

AP PSYCHOLOGY

UNIT 8

REVIEW

Biomedical treatments
of disorders



PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS

1. TRANQUILIZERS

(AKA anxiolytics & anti anxiety drugs)

- increases availability of neurotransmitter GABA in the limbic system

→ reduces anxiety

TREATS: PTSD, anxiety

TYPES TO KNOW:

➤ Benzodiazepines – xanax, buspar, valium, librium

2. ANTIDEPRESSANTS

- elevates mood by increasing activity of neurotransmitters such as serotonin, dopamine & norepinephrine

TREATS: BPD, OCD, depression

TYPES TO KNOW:

- monoamine oxidase inhibitors: inhibits breakdown of above neurotransmitters
- atypical antidepressants: inhibits reuptake of above neurotransmitters
eg. wellbutrin
- tricyclics: inhibit reuptake of serotonin
- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors: increases serotonin
eg. lexapro, prozac, pazil

3. STIMULANTS

- activate motivational centers in brain & reduces inhibitory centers in nervous system
- increases activity of dopamine, serotonin, & norepinephrine

TREATS: ADHD, narcolepsy

EXAMPLES: ritalin, dextedrine

4. ANTIPSYCHOTICS / NEUROLEPTICS

- lessens agitated behaviour, reduce tension, decreases hallucinations & delusions
- blocks dopamine receptors

TREATS: schizophrenia

EXAMPLES: clozaril, thorazine, haldol

OTHER TREATMENTS

ELECTROCONVULSIVE SHOCK TREATMENT (ECT)

- Patient is shocked (under anesthesia)
- last resort for severe depression

REPETITIVE TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION (rTMS)

- repeated pulses through a magnetic coil on forehead
 - stimulating frontal lobe
- treats depression

PSYCHOSURGERY

- removal of brain tissue