

Psychoactive Medication Information: for Patients & Psychologists

(Pharmacotherapy - Psychopharmacology)

| <i>Medication Class & Possible Uses</i> | <i>Chemical Name</i> | <i>Trade Name</i> | <i>Possible Side Effects</i> |
|---|----------------------|---|---|
| <u>Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)</u> Depression. Bulimia Nervosa. Panic Disorder. O.C.D. | Citalopram | <i>Cipramil, Talohehal, Talam, Celapram, Celica, Ciazil, Citalobell</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nervousness • anxiety • insomnia • drowsiness • fatigue • gastrointestinal (GI) complaints including nausea & diarrhoea • sexual disturbances • loss of appetite & weight loss • agitation • tremor • dry mouth • dizziness • headache • sweating • weakness • rhinitis • myalgia • rash |
| | Escitalopram | <i>Lexapro, Esipram, Esitalo, Escicor, Lexam, Loxalate,</i> | |
| | Fluoxetine | <i>Prozac, Lovan, Zactin, Auscap, Fluohexal, Fluoxebell</i> | |
| | Fluvoxamine | <i>Luvox, Faverin, Movox, Voxam</i> | |
| | Paroxetine | <i>Aropax, Paxtine, Extine</i> | |
| | Sertraline | <i>Zoloft, Concorz, Sertra, Setrona, Eleva, Xydep, Sertracor</i> | |
| <u>Serotonin-Noradrenaline Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)</u> Depression. | Venlafaxine | <i>Efexor-XR</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea & vomiting • drowsiness & fatigue • dizziness • dry mouth • sweating • headaches • hypertension • anxiety • rash • constipation • decreased appetite • insomnia • blurred vision • tremor • weakness |
| | Duloxetine | <i>Cymbalta</i> | |
| | Desvenlafaxine | <i>Pristiq</i> | |
| <u>Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)</u> Depression. Panic Disorder. O.C.D. Bulimia Nervosa. Chronic pain. | Amitriptyline | <i>Endep</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sedation • dry mouth • blurred vision • weight gain • constipation • sweating • dizziness • agitation • insomnia • anxiety • confusion • decreased lacrimation • orthostatic hypotension • urinary hesitancy/retention • anticholinergic delirium • impotence • loss of libido • tremor • tachycardia |
| | Clomipramine | <i>Anafranil, Placil</i> | |
| | Dothiepin | <i>Dothep, Prothiaden</i> | |
| | Doxepin | <i>Sinequan, Deptran</i> | |
| | Imipramine | <i>Tofranil, Tolerade</i> | |
| | Nortriptyline | <i>Allegron</i> | |
| | Trimipramine | <i>Surmontil</i> | |

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| <p><u>Atypical Antidepressants</u> Depression. Depression & Anxiety/Sleep problems.</p> <p>Nicotine Dependence.</p> | <p>Mirtazapine</p> <p>Mianserin</p> <p>Reboxetine</p> <p>Bupropion</p> | <p><i>Avanza, Mirtazon, Axit</i></p> <p><i>Tolvon, Lumin,</i></p> <p><i>Edronax</i></p> <p><i>ZybanSR, Prexaton</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sedation • dizziness/faintness • vivid dreams • drowsiness • increased appetite • weight gain • dry mouth • vertigo • weakness • peripheral oedema • urinary retention • sweating • paraesthesia • constipation • increase in diastolic blood pressure • increase in heart rate • impotence • insomnia • headache |
| <p><u>Irreversible Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)</u> Depression, when other antidepressants have not worked. Atypical depression. Panic disorder. P.T.S.D. Bulimia Nervosa. Social Phobia. Chronic pain.</p> | <p>Phenelzine</p> <p>Tranlycypromine</p> | <p><i>Nardil</i></p> <p><i>Parnate</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drowsiness or insomnia • agitation • dizziness, weakness & fatigue • GI disturbance • weight gain • oedema (swelling) • postural hypotension (head rush or a dizzy spell) • anticholinergic effects* • headache • tremors • twitching • hyperflexia - hyperreflexia • myoclonus • impotence • loss of libido • elevated serum aminotransferases |
| <p><u>Reversible MAOI (RIMAs)</u> Depression. Social Phobia.</p> | <p>Moclobemide</p> | <p><i>Mohexal, Aurorix, Amira, Clobemix, Maosig</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea • headache • dizziness • insomnia • dry mouth • constipation • diarrhoea • anxiety • restlessness |

