

The Pharmacotherapy Preparatory Review & Recertification Course Neurology Melody Ryan, PharmD, MPH

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# Conflict of Interest Disclosures Melody Ryan –no conflicts of interest to disclose

#### Learning Objectives

- Differentiate between various antiepileptic drugs based on use and adverse effects
- Develop a treatment strategy for status epilepticus
- Identify appropriate treatment strategies for primary and secondary stroke prevention
- Determine the appropriateness of treatment with tissue plasminogen activator for acute stroke
- Examine common adverse effects associated with treatment of Parkinson disease
- Differentiate between regimens for acute and prophylactice treatment of migraine, tension, and cluster headaches
- Identify common adverse effects of disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis Page Number 1-190

# Patient Case # 1

TM is an 18-year-old new patient in the pharmacy where you work. He presents a prescription for carbamazepine 100 mg 1 PO BID with instructions to increase to 200 mg 1 PO TID. Currently, he does not take any medications and does not have any drug allergies. During your counseling session, TM tells you he must have blood drawn for a test in 3 weeks.

Page Number 1-208





#### Patient Case # 2

One month later, TM returns to your pharmacy with a new prescription for lamotrigine 25 mg with instructions to take 1 tablet daily for 2 weeks, then 1 tablet PO BID for 2 weeks, then 2 tablets PO BID for 2 weeks, then 3 tablets PO BID thereafter. He tells you that he is discontinuing the carbamazepine because he developed a rash a few days ago.

#### Page Number 1-208



# Dermatologic Adverse Effects Dermatologic reactions to anticonvulsants occur after a delay of 2-8 weeks May include rash, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome Recommendation for testing for the HLA-B\*1502 allele in patients of Asian, including South Asian Indians, ancestry have a 10-time increased risk of rash Patients with HLA-A\*3101 (usually

 Patients with HLA-A\*3101 (usually Caucasian) are also at increased risk for rash

Page Number 1-193-194



# Patient Case # 3 Which reply is best? A. It causes dose-related psychomotor slowing B. It causes dose-related renal stones C. It causes dose-related paresthesias D. It causes dose-related rash

# Lamotrigine Rash

- Related to starting dose
- Particular caution necessary in children
- Valproic acid inhibits lamotrigine metabolism and increases rash risk
- May be mild to serious in nature







# Patient Case # 5

SR is a 37-year-old patient who began taking phenytoin 100 mg 3 capsules PO QHS 6 months ago. He has experienced several seizures since that time; the most recent seizure occurred this past week. At that time, his phenytoin serum concentration was 8 mcg/mL. The treating physician increased his dose to phenytoin 100 mg 3 capsules PO BID.



























- Does not form an epoxide intermediate in its metabolism
- Enzyme inducer, but no autoinduction
- Hyponatremia more common than with carbamzepine
- Blood dyscrasias less common than with carbamazepine

Page Number 1-199







# Pregnancy Recommendations

#### During/after pregnancy

- Medications optimized before conception
- Withdrawals accomplished at least 6 months before
- Avoid valproic acid
- □ Avoid polytherapy, if possible
- Allow breastfeeding
- Monitor serum concentrations
  - Before, at the beginning of each trimester, last month, during first 8 weeks post-partum
  - Lamotrigine, carbamazepine, phenytoin,
  - levetiracetam, oxcarbazepine

Page Number 1-205

## Patient Case # 11

LR is a 78-year-old man who presents to the emergency department for symptoms of right-sided paralysis. He states these symptoms began about 5 hours ago and have not improved since then. He also has hypertension, benign prostatic hypertrophy, diabetes mellitus, erectile dysfunction, and osteoarthritis.











 Active treatment with warfarin, heparin, platelets < 100,000</li>

Page Number 1-212-213

#### Time Window for TPA

- Expanded to 4.5 hours with additional exclusion criteria
  - Taking any oral anticoagulant
  - Baseline NIHSS score greater than 25
  - Previous stroke combined with diabetes
  - Age older than 80

Page Number 1-213





# Secondary Stroke Prevention

- Reduction of risk factors
- Carotid endarterectomy
- Aspirin
- Aspirin/dipyridamole
- Ticlopidine
- Clopidogrel
- Cilostazol
- Warfarin

Page Number 1-213-214

#### Patient Case # 14

You are the pharmacist at a community pharmacy and receive a call from MW, a 64year-old man recently given a diagnosis of atrial fibrillation. He is concerned about his risk for having a stroke because his friend, who also has atrial fibrillation, asked him what dose of warfarin he is taking. MW called you because he is not taking warfarin and he wants to know if he should. He has no other medical conditions and takes atenolol 50 mg/day orally for ventricular rate control.



