

Mental Health Nursing
Class Preparation
Antidepressant Therapy

Directions: Please fill in the blanks and answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. What is the mechanism by which antidepressant medications achieve their desired effect (regardless of the different physiological processes by which this action is accomplished)?

___ They increase the serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain. _____

2. For what must a nurse be on the alert with a client who is receiving antidepressant medication?

___ Suicidal ideation _____

3. When should a nurse expect a client to begin showing signs of symptomatic relief after the initiation of antidepressant therapy?

___ Initial improvement in 10-14 days, and full effect is reached in 4-8 weeks. _____

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: ___ Desipramine _____

Give an example of an MAOI: ___ Phelzine _____

Give an example of an SSRI: ___ Fluoxetine _____

5. Describe some common side effects and nursing implications for tricyclic antidepressants.

___ Produces anticholinergic effect: dry mouth, constipation. Causes orthostatic hypotension, sedation and weight gain. _____

6. ___ Hypertensive Crisis ___ is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include: ___ Initially: irritability, anxiety, flushing, sweating, fever. Followed by: high fever, seizures, coma, death. _____

7. What must be done to prevent these symptoms from occurring?

___ Avoid foods with tyramine. _____