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| <u>Mood Stabilisers</u> Bipolar Disorder. Schizoaffective Disorder. Augmentation to antidepressants in acute Depression. | Lithium Carbonate | <i>Lithicarb, Quilonum SR</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea & diarrhoea (in the first few weeks) • metallic taste in mouth • weight gain • poor concentration • increased thirst • epigastric discomfort • fatigue • vertigo • tremor • acne • psoriasis • hypothyroidism • leucocytosis • polyuria |
| Bipolar Disorder. Epilepsy. | Sodium Valproate | <i>Epilim, Valpro, Valproate, Valprease</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea & vomiting • sedation • diarrhoea • increased appetite • weight gain • tremor • paraesthesia • drowsiness • ataxia • asymptomatic hyperammonaemia • elevated liver aminotransferases |
| Bipolar Disorder. Epilepsy. (Rapid cycling) Bipolar Disorder. | Carbamazepine | <i>Tegretol, Tegretol CR, Teril,</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abdominal pain • nausea & vomiting • constipation or diarrhoea • dizziness, unsteadiness on feet, visual symptoms • sedation & drowsiness • hives or skin rashes • ataxia • blurred vision • diplopia • headache • dry mouth • anorexia • increased liver enzymes |
| <u>Other Medication</u> Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Narcolepsy (excessive sleepiness). | Dexamphetamine Sulfate Methylphenidate Hydrochloride Atomoxetine | <i>Dexamphetamine</i> <i>Ritalin, Ritalin LA, Concerta</i> <i>Strattera</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dependence • dry mouth • GI upset, nausea, vomiting • Abdominal pain • restlessness • insomnia • headache • tremor • dyspepsia • decreased, or loss of, appetite • increases, or changes, in blood pressure • dizziness • drowsiness • irritability, aggression • temper tantrums • anxiety • tachycardia • palpitations • weight loss |

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| <p><u>Benzodiazepines</u></p> <p>Short-term relief of mild to moderate anxiety. Control of specific symptoms of Alcohol Withdrawal. Acute psychomotor agitation. Akathisia (restless legs). Acute Psychosis (as an adjunct to anti-psychotics).</p> | <p>Alprazolam</p> <p>Bromazepam</p> <p>Clobazam</p> <p>Clonazepam</p> <p>Diazepam</p> <p>Flunitrazepam</p> <p>Lorazepam</p> <p>Nitrazepam</p> <p>Midazolam</p> <p>Oxazepam</p> <p>Temazepam</p> <p>Triazolam</p> | <p><i>Xanax, Kalma, Alprax, Zamhexal</i></p> <p><i>Lexotan</i></p> <p><i>Frisium</i></p> <p><i>Rivotril, Paxam</i></p> <p><i>Valium, Antenex, Valpam, Ranzepam</i></p> <p><i>Hypnodorm</i></p> <p><i>Ativan</i></p> <p><i>Alodorm, Mogadon</i></p> <p><i>Hypnovel</i></p> <p><i>Alepam, Murelax, Serepax</i></p> <p><i>Normison, Temaze, Temtabs</i></p> <p><i>Halcion</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drowsiness • tendency to cause tolerance • oversedation • light-headedness • hypersalivation • ataxia • slurred speech • memory loss |
| <p><u>Other Anxiolytics & Hypnotics</u></p> <p>Short-term relief of Anxiety & Insomnia.</p> | <p>Buspirone Hydrochloride</p> <p>Zolpidem Tartrate</p> <p>Diphenhydramine</p> <p>Doxylamine</p> <p>Zopiclone</p> | <p><i>Buspar</i></p> <p><i>Stilnox, Stilnox CR, Stildem, Dormizol, Zolpibell, Somidem</i></p> <p><i>Snuzaid, Unisom</i></p> <p><i>Restavit, Dozile</i></p> <p><i>Imovane, Imrest</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI upset • chest pain • tachycardia (rapid or accelerated heart) • blurred vision • sore throat, nasal congestion • tolerance • dependence • rebound insomnia (more severe insomnia than before) • drowsiness • dizziness, light-headedness • headaches • nervousness • excitement • diarrhoea • taste disturbance (bitter) • dry mouth |

