

Pharmacology

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EXCERPTS

PHARMACOLOGY

‘The art of medicine consists in amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.’

Tricyclic Antidepressants

Definition: these drugs block the reuptake of both noradrenaline and serotonin causing an increase in the level of these neurotransmitters at the synapse.

Examples: *Amitriptyline* (Elavil), *Desipramine* (Norpramin), *Imipramine* (Tofranil) and *Nortriptyline* (Aventyl, Pamelor).

Although tricyclic antidepressants are still in use, they have been mostly replaced in the treatment of depression with SSRIs.

Side effects: dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, difficulty urinating, worsening of glaucoma, impaired thinking and tiredness.

Other Antidepressants

Venlafaxine (Effexor); common side effects: nausea and loss of appetite, anxiety and nervousness, headache, insomnia and tiredness;

Bupropion (Wellbutrin) can cause agitation, insomnia, headache and nausea;

Lithium (used mainly to treat manic depression, but also sometimes prescribed for recurring bouts of depression).

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## **Rx** Anti-diarrhea drugs

*Definition:* drugs that control diarrhea;

*Classification:*

| Antimotility agents                                                                                                                          | Adsorbents                                                                                          | Fluid and electrolyte transport modifiers                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Examples:</i> Loperamide (Imodium);<br><i>Action:</i> decrease intestinal motility;<br><i>Side effects:</i> drowsiness, abdominal cramps; | <i>Examples:</i> kaolin, pectin (Kaopectate);<br><i>Action:</i> absorb water and intestinal toxins; | <i>Examples:</i> Bismuth salicylate (Pepto-Bismol);<br><i>Action:</i> decreases fluid secretion in the bowel; |







**HIV:** human immunodeficiency virus;

**HMG-CoA reductase:** liver enzyme responsible for cholesterol synthesis

**Homocysteine:** methionine converts into homocysteine in the absence of folic acid and vitamins B6 and B12; its presence has been associated with increased risk for cardio-vascular conditions;

**HRT:** hormone replacement therapy;

**Hyperaldosteronism:** increased levels of aldosterone;

**Hyperchlorhydria:** high stomach acid;

**Hypercholesterolemia:** increased blood cholesterol levels;

**Hyperestrogenism:** increased estrogen levels; estrogen dominance;

**Hyperglycemia:** high blood sugar;

**Hyperkalemia:** increased blood potassium levels;

**Hypernatremia:** high sodium levels;

**Hyperplasia:** increase in cell number;

**Hypertension,** see *HB*;

**Hypertrophy:** enlargement of an organ or part due to increase in size of its cells;

**Hypochlorhydria:** low stomach acid;

**Hypoglycemia:** low blood sugar;

**Hypothermia:** low body temperature;

**Hypoxia:** lack of oxygen;

**Hysterectomy:** uterus removal;

**Hypnotic:** an agent that induces sleep;

**Hypokalemia:** decreased blood potassium levels;

**Hyponatremia:** low sodium levels;

**Hypotension:** low blood pressure levels;