# CHADS<sub>2</sub> Score

Congestive heart failure, hypertension, age >75 years, diabetes mellitus, and prior stroke or transient ischemic attack stratification scheme

- Assign 1 point each for CHF, HTN, age ≥ 75 years, or diabetes
- Assign 2 points for previous stroke or TIA
- □ If total=0, no therapy or aspirin 75-325 mg/day
- □ If total≥1, give oral anticoagulant (alternative aspirin 75-325 mg/day and clopidogrel 75 mg BID)
- Dabigatran 150 mg BID recommended over warfarin

Page Number 1-211-212



Page Number 1-211-212







You work as the clinical pharmacist in a small hospital. Several of the physicians with whom you work want to use aspirin and clopidogrel together after stroke, similar to what they are doing for MI. You access the MATCH study and obtain the following results:

	ASA + Clopidogrel (n)	Placebo + Clopidogrel (n)	RRR (95% CI)
Primary outcome	596	636	6.4% (-4.6-6.3)
Secondary outco	mes		-
MI	73	68	-7.7% (-8.5- 20.4)
Ischemic stroke	309	333	7.1% (-8.5-20.4)
Death, all cause	201	201	0.1% (-21.5-

































Patient Case # 22 Which medication is best for prophylaxis of her headaches?
A. Propranolol B. Valproic acid C. Amitriptyline D. Lithium
Page Number 1-224



#### Migraine Treatment

- Prophylaxis page 1-221-222
  - Frovatriptan (for menstrually associated migraine, short-term prophylaxis only)
  - Metoprolol
  - Petasites (butterbur extract)
  - Propranolol
  - Timolol
  - Valproic acid
  - Topiramate
- Acute treatment pages 1-223-224

Page Number 1-221-224

# Patient Case # 23

SR is a 54-year-old female homemaker with squeezing, bandlike headaches that occur 3 or 4 times/week. She rates the pain of these headaches as 7 of 10 and finds acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, and piroxicam only partly effective. She wishes to take a prophylactic medication to prevent these tension headaches.



#### Tension Headache Treatment

Prophylaxis
Tricyclic antidepressants
Botulinum toxin
Acute treatment
Acetaminophen
NSAIDs













Patient Case # 26		-
Drug	<u>NNT</u>	
Ergotamine + caffeine	6.6	
Eletriptan 80 mg	2.8	
Rizatriptan 10 mg	5.6	
Sumatriptan 50 mg	6.0	
Page Number	1-225	_





# Patient Case # 27

SF is a 33-year-old African American woman of Cuban descent living in the Miami area. This morning, her right leg became progressively weaker over about 3 hours. She was previously healthy except for a broken radius when she was 13 years old and a case of optic neuritis when she was 25 years old.



#### Treatment of Acute Relapses

- Intravenous methylprednisolone: The usual dose is 1 g/day as one or divided doses for 3–5 days
- Oral prednisone: The usual dose is 1250 mg/day given every other day for five doses
- Intravenous adrenocorticotropic hormone
- Neurologic recovery is the same with or without an oral prednisone taper











Updates in Therapeutics® 2013:

The Pharmacotherapy Preparatory Review & Recertification Course General Psychiatry Kelly C. Lee, Pharm.D., MAS, BCPP, FCCP University of California, San Diego

# Conflict of Interest Disclosures Kelly C. Lee – Consultant (Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals)

## Learning Objectives and/or Agenda

- Describe pharmacotherapeutic options for managing the following psychiatric disorders: major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, insomnia, and alcohol withdrawal/dependence.
- Describe the drugs used to treat the above disorders with respect to unique pharmacologic properties, therapeutic uses, adverse effects, and cognitive and behavioral effects.
- Formulate a pharmacotherapeutic treatment plan when presented with a patient having depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder, insomnia, and alcohol withdrawal/dependence.

#### Major Depression

Patient Case Page 1-242

- A.Z. is a 45-year-old woman with sleep apnea, hypertension, diabetes mellitus type 2, and chronic pain.
- She endorses sad mood, poor appetite (lost 15 lb), poor concentration, and feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness for the past 3 weeks.

