



# Antidepressants



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A small molecular structure diagram with five colored nodes (green, red, blue, yellow, pink) connected by black lines, positioned to the left of the authors' names.





# Depression types

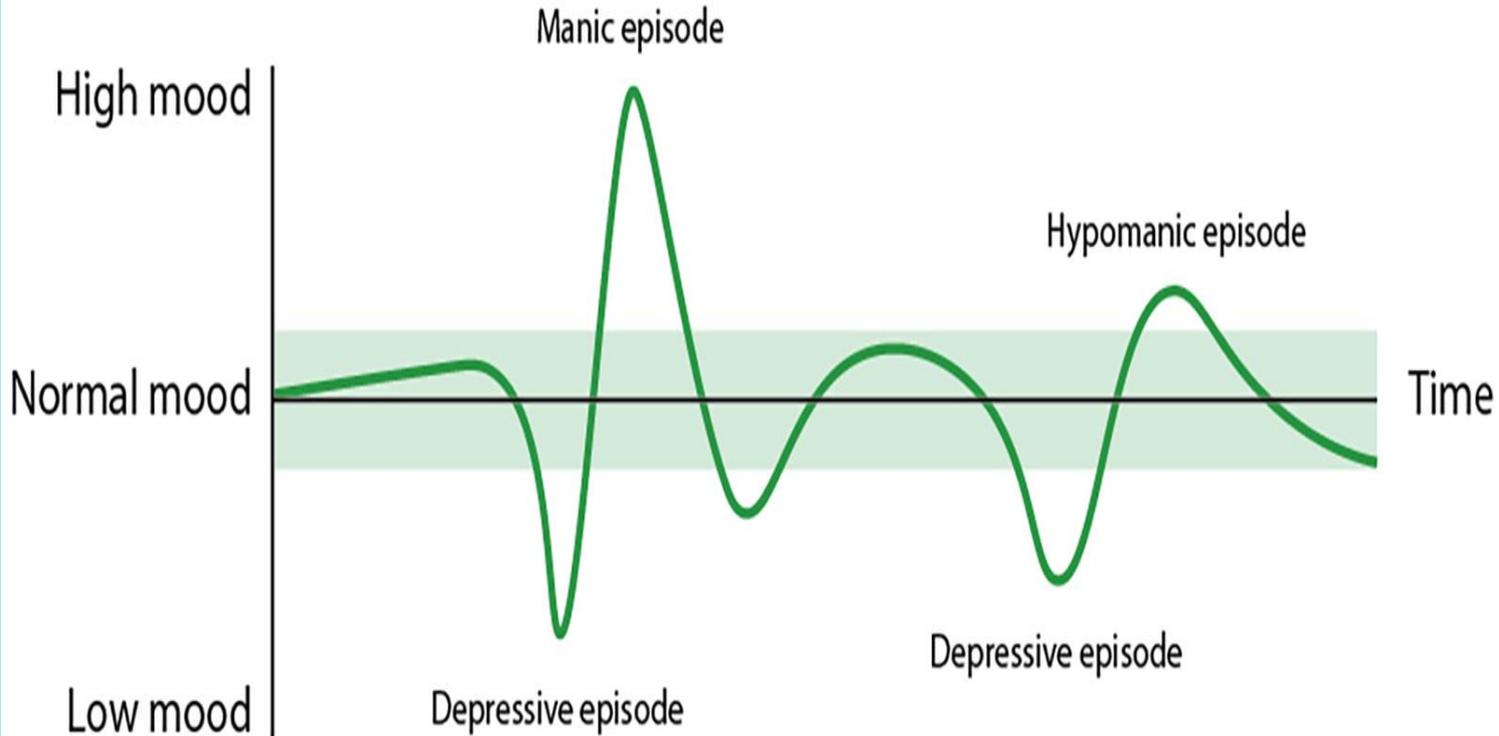
## unipolar

- major depression disorder  
(95%)

