

PSYCHIATRY I

Learning Objectives for Unipolar Depression

1. Distinguish major depressive disorder (MDD) from other unipolar disorders based on clinical presentation and course of illness.
2. Devise optimal pharmacotherapeutic treatment regimens for patients with depressive disorders using knowledge of therapeutic effects, adverse effects, and interactions of antidepressant drugs.
3. Given a patient case, justify duration of pharmacotherapy for depression based on individual patient characteristics and relapse risk.
4. Analyze potential drug-drug and drug-food interactions with antidepressant drugs and describe both their mechanism and clinical significance.
5. Create a strategy to augment pharmacological regimens in patients with depression who have not responded to monotherapy.
6. Recommend treatments for depressive disorders in special populations, including pregnant or lactating women, those with chronic pain, children and adolescents, and the elderly.

Learning Objectives for Bipolar Disorder

1. Formulate appropriate treatment recommendations, including the rationale for treatment selection, for a patient with bipolar disorder experiencing acute symptoms of a mood episode.
2. Formulate appropriate treatment recommendations, including the rationale for treatment selection, for a patient with bipolar disorder in need of maintenance therapy to prevent symptomatic relapse or recurrence.
3. Construct therapeutic plans with appropriate monitoring parameters for the pharmacological treatment of bipolar disorder, with potential strategies to minimize adverse drug effects.
4. Develop recommendations for optimizing or discontinuing a given pharmacotherapy regimen based on evidence-based literature or peer-reviewed consensus guidelines.
5. Detect potential drug-drug interactions and assess their clinical significance.

Learning Objectives for Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses

1. Compare and contrast the diagnosis of schizophrenia from other psychotic disorders such as schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder, and brief psychotic disorder.
2. Classify the expression of positive, negative, and cognitive symptoms in the clinical presentation in the presence of schizophrenia.
3. Describe the role of dopamine in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia and the contribution toward neurobiological abnormalities reported in individuals with psychosis.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of mechanisms of action of typical and atypical antipsychotic medications and predict side effects of individual agents based on their pharmacological profile.

5. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current evidence supporting the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of pharmacotherapy options for the treatment of schizophrenia.
6. Develop a monitoring system to evaluate the effectiveness and tolerance of pharmacotherapy and develop strategies for minimizing adverse reactions.
7. Customize a patient treatment plan that incorporates pharmacological and nonpharmacological interventions and optimizes functional outcomes by addressing individual patient symptoms, comorbidities, and special patient populations.
8. Demonstrate how a pharmacist plays an integral role in the care of patients with psychoses by applying patient education and medication management techniques to help improve medication therapy and adherence.