# Major Depression

#### Patient Case Page 1-242

- Also stopped going to her book club due to lack of motivation to get out of the house, and has frequent mid-nocturnal awakening.
- Denies SI/HI, ETOH, tobacco, or illicit drugs.
- Currently taking HCTZ, metformin, hydrocodone/acetaminophen, and aspirin. You decide that A.Z. should receive a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) to treat her depressive symptoms.

## DSM-IV Diagnostic Criteria

- Depressed mood or anhedonia (loss of interest or pleasure) and four (4) or more target symptoms (below) for at least two (2) weeks
- Weight change (loss or gain)
- Sleep disturbance (insomnia or hypersomnia)
- Decreased energy
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Decreased concentration
- Psychomotor agitation or retardation
- Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide



interferon beta, tamoxifen, digitalis



Table 1. Antidepres System, Page 1-244	
CYP Enzyme	Inhibition Potential
1A2	Fluvoxamine: high Fluoxetine: moderate
2C	Fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, sertraline: low
2D6	Bupropion, citalopram, escitalopram, sertraline: very low Duloxetine: moderate Fluoxetine, paroxetine: very high
3A4	Sertraline: very low Fluoxetine: low Fluvoxamine: moderate Nefazodone: very high
Minimal	Venlafaxine, desvenlafaxine, mirtazapine









Characteristic	Fluoxetine	Sertraline	Paroxetine	Fluvoxamine <sup>a</sup>	Citalopram	Escitalopram	Vilazodon
Half-life	1-4 days	26 hours	21 hours	15 hours	32 hours	27-32 hours	25 hours
Active metabolite	Yes <sup>b</sup>	No	No	No	No	No	No
Usual dose (mg/day)	20–60	50-200	10–60	50–300	20–40	10–20	40
Maximal daily dose (mg)	80	200	50 (depression) 60 (anxiety)	300	40	20	40

# What to do when patients don't respond?

- Wait and see
- Increase the dose
- Switch within class
- Switch to another class
- Add another antidepressant
- Add a non-antidepressant

#### Major Depression Clinical Pearls

- Antidepressant are equally efficacious
- Selection is dependent on multiple patient and drug-related factors (next slide)
- Remission is primary goal of therapy
- Pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy produce best outcomes
- Onset of effect may take 4-6 weeks
- Single episode requires at least 7-12 months of antidepressant treatment

# Patient Case # 4 Six months later, AZ reports that although her depression symptoms have improved, she has "trouble" during intercourse, which is quite disturbing to her. You determine that she has anorgasmia caused by citalopram treatment. Which is the most appropriate recommendation at this time? A. Discontinue citalopram B. Add bupropion to treat anorgasmia C. Switch to a different SSRI D. Switch to mirtazapine

Handout Page 1-242; Answer Page 1-278

# Bipolar Disorder

Patient Case Page 1-251

- J.L. is a 26-year-old man with bipolar disorder I, who presents with delusions that the FBI is tracking his movements and that his thoughts are being recorded in a secret governmental database. He believes he has special powers to hide from the FBI by making himself invisible.
- He is hyperverbal and has not slept in the past 48 hours. He is placed on a 72-hour hold for control of his manic symptoms..

#### Bipolar Disorder

#### Patient Case Page 1-251

- He has a history of nonadherence to medications and is currently not taking any medications. J.L.'s last hospitalization was 2 months ago, when he had significant depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation.
- He has 3-4 hospitalizations per year, and his medication trials include carbamazepine, olanzapine, and lamotrigine (may be helpful but uncertain because of nonadherence). He has also received a diagnosis of hepatitis C.









25

27



Patient Case # 6
Which adverse effect would be of most concern and would require immediate evaluation if J.L. were prescribed lithium?
A. Hyperthyroidism.
B. Coarse tremor.
C. Severe acne.
D. Weight gain.

# Bipolar Disorder

#### Lithium

- □ Excreted 95% unchanged by glomerular filtration
- □ Initial workup: CBC, electrolytes, renal function
- Serum concentration:
  - 0.8-1.2 mEq/L (acute mania)
  - 0.6-1.0 mEq/L (maintenance)
- Other labs: thyroid function, urinalysis, poss. EKG, pregnancy test