## bipolar

- manic depressive disorder  
(5%)
- 
- 

# Bipolar disorder

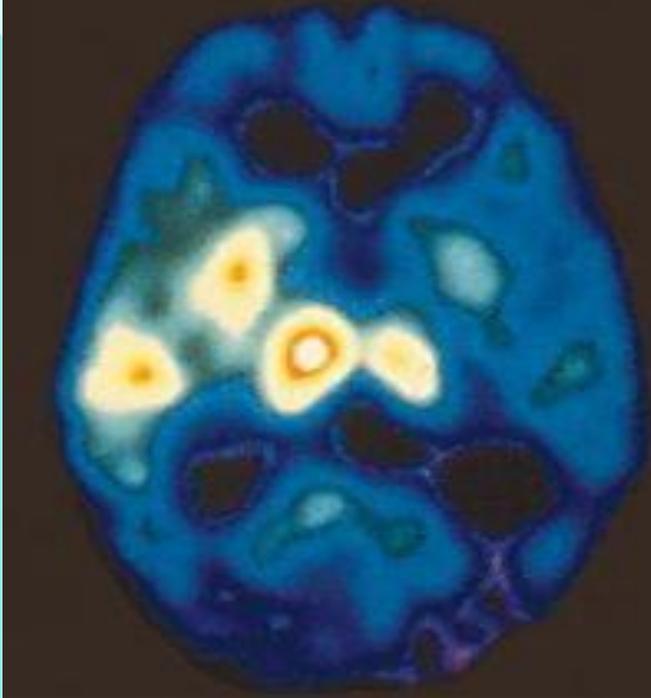




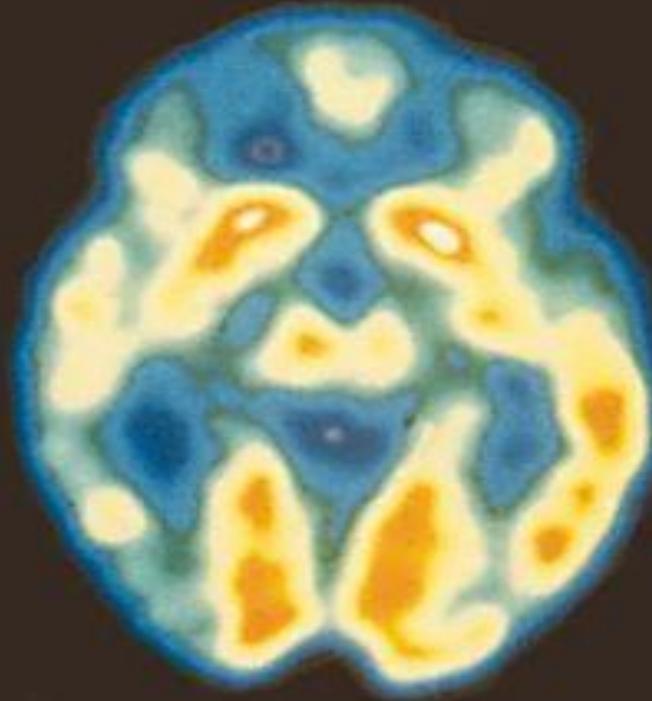
# Pathophysiology of depression

- **Genetics** : to dates , 4 Genes were identified
- **Biogenic amines and receptors theory** :
  - low noradrenaline , serotonin and dopamine .
  - high 5HT2a and 5HT2 Receptor .
- **Neurotrophic and cytokines theory** :
  - Low brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)
  - Proinflammatory cytokines

Depressed



Not depressed





# Antidepressants

- 1. Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (**SSRIs**)
- 2. Tricyclic antidepressants (**TCAs**)
- 3. Atypical antidepressants >> (**SNRI**)
- 4. Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (**MAOs**)

