

Module 9: Psychological Disorders and Treatment


Topic 5 Content: Drug Therapy Notes

Introduction

Drug Therapy

- Antidepressants
- Anti-anxiety
- Anti-psychotic
- Mood Stabilizers

Introduction



Drugs are used to treat a variety of mental disorders, and patients can only obtain medications with a prescription. In this interactivity, click each tab to learn about the different types of drugs that are used to treat mental disorders.

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Antidepressants

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Antidepressants

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Antidepressants



Antidepressants are primarily used to treat depression by increasing neurotransmitter levels in the brain. Most of these medications seek to increase serotonin and norepinephrine. These two neurotransmitters are thought to be involved in depression and eating disorders. Some antidepressants such as Prozac are also used to treat obsessive compulsive disorder.

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Module 9: Psychological Disorders and Treatment

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Anti-anxiety

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Anti-anxiety



Anti-anxiety drugs provide a calming effect as they depress the nervous system, which temporarily decreases anxiety, tension, and nervousness. Xanax and Valium are common antianxiety medications.

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Anti-psychotic

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Anti-psychotic



Antipsychotic medications are designed to reduce and eliminate psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions. These drugs block dopamine in the brain. This is important because dopamine levels can be up to six times higher in those suffering schizophrenia.

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Mood Stabilizers

Drug Therapy

- Antidepressants
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Anti-anxiety



Anti-anxiety drugs provide a calming effect as they depress the nervous system, which temporarily decreases anxiety, tension, and nervousness. Xanax and Valium are common anti-anxiety medications.

Mood stabilizers are prescribed for bipolar disorder. These drugs seek to balance chemical levels in the brain and help prevent extreme mood swings characteristic of this mental disorder. Lithium is a common mood stabilizer.