#### Table 4. Lithium Adverse Effects Page 1-252 Potential Intervention Rash or ↑ psoriasis Discontinue the drug temporarily or permanently Tremor Reduce dose (Cp); add β-blocker Reduce dose (Cp) CNS toxicity (e.g., agitation, confusion) Reduce dose; try extended-release GI (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea) Discontinue Li or give levothyroxine Hypothyroidism Reduce dose, manage intake, and try amiloride or HCTZ, but know that HCTZ will ↑ Li Cp; single HS dosing helps Polydipsia/polyuria Interstitial fibrosis, glomerulosclerosis Controversial! Keep dose at lowest effective concentration Avoid during first trimester if possible Teratogenicity

#### Patient Case # 7



# Table 5. Situations to Consider During Lithium Therapy, Page 1-253

Situation	Factors	Results
Drug Interactions	Diuretics	
	Thiazides	↑ Li Cp; avoid use to reduce toxicity
	Furosemide	Little effect
	Amiloride	Little effect
	NSAIDs	↑ Li Cp; avoid use to reduce toxicity
	Theophylline	↓ Li Cp
	ACEIs	↑ Li Cp; avoid use to reduce toxicity
	Neuromuscular blockers	Li prolongs action
	Neuroleptics	Li may potentiate EPS
	Carbamazepine	↑ CNS toxicity

Table 5. S	ituations to C	onsider During
Lithium T	herapy, Page	1-253
Situation	Factors	Results
Thyroid	Li   synthesis and	Hypothyroidism

	thyroid hormone	
Pregnancy	↑ GFR	↓ Li Cp
Aging	↓ GFR	↓ Li Requirements
	↑ Sensitivity to ADRs	Li toxicity
↓ Renal function	$\downarrow$ GFR, $\uparrow$ Cr and BUN	↑ Li Cp
Dehydration, salt restriction, and extrarenal salt loss	↑ Na reabsorption	↑ Li Cp

#### Bipolar Disorder

#### Clinical Pearls

- Selection of treatment depends on acute phase vs maintenance phase
- Mood stabilizers are not equally efficacious
- Selection is dependent on efficacy and drugrelated factors
- Euthymic state and avoidance of hospitalization are goal of therapy
- Onset of effect may occur within 1-2 weeks

32

Patients may need life-long treatment

#### Schizophrenia

Patient Case Page 1-255

 L.M. is a 25-year-old man recently given a diagnosis of schizophrenia, paranoid type. He often hears voices telling him that he is "stupid and worthless" and that he should "just jump off his apartment building." His parents became very concerned over his isolative behavior and brought him to the hospital.

#### Schizophrenia

Patient Case Page 1-255

- He was given haloperidol in the psychiatry unit and now presents with neck stiffness and feelings of extreme restlessness.
- Until now, he has not taken medications because he felt that he could control his symptoms on his own with vitamins and Red Bull drinks.





Antipsy	chotics,	Page 1-258	
Generic Name	Trade Name	Chemical Class	Dose Equivalence
Low Potency			
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine	Aliphatic phenothiazine	100
Thioridazine	Mellaril	Piperidine phenothiazine	100
Mid-Potency	L	1	
Perphenazine	Trilafon	Piperazine phenothiazine	10
Loxapine	Loxitane	Dibenzoxazepines	10
High Potency		-	
Haloperidol	Haldol	Butyrophenone	2
Fluphenazine	Prolixin	Piperazine phenothiazine	2
Thiothixene	Navane	Thioxanthenes	4

#### Second Generation Antipsychotics

Generic Name	Trade Name	Chemical Class	Dose Equivalence*
Clozapine	Clozaril	Dibenzodiazepine	50
Risperidone	Risperdal	Benzisoxazole	2
Olanzapine	Zyprexa	Thienobenzodiazepine	5
Quetiapine	Seroquel	Dibenzothiazepine	75
Ziprasidone	Geodon	Benzothizolylpiperazine	60
Aripiprazole	Abilify	Quinolinone derivative	7.5
Paliperidone	Invega	Benzisoxazole	
Asenapine	Saphris	Dibenzo-oxepino pyrroles	
lloperidone	Fanapt	Piperidinyl-benzisoxazole	
Lurasidone	Latuda	Benzoisothiazole	

# Extrapyramidal Symptoms

- Extrapyramidal symptoms
  - Typical: High potency >> mid/low potency
  - Atypical: Risp\*, palip, luras > cloz, olan\*\*, quet, zipras, aripip, asenap, ilop
- Due to blockade of dopamine receptors in nigrostriatal tract & extrapyramidal system; three types of EPS

