- b/c of increased serotonergic activity in the gut.

3- different than withdrawal syndrome.

2. Noradrenergic and specific Serotonergic Antidepressants (NaSSA)



Drug	Mirtazapine
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • α_2 receptor antagonist. • Increase NE and 5HT levels. ★ Blocks 5HT_{2A}, 5HT₃ and thus <u>reduces</u> side effects of sexual dysfunction¹ and anxiety. • Blocking 5HT_{2C}, and H₁ receptors cause side effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sedation → (H₁ blocking effect). - weight gain → (5-HT_{2C} blocking effect).
Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Preferred in cancer patients because: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- It improves appetite. 2- ↓ nausea & vomiting (by 5-HT₃ blocking). 3- ↑ body weight (5-HT_{2C} blocking effect). 4- Sedation (H₁ blocking effect). 5- Less sexual dysfunction (by 5-HT₂ blocking). 6- Has no anti-muscarinic effect.



3. Serotonin-2A Antagonist and Reuptake Inhibitors (SARI)

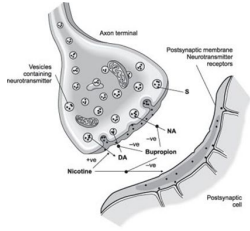
Drugs	Trazodone, Nefazodone
MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocks 5HT uptake selectively but in a less potent manner than TCAs. This reduces depression. • However, they are powerful 5HT_{2A} antagonists, blockade of 5HT_{2A} receptors stimulates 5HT_{1A} receptors, which may help reduce depression. • 5HT_{2A} antagonism also <u>reduces</u> the risk of anxiety, sedation or sexual dysfunction which is normally associated with SSRIs. • Nefazodone: Structurally related to trazodone but has less sedative effect and does not block α-adrenoceptors, however; it like most SSRIs inhibit P450 3A4 isoenzyme.

4. Serotonin and Noradrenaline Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

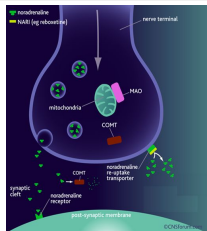
Drugs	Venlafaxine (Effexor)
MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is used primarily for the treatment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Depression. ○ generalized anxiety disorder in adults. ○ social anxiety disorder in adults. • Venlafaxine is the first and most commonly used SNRI. • Selective 5HT and NE uptake blockers combines the action of SSRIs and NRI, but <u>without α_1, M₁ cholinergic or H receptor blocking properties</u>. • Desvenlafaxine is a metabolite of Venlafaxine.

1. If the patient have primary premature ejaculation it will be worse, but if the patient is normal the drug will have no effect on premature ejaculation.

5. Norepinephrine and Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors (NDRI)

Drug	Bupropion	
MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unique in possessing significant potency as NE (Norepinephrine) and DA (Dopamine) reuptake inhibitor with no direct action on 5HT. 	
Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of major depression and Bipolar disorder¹. ★ Can be used for smoking cessation → As it reduces the severity of nicotine craving & withdrawal symptoms. 	
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sexual dysfunction → (b/c no 5-HT blocking effect) given in young. (combination with SSRIs to avoid sexual dysfunction).² No weight gain [No 5HT effect]. No orthostatic hypotension. 	
ADRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seizures → it ↓ threshold of neuronal firing. (increases the stimulating NT) → Similar to TCAs. 	

6. NE Selective Reuptake inhibitors (NRIs)

Drugs	Reboxetine	
MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Block only NET (norepinephrine transporter). No affinity for 5HT, DA, ADR², H, mACh receptors, So, has positive effects on the concentration and motivation in particular. 	
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Safe to combine with SSRIs → Minimal side effects only related to activation of ADR system as tremor, tachycardia, and urinary hesitancy. 	

1- the male's doctor said its Contraindicated

2- Q: newlywed depressed patient which antidepressant would you recommend? A: bupropion

3-adrenergic receptor

Clinical uses of Anti-depressants Drugs

It's only examples not the only answer!

1

Endogenous depression → **SSRIs (first choice)**, new generation and tricyclics can be used.

2

Panic disorders (**imipramine or SSRIs**).

3

Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (**SSRIs and Clomipramine**) & Chronic pain (**Amitriptyline**).¹

4

Anorexia nervosa and Bulimia (SSRIs).

5

Schizo-Affective Disorders (**Amoxapine or SSRI + Haloperidol**).

6

Anxiety disorders (**Amitriptyline**).¹

7

Migraine and Anxiety & IBS (**Amitriptyline**)¹

8

Nocturnal Enuresis in children e.g. **Imipramine**.

9

Premature ejaculation (SSRI).

10

Neuropathic Pain (**Dual NE and 5-HT reuptake Blockers**).

1- amitriptyline has the least side effects out of all TCAs.

Quiz

MCQ

Q1: Tricyclics antidepressants increase which of the following neurotransmitters?

- A. Serotonin and Dopamine.
- B. Dopamine and Norepinephrine.
- C. Serotonin and Norepinephrine.
- D. Dopamine.

Q2: Which of the following has no cheese reaction with its use:

- A. Phenelzine.
- B. Tranylcypromine.
- C. Moclobemide.
- D. Selegiline.

Q3: 74 A 21-year-old man complains of depressed mood, lack of pleasure in activities he previously enjoyed, and lack of energy. This has been going on for .5 years now. His physician prescribes fluoxetine. Which of the following side effects is most likely to occur in this patient?

- A. Peptic ulcer.
- B. Delayed ejaculation.
- C. Loss of taste.
- D. Pancreatitis.

Q4: A 43-year-old woman with a history of breast cancer and depression presents to her physician for treatment. She complains of feeling sad and worthless. Which of the following treatments would be best for this patient?

- A. Phenelzine.
- B. Reboxetine.
- C. Venlafaxine.
- D. Mirtazapine.

SAQ

Q1: What are the sites of Action for antidepressants?

Q2: A 53-year-old man comes to clinic for depression. He has had decreased interest and a depressed mood for the past 6 months. He also smokes half a pack of cigarettes a day and thinks that if he could quit, that would help his mood as well. What is the most appropriate treatment for his depression and cessation of smoking?

Q3: What is the mechanism of action of the drug in Q2?

Q4: What is the mechanism of Action of fluoxetine?

Q5: Give 3 ADRs of fluoxetine.

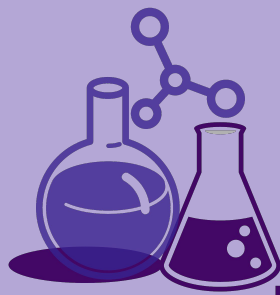
MCQ

Q1	C
Q2	C
Q3	B
Q4	D
Q5	

SAQ

Q1	1. Monoamine reuptake pump inhibitors 2. Blockade of presynaptic α_2 receptors. 3. Inhibition of MAO
Q2	Bupropion
Q3	Norepinephrine and Dopamine Reuptake inhibitor (NDRI)
Q4	Selective Serotonin Reuptake inhibitor
Q5	1. Weight loss 2. Sexual dysfunction 3. Nausea

Answers:



pharmacology

Team 438

*Good Luck ,
Future Doctors!*

Team Leaders:

May Babaeer

Zyad Aldosari

This Stunning Work Was Done By:

Alwaleed Alsaleh

Note Taker:

Abdullah Almuammar

Fay AlBuqami



Share with us your
ideas!