

**Learning Activity 4.1.**

**Psychotropic Medication Quiz**

1. What is the mechanism of action by which antidepressant medications achieve the desired effect (regardless of the different physiological processes by which this action is accomplished)?
2. For what must the nurse be on the alert with the client who is receiving antidepressant medication?
3. As the nurse, when would you expect the client to begin showing signs of symptomatic relief after the initiation of antidepressant therapy?
4. Name an example of a tricyclic antidepressant \_\_\_\_\_.  
Name an example of an MAOI \_\_\_\_\_.  
Name an example of an SSRI \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Describe some common side effects and nursing implications for tricyclic antidepressants.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse and client must be on the alert include: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. What must be done to prevent these symptoms from occurring? (Your answer must include some examples.)

7. Lithium carbonate is commonly prescribed for \_\_\_\_\_. Many times when these individuals are started on lithium therapy, the physician also orders an antipsychotic medication. Why might he or she do so?
8. There is a narrow margin between the therapeutic and toxic serum levels of lithium carbonate. What is the therapeutic range? List the initial signs and symptoms of lithium toxicity.
9. Describe some nursing implications for the client on lithium therapy.
10. What is the mechanism of action for anxiolytics (with the exception of buspirone)?
11. What is the most commonly used group of anxiolytics? Give two examples.
12. What are the most common side effects of anxiolytics?
13. What must the client on long-term anxiolytic therapy be instructed in order to prevent a potentially life-threatening situation?
14. What is thought to be the mechanism of action that produces the desired effect with antipsychotic medications?
15. Phenothiazines are an example of a “typical” antipsychotic group. Give two examples of phenothiazines and two examples of the newer “atypical” antipsychotics.

16. Describe potential adverse hormonal effects associated with antipsychotic therapy.
  
17. Agranulocytosis is a potentially very serious side effect of antipsychotic therapy. The nurse and client should be on the alert for symptoms of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  
18. Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) is a rare but potentially fatal side effect of antipsychotic drugs. List symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert when assessing for NMS.
  
19. Describe the symptoms of extrapyramidal side effects associated with antipsychotic therapy.
  
20. What is the classification of medication that is commonly prescribed for drug-induced extrapyramidal reactions? Give two examples of these medications.
  
21. Describe a potentially life-threatening situation that could occur in the client who abruptly withdraws from long-term use of CNS stimulants.

## Homework Assignment Questions and Answers

*Please read the chapter and answer the following questions:*

1. Identify three priority safety concerns for each class of psychotropic medications.

*Antianxiety Agents*

*Antipsychotics (novel)*

*Antipsychotics (phenothiazines and haloperidol)*

*MAO Inhibitors*

*SSNRIs*

*SSRIs*

***Tricyclic antidepressants***

**2. Differentiate primary actions and side effects for traditional versus atypical antipsychotics.**

**3. Differentiate primary actions and side effects for tricyclic versus SSRI antidepressants.**