\*Lower risk at doses <8mg/day; \*\*lower risk at doses<20mg/day

# Extrapyramidal Symptoms (EPS)

- Dystonic reactions
- Involuntary muscle contraction involving neck trunk and other muscles
- Akathisia
   Subjective feelings of anxiety and jitteriness
- Parkinsonism
  - Symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease including
     Tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, stoop gait

## Extrapyramidal Symptoms

- Treatment
  - Dystonia: ↓ dose or give anticholinergic agents (e.g. IM benztropine, diphenhydramine), BZD (if anticholinergics are contraindicated)
  - □ Akathisia: ↓ dose or give propranolol, clonidine, BZD, anticholinergics
  - Parkinsonism: ↓ dose or anticholinergic agent, amantadine
  - See Agents Used to Treat Extrapyramidal Symptoms Table

#### Patient Case # 9 You and the psychiatric team decide to recommend risperidone for L.M. Which is the most likely reason for this selection? A. Risperidone has less risk of causing EPS than haloperidol. B. Risperidone is available in a long-acting injection for increasing adherence.

C. Risperidone is effective for decreasing L.M.'s negative symptoms.

D. Risperidone can be dosed once daily after titration to target dose.

Handout Page 1-255 ; Answer Page 1-278





age 1-20	53			
	Anticholinergic	Sedation	EPS	Orthostasis
Clozapine	4	4	1	4
Risperidone	1	2	2-3	3
Olanzapine	3	3	1	1
Quetiapine	1	3	1	3
Ziprasidone	1	1	1	1
Aripiprazole	1	1	1	1
Paliperidone	1	1	2-3	1
Asenapine	2	4	1	4
lloperidone	1	1	1	4
Lurasidone	1	1	1	1



# Schizophrenia

## Clinical Pearls

- All antipsychotics are equally efficacious except clozapine
- Second generation antipsychotics have better negative symptom control and less EPS
- Selection is dependent on multiple patient and drug-related factors
- Remission may never be achieved and primary goal is to control symptoms and minimize adverse effects

# Schizophrenia

## Clinical Pearls

- Positive and negative symptoms, functional outcomes and cognitive impairment are key target areas for treatment
- Avoidance of hospitalization is critical
- Onset of effect may take 4-6 weeks
- Most patients require life-long treatment

# Anxiety Disorders

Patient Case Page 1-265

 C.P. is a recent Iraq war veteran who has been treated successfully with paroxetine for his major depression for the past 3 weeks. He presents to the clinic with nightmares, "feeling on edge all the time," and flashbacks of his time in the war. He is evaluated and given a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He has no history of substance dependence and has no significant medical history.

# Patient Case # 12 Which recommendations is most appropriate at this time? A. Continue paroxetine because it treats both PTSD and major depression. B. Discontinue paroxetine and initiate sertraline, which treats both PTSD and major depression. C. Continue paroxetine and add lorazepam for the anxiety symptoms. D. Discontinue paroxetine and start buspirone for the anxiety symptoms.

Handout Page 1-265; Answer Page 1-279

#### Guess the Anxiety Disorder

- Patient who is often labeled as a worrywart
- Patient who spends 2 hours every day making sure her towels are neatly folded
- Patient who startles easily and complains of nightmares about her time in combat
- Patient who has moments where she feels like she's dying and afraid to drive
- Patient who is afraid of snakes and can't go to the zoo

#### Anxiolytics and Indications

Anxiety Disorder	FDA Approved Agents
Panic Disorder	Benzodiazepines (alprazolam, clonazepam) Fluoxetine, Paroxetine, Paroxetine CR, Sertraline, venlafaxine
GAD	Paroxetine, escitalopram, venlafaxine, duloxetine, buspirone
OCD	First Line: Fluoxetine, Fluvoxamine, Paroxetine, Sertraline Second line: TCA (clomipramine)
PTSD	Paroxetine, Sertraline
SAD	Paroxetine, Paroxetine CR, Sertraline, Venlafaxine

# Patient Case # 13 C.P. has been adherent to the medication you recommended earlier, but he still feels very irritable and has been aggressive at times at work toward others. Which adjunctive medication is most appropriate in this patient? Image: Image:









# Anxiolytics and Indications

Anxiety Disorder	FDA Approved Agents
Panic Disorder	Benzodiazepines (alprazolam, clonazepam) Fluoxetine, Paroxetine, Paroxetine CR, Sertraline, venlafaxine
GAD	Paroxetine, escitalopram, venlafaxine, duloxetine, buspirone
OCD	First Line: Fluoxetine, Fluvoxamine, Paroxetine, Sertraline Second line: TCA (clomipramine)
PTSD	Paroxetine, Sertraline
SAD	Paroxetine, Paroxetine CR, Sertraline, Venlafaxine

#### Insomnia

#### Patient Case Page 1-268

 C.D. is a 38-year-old kindergarten teacher who presents to clinic today with noticeable dark circles under her eyes. She has difficulty with sleep, mainly with staying asleep. It takes her about 20 minutes to fall asleep, but after about 2 hours, she wakes up and cannot fall asleep again for several hours. This pattern has taken a toll on her job, and she feels tired all the time.

