

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)?

Depends on the type of medication, some medications prevent the reuptake of serotonin and or norepinephrine, while others are effective by preventing the breakdown of serotonin, norepinephrine, or dopamine

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?

Depends on the medication itself, but some signs may present in a week and full effect may take 4-8 weeks

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Desipramine

Give an example of an MAOI: Isocarboxazid (Marplan)

Give an example of an SSRI: Escitalopram
(Lexapro)

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

Side effects include anticholinergic effects. Additionally, overdose is lethal and can cause dysrhythmias and seizures

6. hypertensive crisis is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include: anxiety, flushing, sweating, fever

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

Avoid eating foods high in tyramines or taking tricyclic antidepressants