

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)?
Inhibits reuptake of serotonin

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

Increased risk for suicidal thoughts/actions and serotonin syndrome

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

Within 2-4 weeks of initiation

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Amitriptyline

Give an example of an MAOI: Phenelzine

Give an example of an SSRI: Escitalopram

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

Dry mouth, slight blurring vision, constipation, dizziness, drowsiness. Monitor for these SEs. Use this med with caution in older population.

6. Hypertensive crisis is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include:

HA, hypertension, chest pain

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

Avoid foods with tyramine (ie: dried meats, aged cheeses, beer, wine), avoid pseudoephedrine