

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)?

Antidepressant medications stop the absorption of monoamines in the brain.

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

The nurse must be alert of suicidal thoughts in patient that are receiving antidepressant medications.

3. As the nurse, when would you expect the client to begin showing signs of symptomatic relief after the initiation of antidepressant therapy?

4 weeks

4. Name an example of a tricyclic antidepressant _____ Amitriptyline _____.

Name an example of an MAOI _____ Marplan _____.

Name an example of an SSRI _____ lexapro _____.

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

Lethargy, constipation, sedation, hypotension

Some implications would be a patient passing out or becoming unarousable.

6. _____ Hypertensive crisis _____ is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of

MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse and client must be on the alert include: _____ high blood pressure, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, and chest pain _____

_____. What must be done to prevent these symptoms from occurring? (Your answer must include some examples.)

Check the patient's blood pressure regularly

Administer antihypertensive medication if indicated

Administer MAOIs as prescribed

7. Lithium carbonate is commonly prescribed for _____bipolar disorder_____. Many times when these individuals are started on lithium therapy, the physician also orders an antipsychotic medication. Why might he or she do so?

Lithium therapy is paired with an antipsychotic because it has takes a while to begin to work.

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.

The therapeutic range of lithium is 0.8 to 1.2 mEq/mL.

Signs and symptoms of lithium toxicity

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Tremors
- Delirium
- Seizures
- Slurred speech
- Muscle twitches

9. Describe some nursing implications for the client on lithium therapy.

Verify the lab draw for therapeutic range and review results and monitor for delirium and overall mental statues.

10. What is the mechanism of action for anxiolytics (with the exception of buspirone)?

The mechanism of action for anxiolytics is to increase the activity of the hormones that decrease the brains activity.

11. What is the most commonly used group of anxiolytics? Give two examples.

Benzodiazepines

Examples: Xanax and Ativan

12. What are the most common side effects of anxiolytics?

dizziness

13. What must the client on long-term anxiolytic therapy be instructed in order to prevent a potentially life-threatening situation?

These medications can be addictive if used for a client for long term so patient's should be educated on this possibility.

14. What is thought to be the mechanism of action that produces the desired effect with antipsychotic medications?

The thought to be the mechanism of action that produces the desired affect would be the reduction of dopamine.

15. Phenothiazines are an example of a “typical” antipsychotic group. Give two examples of phenothiazines and two examples of the newer “atypical” antipsychotics.

Examples of phenothiazines are thorazine and prolixin. Examples of “atypical” antipsychotics are Risperdal and Zyprexa.

16. Describe potential adverse hormonal effects associated with antipsychotic therapy.

Gynecomastia, decreased libido and amenorrhea

17. Agranulocytosis is a potentially very serious side effect of antipsychotic therapy. The nurse and client should be on the alert for symptoms of _____sore throat_____, _____low blood pressure_____, and _____weakness_____.

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.

Fever

Muscle rigidity

Arrhythmias

Altered mental status

19. Describe the symptoms of extrapyramidal side effects associated with antipsychotic therapy.

Akathisia

Akinesia

Dystonia

Oculogyric crisis

Pseudoparkinsonism

Tardive dyskinesia

20. What is the classification of medication that is commonly prescribed for drug-induced extrapyramidal reactions? Give two examples of these medications.

Phenothiazines: chlorpromazine and fluphenazine

Butyrophenone: Haloperidol and droperidol

Describe a potentially life-threatening situation that could occur in the client who abruptly withdraws from long-term use of CNS stimulants.

A potentially life threatening situation that could occur in the client who abruptly withdraws from long term use of CNS stimulants would be suicidal ideation. These medications are used to stabilize the clients mental health issues and this could cause suicidal thoughts.

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

***Dependence
Withdrawal
drowsiness***

Antipsychotics (novel)

***Hypotension
Orthostatic hypotension
hyperglycemia***

Antipsychotics (phenothiazines and haloperidol)

***Extrapyramidal side effects
Hyperglycemia
hypotension***

MAO Inhibitors

***Hypertensive crisis
Drowsiness
Confusion***

SSNRIs

***Serotonin syndrome
Suicidal ideations
withdrawal***

SSRIs

Nausea

Agitation

Headache

Tricyclic antidepressants

Serotonin syndrome

Withdrawal

drowsiness

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

The primary action of traditional and a typical antipsychotics is the same but atypical antipsychotics have a lesser chance of extrapyramidal side effects.

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

Tricyclic antidepressants not only reduce depression but also relieve pain and prevent panic attacks. SSRIs control anxiety and obsessions. The side effects are very different as tricyclic antidepressants have a lot more. These include sexual dysfunction sedation, weight gain, dry mouth, constipation and many more. As for SSRIs side effects include nausea, agitation, headache and sexual dysfunction.