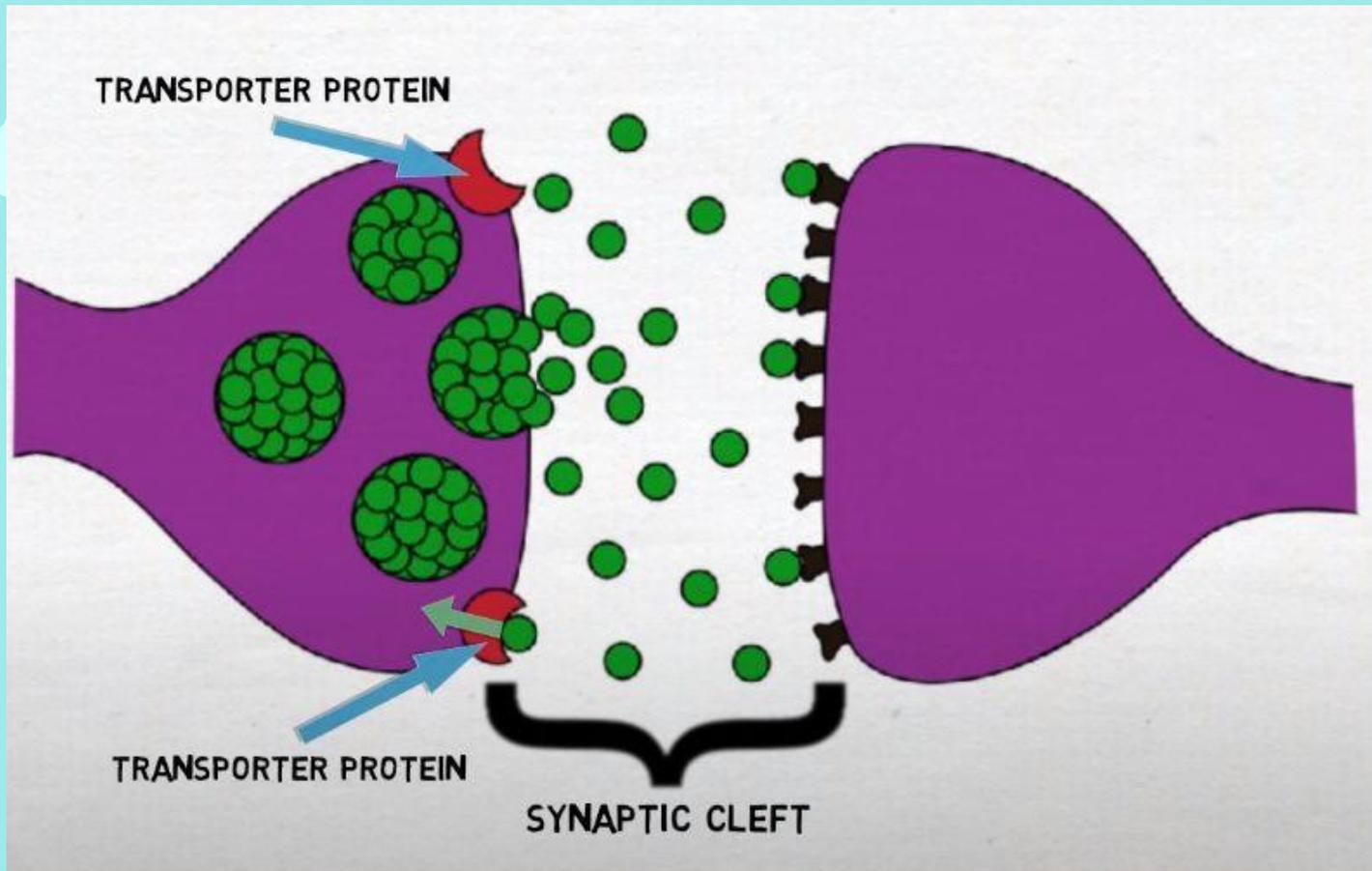


# **SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS**



## SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS

- **SSRIs block reuptake of serotonin**, leading to increased concentrations of neurotransmitter in synaptic cleft and, ultimately, to greater postsynaptic neuronal activity, thus increasing the amount of serotonin in the brain.
- Safer and better tolerated than other classes of antidepressants.
- Because they have **fewer adverse effects** and are relatively **safe even in overdose**.





