

I Antipsychotic drugs

A) Old generation: chlorpromazine, haloperidol

B) New "second generation": clozapine, risperidone, thiorazine

1. Work by blocking or reducing the sensitivity of brain receptors that respond to dopamine.
2. Some also increase levels of serotonin, a neurotransmitter that inhibits dopamine activity.
3. Side effects and not effective for some patients.
4. Long-term risks: antipsychotic drugs can have dangerous consequences if taken for many years. Many of the newer antipsychotics have ~~not~~ not been used long enough to determine their long-term risks.
5. Managed-care organizations prefer to pay for one visit and a prescription rather than multiple visits for psychotherapy. Drug company advertising also makes the medical approach more popular.
6. Biological origins/biochemical abnormalities can be changed by other than biological treatments. Psychotherapy and new experiences can also change the way your brain functions.
7. The effectiveness depends on the individual, the problem, and whether medication is combined with psychotherapy.