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| <u>Antipsychotic medication (major tranquilisers)</u> Schizophrenia. Schizoaffective Disorder. Mania. Major Depression with psychotic features. Organic brain syndromes with psychotic features. Tourette's Syndrome. | Chlorpromazine | <i>Largactil</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sedation • anxiety • agitation • tachycardia • mydriasis • nausea • postural hypotension • anticholinergic effects* • endocrine effects** • extrapyramidal effects*** • agranulocytosis in 1-3% of patients (failure of bone marrow to make enough white blood cells) • weakness • insomnia • hypersalivation • headache • light-headedness • drowsiness (occurs in 40%) • seizures • hyperpyrexia (5%) • hepatitis • neutropenia • weight gain • vomiting • urinary incontinence |
| | Haloperidol | <i>Serenace</i> | |
| | Pimozide | <i>Orap</i> | |
| | Thiothixene | <i>Navane</i> | |
| | Trifluoperazine | <i>Stelazine</i> | |
| | Fluphenazine Decanoate | <i>Modecate</i> | |
| | Flupenthixol Decanoate | <i>Fluanxol depot</i> | |
| | Haloperidol Decanoate | <i>Haldol</i> | |
| | Ziprasidone | <i>Zeldox</i> | |
| | Zuclopenthixol | <i>Clopixol, Clopixol–Acuphase (injection with rapid release)</i> | |
| | Zuclopenthixol Decanoate | <i>Clopixol-Depot (injection with gradual release)</i> | |
| | Amisulpride | <i>Solian, Amipride</i> | |
| | Aripiprazole | <i>Abilify</i> | |
| | Droperidol | <i>Droleptan</i> | |
| <u>Atypical Antipsychotic medication</u> | Paliperidone | <i>Invega</i> | |
| | Pericyazine | <i>Neulactil</i> | |
| | Clozapine | <i>Clozaril, Clopine</i> | |
| | Olanzapine | <i>Zyprexa, Zydis</i> | |
| Quetiapine | <i>Seroquel, Seroquel XR</i> | | |
| Risperidone | <i>Risperdal, Rispa, Ozidal, Rixadone</i> | | |

* **anticholinergic effects:** dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, urinary retention, hypotension (low blood pressure).

** **endocrine effects:** increased appetite, weight gain, decreased libido, impotence, amenorrhoea (absence of a menstrual period), galactorrhoea (milky secretion from the breast).

*** **extrapyramidal effects:** acute loss of muscle tone, staggering, Parkinsonism (e.g., rigidity, difficulty moving, postural instability), Tardive Dyskinesia (i.e., presence of involuntary movements).

*N.B.: This handout is for general patient education only. If you are taking medication prescribed by a doctor, discuss with them any concerns you have about the medication. **Do not stop taking medication without talking to a doctor.** You are more likely to take your medication effectively when you understand why you are prescribed it and how the medication works, so discuss with your doctor every component of your treatment.*

Also please note that the above side effects may vary dramatically from individual to individual, and will be dose related.

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