## Examples of SSRIs include:

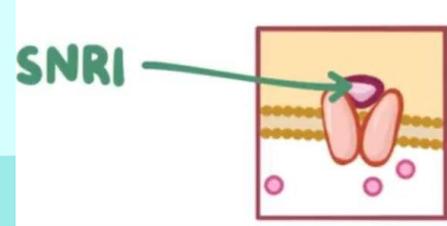
- **Fluoxetine (Prozac)**—longest half-life with active metabolites
  - **Sertraline (Zoloft)**-- evidence of for MI patient cause it is not cardiotoxic .
  - **Paroxetine (Paxil)**—most serotonin specific, most activating (stimulant).
  - **Citalopram (Celexa)**—used in Europe for 12 years prior to FDA approval in the United States.
  - **Escitalopram (Lexapro)**—iso of citalopram; similar efficacy, fewer side effects .
- SSRI can also be used in OCD and generalized anxiety disorder**



## SIDE EFFECTS SSRI:

- ❑ **orthostatic hypotension.**
- ❑ **serotonin syndrome.**
- ❑ **Sexual dysfunction.**
- ❑ **Headache**
- ❑ **gastrointestinal disturbance**
- ❑ **Sleep disturbances :sedation, insomnia**
- ❑ **Overdoses:seizures**

# SEROTONIN-NOREPINEPHRINE REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SNRIS )



## Venlafaxine :

- Often used for depressive disorders, anxiety disorders like generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), and neuropathic pain.
- Side-effect profile similar to SSRIs, with the exception of **increased blood pressure** (BP) in higher doses; do not use in patients with untreated or labile BP.

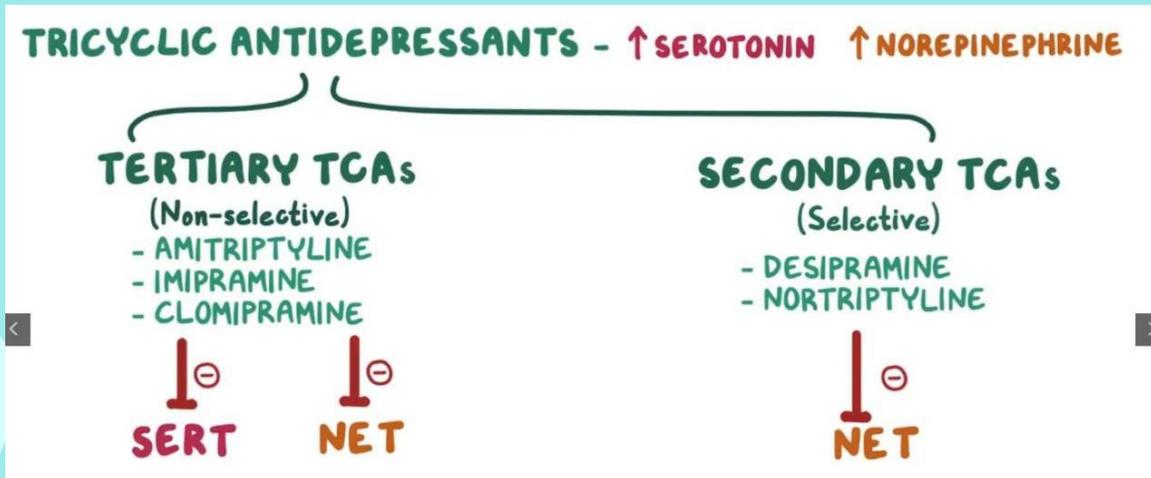
## Duloxetine:

- Often used for people with depression, neuropathic pain, and in fibromyalgia.
- Side effects are similar to SSRIs, but more dry mouth and constipation relating to its norepinephrine effects.
- Hepatotoxicity may be more likely in patients with liver disease or heavy alcohol use.



# TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Imipramine, Clomipramine,  
Amitriptyline, Nortriptyline



# Mechanism of action

- **Block re-uptake of 5-HT and norepinephrine**  
increased concentrations of monoamines in synaptic cleft

**Also have “Broad spectrum” :**

- **Anti-histamine**
- **Anti-cholinergic**
- **Block alpha-1 receptors**



# Therapeutic Uses

- 1. Major depressive Disorder**
- 2. Chronic pain condition e.g. fibromyalgia**
- 3. Nocturnal enuresis in children: imipramine**



## Side effects

- TCAs are highly protein bound and lipid soluble, and therefore can interact with other medications that have high protein binding
- The side effects of TCAs are mostly due to their lack of specificity and interaction with other receptors



# Side effects

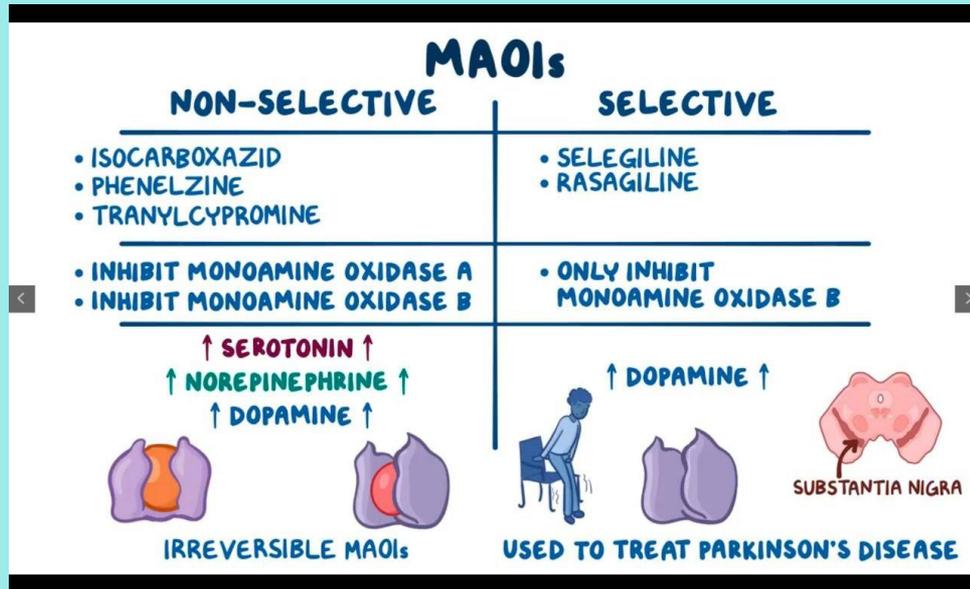
- **Antihistaminic properties:** Sedation and weight gain.
- **Antiadrenergic properties (cardiovascular side effects):** **Orthostatic hypotension**, arrhythmias, and (ECG) changes (widening QRS, QT, and PR intervals).
- **Antimuscarinic effects (also called anticholinergic):** Dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention, blurred vision.
- **Lethal in overdose**—Symptoms of overdose include agitation, tremors, ataxia, arrhythmias, delirium, hypoventilation from central nervous system (CNS) depression, myoclonus, hyperreflexia, seizures, and coma.
  - **Seizures:** (Higher risk of seizures at high doses and overdoses).
  - **Serotonergic effects:** Erectile/ejaculatory dysfunction in males, anorgasmia in females





# MONOAMINE OXIDASE INHIBITORS

Phenelzine, Tranylcypromine, Isocarboxazid .





# Mechanism of action

- **Prevent** the inactivation of biogenic amines such as norepinephrine, serotonin, dopamine, and tyramine .
- By **irreversibly** inhibiting the enzymes MAO-A and B, MAOIs increase the number of neurotransmitters available in synapses.
- **MAO-A** preferentially deactivates serotonin and norepinephrine, and **MAO-B** preferentially deactivates phenethylamine; both types also act on dopamine and tyramine.

