Psychopharmacological Foundations

- Neurobiology of Behavior, Mental Illness & Psychotherapeutic Drug Action
- Brain structures & circuits involved in emotional regulation
- Executive function & inhibitory control
- Reward & pleasure
- Learning & memory
- Neuromodulators important in the actions of psychopharmacological agents
- Biogenic amines
- Excitatory & inhibitory neurotransmitters
- Endorphins & endocannabinoids
- Your role in combined psychological & pharmacological treatments
- Collaboration & communication with prescribing professionals
- Managing the combined treatments
- Referrals for medication
- DRUGS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF DSM-5® DISORDERS
  - Bipolar Disorders
  - Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders
- Promoting adherence to combined treatments
- Monitoring drug effects & side effects
- Managing the combined treatments
- Prescribing professionals
- Collaboration & communication with prescribing professionals
- Managing the combined treatments

DRUGS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF DSM-5® MENTAL DISORDERS

- Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders
  - Biological theories of schizophrenia
    - "Typical" & "atypical" antipsychotic drugs
    - Effects, side effects & cautions – similarities & differences
    - Latest evidence-based comparisons
  - Drugs used to treat resistant schizophrenia
    - Other uses of antipsychotic drugs
- Depressive Disorders
  - Neurobiology of depression
  - Drugs used to treat depressive disorders
    - Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)
    - Effects
    - Side effects & cautions including suicide risk & discontinuation syndrome
    - Serotonergic syndromes
    - Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)
    - Effects
    - Side effects & cautions
    - Atypical antidepressant agents
    - Effects
    - Side effects & cautions
    - Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)
    - Effects, side effects & cautions
- Why were newer drugs needed?

Choosing an antidepressant

- What if first-line antidepressants do not work?
- MAO inhibitors
- Serotonergic syndromes
- Side effects & cautions
- Antipsychotics – approved agents
- Combination drug therapy
- Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive & Sleep-Wake Disorders
  - The neurobiology of anxiety-related disorders
  - The anxiety disorders
  - Obsessive-compulsive disorder
  - The structure of sleep
  - Drugs used in the treatment of anxiety & insomnia
  - Benzodiazepines & Benzodiazepine-like drugs
  - Misuse of these drugs in treatment
  - SSRIs & other drugs used to treat anxiety disorders
- Drugs used to treat OCD (SSRIs etc.)
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder & Neurocognitive Disorders (Dementia)
- ADHD
  - Psycho-stimulants – their effects, side effects & cautions
  - Antidepressants & Alpha-Adrenergic agonists
- Major neurocognitive disorders
  - Drugs used in the treatment of cognitive impairment
  - Future treatments
  - Prescription Drug Abuse
    - Mental disorders & risk of comorbid prescription drug abuse
    - Classes of drugs that are frequently abused
    - Stimulants
    - Sedative-hypnotics
    - Opiates
    - Prevention & early identification of prescription drug abuse

Objectives

1. Explain the neurotransmitter systems and neuroanatomy underlying the biological basis for mental disorders and pharmacotherapy
2. Define the role of mental health professionals with clients receiving both psychotherapeutic medications and psychotherapy
3. Describe the major classes of drugs used to treat mental disorders and which mental disorders are appropriately treated with each class of drugs
4. Compare and contrast the effects/side effects of antidepressants, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines and other antianxiety agents, anticonvulsants and drugs used to treat other mental disorders including OCD, ADHD, and cognitive impairment
5. Discuss the abuse liability of drugs used in the treatment of anxiety, insomnia, pain and ADHD

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