## Insomnia

Patient Case Page 1-268

She once took diphenhydramine for sleep but had to miss work because of extreme drowsiness in the morning. She wonders whether there are any other medications that she can take. Her other medical problems include hypothyroidism (levothyroxine 125 mcg at bedtime), hypertension (HCTZ 25 mg in the morning), chronic back pain (ibuprofen 800 mg 3 times/day), and MDD (citalopram 20 mg in the morning).

# Patient Case # 16 Which agent is most likely contributing to C.D.'s insomnia? A. Citalopram. B. Hydrochlorothiazide C. Ibuprofen. D. Levothyroxine. Handout Page 1-268; Answer Page 1-279

Secondary Etiologies	
<ul> <li>Medications</li> <li>Fluoxetine</li> <li>Bupropion</li> <li>MAOI</li> <li>Thyroid supplements</li> <li>CNS stimulants</li> <li>Calcium channel blockers</li> <li>Beta blockers</li> <li>Decongestants</li> <li>Dopamine agonists</li> <li>Corticosteroids</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Substance Use/Abuse</li> <li>Caffeine</li> <li>Nicotine</li> <li>Alcohol</li> <li>Alcohol withdrawal</li> <li>Benzodiazepine withdrawal</li> <li>Narcotic withdrawal</li> <li>Stimulant intoxication/withdrawal</li> </ul>

Theophylline





Table 14 Page 1-2		Classification
Туре	Duration	Likely Causes
Transient	<1 week	Acute situational or environmental stressors
Short term	< 4 weeks	Continued personal stress
Chronic	.> 4 weeks	Psychiatric illness, substance abuse
		Behavioral causes (poor sleep hygiene)
		Medical causes, primary sleep disorder (e.g. sleep apnea, restless legs syndrome)
		65



Drug	Usual Dose (mg)	Half-life (hrs)	Duration
Triazolam	0.125-0.25	2-6	Short
Temazepam	15-30	8-20	Intermediate
Estazolam	1-2	8-24	Intermediate
Flurazepam	15-30	48-120	Long
Quazepam	7.5-15	48-120	Long
Zolpidem	5-10	1.5-4.0	Short
Zaleplon	5-10	1	Very Short
Eszopiclone	2-3	6	Short
Ramelteon	8	1-3	Short



## Complex Sleep Behaviors (CSB)

- FDA issued Black Box Warning for all insomnia agents
   Angioedema
  - Complex sleep behaviors
- CSB may include walking, eating, having sex while asleep
- Incidence
- Risk Factors

# Substance Abuse – Alcohol

Patient Case Page 1-273

L.M. is a 50-year-old man with a 25-year history of alcohol dependence who was found unconscious after his last drinking binge. He was first admitted to the medical unit for alcohol withdrawal symptoms before being transferred to the substance dependence unit. His last drink was 6 hours ago, and fluids have been started.

### Substance Abuse – Alcohol

#### Patient Case Page 1-273

- He has had three alcohol-withdrawal seizures in the past and an episode of delirium tremens.
- He also has significant hepatitis, and liver function tests show aspartate aminotransferase (AST) of 220 and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) of 200.





Stage	Onset	Symptoms
1	0-8 hrs	Mild tremors, nervousness, tachycardia, nausea
2	12-24 hrs	Marked tremors, hyperactivity, tachycardia, insomnia, nightmares, illusions, alcohol craving
3	12-48 hrs	More severe symptoms than during stage 2, seizures may occur
4	3-5 days	Delirium tremens, confusion, agitation, tremor, insomnia, tachycardia, sweating, hyperpyrexia



Drug	Dose	Comments
Lorazepam	1-2 mg PO/IV/IM	Can use with liver disease
Diazepam	5-20 mg PO	Use lower dose with liver disease, can use loading-dose strategy
Chlordiazepoxide	25-100 mg PO/IV	Long acting; caution with liver disease