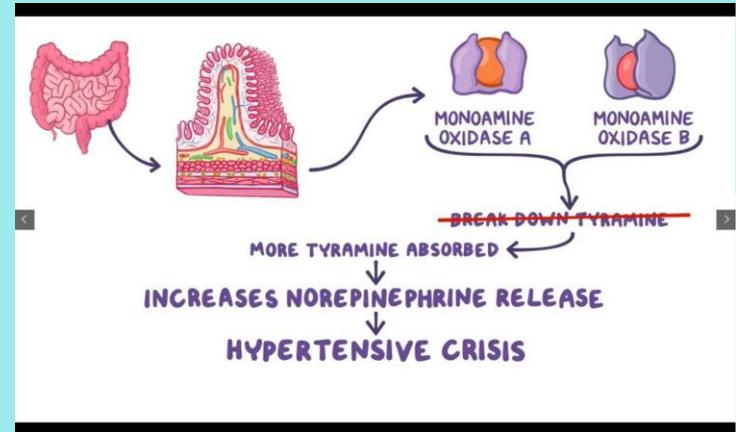


# Therapeutic uses

- MAOIs are not used as first-line agents because of the increased safety and tolerability of newer agents, notably SSRIs/SNRIs. However, MAOIs are used for certain types of **refractory depression** and in refractory anxiety disorders
- MAO-B selective: selegiline • Used in Parkinson's

# Side Effects

- Serotonin syndrome occurs when SSRIs and MAOIs are taken together.
- Hypertensive crisis “**Cheese effect**” : Risk when MAOIs are taken with tyramine-rich foods or sympathomimetics.
  - Foods with tyramine (cheese, chicken liver, fava beans, meats) cause a buildup of stored catecholamines.
- Orthostatic hypotension (most common).
- Drowsiness.





# ATYPICAL ANTIDEPRESSANTS

# Receptor blockers



## -Serotonin Receptor Antagonists and Agonists (Trazodone , Nefazodone):

-Useful in the treatment of major depression, major depression with anxiety, and **insomnia** (secondary to its sedative effects)

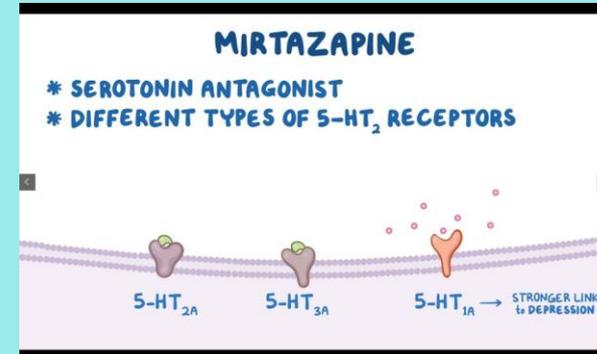
-Side effects include nausea, dizziness, orthostatic hypotension, cardiac arrhythmias, **sedation**, and **priapism** (especially with trazodone).

■ Because of orthostatic hypotension in higher doses, trazodone is not frequently used solely as an antidepressant.

## - $\alpha$ 2-Adrenergic Receptor Antagonists (Mirtazapine) :

-Useful in the treatment of major depression, especially in patients who have significant weight loss and/or insomnia.

■ Side effects include sedation, weight gain, dizziness, tremor, dry mouth, constipation.



## **Bupropion :**

- **Norepinephrine-dopamine reuptake inhibitor.**
  - **Relative lack of sexual side effects as compared to the SSRIs.**
  - **Some efficacy in treatment of (ADHD)**
  - **Effective for smoking cessation.**
- **Weight neutral**
- **Side effects include increased anxiety, as well as increased risk of seizures and psychosis at high doses.**
  - **Contraindicated in patients with epilepsy or active eating disorders .**

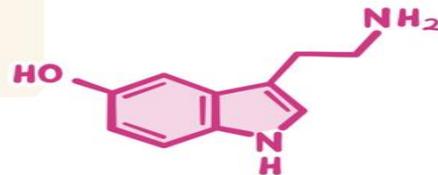
# Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) briefly...

