Objectives for Antidepressants Lecture

The knowledge base and required reading for this lecture is Chapter 30 (Antidepressant agents) in <u>Katzung's Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, 16th ed</u>.

Describe and identify the clinical manifestations of Dysthymia and Major Depression and how these diagnoses differ from Bipolar disorder. Describe the dangers of using antidepressants in cases of misdiagnosis. Describe the dangers of using antidepressants in children and adolescents.

Describe and identify the different classes of antidepressant agents, the neurotransmitter systems they affect, and their mechanism of action.

List and identify which antidepressant agents belong in each class.

Describe and identify the indications, contraindications, and common or serious adverse reactions particular to each antidepressant agent, and how these may be related to specificity. Describe the risks associated with overdose.

Describe and identify how the properties of absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion contribute to the clinical effects of these drugs; recognize any notable or unique pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic, or metabolic properties of drugs mentioned in class.

Describe and identify the key treatment recommendations stated in the STAR*D trial.

Describe why choice of drug can vary between patients.

Describe and identify the major clinical manifestations of Bipolar Disorder

List, describe and identify the different mood stabilizing agents

For Li^+, describe and identify the mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and adverse effects

Describe the use of Valproic acid and Carbamazapine in the treatment of Bipolar Disorder, including indications, use alone or in combination with Li^+, and adverse effects, including teratogenic risk of these agents.

Recognize how antipsychotic agents or combinations are used in the treatment of bipolar disorder, and whether they are approved to treat the manic phase or depression.