

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)?

__Antidepressants increasing serotonin by inhibiting the uptake in the CNS to decrease depression.

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?

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant:

__amitriptyline_____

Give an example of an MAOI:

____Phenelzine_____

Give an example of an SSRI:

____Fluoxetine_____

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

____Anticholinergic effects, (constipation, urinary retention, tachycardia) Nursing implications are to treat the symptoms and educate on these side effects.

6. ____Hypertensive crisis_____ is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include: _Severe hypertension, fever, sweating

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

____Dont take MAOIs with tyramine or pseudoephedrine.