<i>SSRI</i>	<i>Significant distinguishing features (evidence level)</i>
Citalopram	No significant inhibition of hepatic enzymes (P) Possibly less safe in overdose <sup>1</sup> (III)
Fluoxetine	Long elimination half-life (P) Inhibition of hepatic enzymes (P) Slower onset of antidepressant action <sup>1</sup> (I) Possibly causes more agitation and adverse dermatological reactions <sup>1</sup> (I–II) Abrupt treatment interruption least likely to cause discontinuation reactions <sup>1</sup> (I) Probably safe in pregnancy and breast-feeding (III) Associated with most stable pattern of prescription in primary care <sup>1</sup> (II)
Fluvoxamine	Inhibition of hepatic enzymes (P) Less well tolerated, especially in higher doses <sup>1</sup> (I) More severe gastrointestinal side-effects <sup>1</sup> (II) Possibly less sexual dysfunction <sup>1</sup> (I)
Paroxetine	Inhibition of hepatic enzymes (P) Possibly causes more sedation and sexual dysfunction <sup>1</sup> (II) Possibly more weight gain during long-term use <sup>1</sup> (I) Abrupt treatment interruption most likely to cause discontinuation reactions <sup>1</sup> (I–II)
Sertraline	Little significant inhibition of hepatic enzymes (P) Relatively safe in breast-feeding (III)

# Serotonin Syndrome

## BACKGROUND

- \* **LIFE-THREATENING TOXICITY** caused by **EXCESS SEROTONIN**  
~ "SEROTONIN TOXICITY" or "SEROTONIN TOXIDROME"



## CAUSES

- \* **ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICATION**
  - ~ SSRIs & SNRIs
  - ~ TCAs
  - ~ MAOIs
- \* **OPIOIDS**
  - ~ TRAMADOL
- \* **OTHER MEDICATIONS**
  - ~ ONDANSETRON
  - ~ CIPROFLOXACIN
  - ~ SUMATRIPTAN
- \* **ILLCIT DRUGS & DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS**

## DIAGNOSIS

- \* **PRESENTATION**
- \* **EXCLUDING OTHER POSSIBLE CAUSES**
- \* **HUNTER SEROTONIN TOXICITY CRITERIA (HSTC):**
  - ~ 1. MUST TAKE SEROTONERGIC MEDICATION
  - ~ 2. SPONTANEOUS CLONUS
- \* **RULE OUT NEUROLEPTIC MALIGNANT SYNDROME (NMS)**

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

### 3 A's:

- \* **ALTERED MENTAL STATE**
  - ~ AGITATION, RESTLESSNESS, or ANXIETY
- \* **NEUROMUSCULAR ABNORMALITIES**
  - ~ OCULAR CLONUS, HYPERREFLEXIA, TREMORS, RIGIDITY of MUSCLES
- \* **AUTONOMIC HYPERACTIVITY**
  - ~ TACHYCARDIA, HYPERTENSION, DIAPHORESIS, MYDRIASIS, FLUSHED SKIN, ARRHYTHMIAS, VOMITING, or DIARRHEA

### MILD:

- \* TREMORS, SWEATING, TACHYCARDIA, HYPERTENSION, & NAUSEA

### SEVERE:

- \* FEVER, HYPERACTIVE BOWEL SOUNDS, CLONUS, AGITATION, HYPERTHERMIA, & DELIRIUM
- \* AS CONDITION WORSENS, RHABDOMYOLYSIS, MYOGLOBINURIA, RESPIRATORY & KIDNEY FAILURE



## TREATMENT

- \* **DISCONTINUE SEROTONERGIC MEDICATION**
- \* **SUPPORTIVE CARE**
- \* **OFTEN RESOLVES within 24 HOURS of CESSATION**
- \* **RARELY, INTUBATION & VENTILATORY SUPPORT**
- \* **SUPPORTIVE MEASURES INSUFFICIENT**
  - ~ SEROTONIN ANTAGONISTS to REVERSE EFFECTS

