

## Antipsychotics (neuroleptic)

Used to treat: Psychosis, schizophrenia, mania

Typical: 1<sup>st</sup> generation

- Act on dopamine levels (dopamine antagonists) – block dopamine receptors
- Reduce positive symptoms of schizophrenia

Atypical: 2<sup>nd</sup> generation (newer)

- Act on dopamine and serotonin levels – block
- Reduce positive and negative schizophrenic symptoms
- Without the EPSE's (extrapyramidal side effects) – effect the extrapyramidal motor system (same system responsible for the movement disorders of Parkinson's – can give antiparkinsonian meds to counteract the epse's)

Typical	Atypical
<b>Examples:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chlorpromazine (Largactil)</li><li>• Haloperidol</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quetiapine (seroquel)</li><li>• Risperidone</li><li>• Olanzapine</li><li>• Clozapine (last resort)</li></ul>
<b>Side effects:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effects on CNS (EPSE's):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Acute dystonic reaction (painful muscle spasms in head, back and torso)</li><li>○ Seizures</li><li>○ Akathisia: restlessness, leg aches, person cannot stay still</li><li>○ Tardive dyskinesia – uncontrolled movement of persons mouth, tongue</li></ul></li><li>• Other:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dry mouth, blurred vision, urinary retention</li><li>○ Weight gain, diminished libido</li><li>○ Sedation</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weight gain – main one</li><li>• Constipation</li><li>• Dizziness</li><li>• Insomnia</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Drowsiness</li><li>• Dry mouth</li></ul>

### Clozapine:

- Regulations around it
- Treatment of schizophrenia in pts as a last resort
- Atypical
- Blocks dopamine receptors in brain = preventing excess activity of dopamine
- Side effects:
  - Drowsiness
  - Increased HR, Salivation
  - Headache, tremor
  - Fever

## Antianxiotics – anti anxiety

Anxiety disorders – involve neurotransmitters serotonin, noradrenalin and dopamine

- Benzodiazepines and non-benzodiazepines

### Benzodiazepines:

Commonly prescribed for short term relief of severe anxiety. Can assist with sleep

- Inhibit neurotransmitter GABA
- Depressant drug – slow down activity on CNS and messages travelling between brain and body
- Used a lot for prn meds
- High withdrawal symptoms

Side effect	Nursing intervention
Drowsiness – lack of energy	Encourage appropriate activity but warn against those such as driving
Dizziness/lightheadedness	Observe and take steps to prevent falls
Feeling detached	Encourage socialization
Dependency	Encourage short term use, educate to avoid other drugs e.g. alcohol

- Slurred speech
- Depression
- Memory loss/ forgetfulness
- Nausea
- Blurred vision

### Examples: (most things ending in PAM)

- Diazepam (Valium)
- Alprazolam –( Xanax)