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[Editorial]

A Continually Evolving Field of Medicine.

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Primary Psychiatry, Vol 10(7), Jul 2003, 14-15.



ABSTRACT

1. Failure to consider the true profiles of available drugs reduces the probability of a successful treatment outcome. It is essential that prescribing physicians remain current in their knowledge of psychopharmacology as it is a rapidly and continually evolving field of medicine. This demands ongoing commitment to following the emerging literature about the selection and use not only of psychotropic agents but of drugs used to treat nonpsychiatric disorders which may also aid in the treatment of mental illness or mitigate side effects of psychotropic drugs. In keeping with a pattern that has been seen in recent years, new agents are being developed and marketed. In addition to knowing about the profiles of new agents, clinicians should recognize that they are getting better at anticipating which patients are more likely to have therapeutic responses to specific drugs, and what types of problems are likely to emerge. As a rule, dosing of psychotropic drugs is not a major safety consideration. Optimal dose ranges for new drugs are determined during clinical trials. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)