

Larry Fisher, Ph.D.: Educational concerns about Bipolar Medications:

Adapted from: Kowatch, R.A., Fristad, M.A., Findling, R.L., and Post, R. M. (Eds), (2009).

Antipsychotics (Educational concern: child may fall asleep in class):

Use: to help stabilize mood swings, reduce irritability, and stop psychotic events

Possible adverse events for Antipsychotics: involuntary movement, weight gain, may cause premature puberty, may decrease white blood cells.

Side effects (weight gain, dizziness, and sedation are common):

Risperidone (Risperdal) - FDA approved 12-17: aggression, dizziness, headache, insomnia, sedation, constipation or diarrhea, dry mouth, nausea, rhinitis, abdominal pain, increased saliva, body pain, weight gain, itching.

Aripiprazole (Abilify) - FDA approved 12-17: sedation, fatigue, and constipation.

Olanzapine (Zyprexa): agitation, dizziness, headache, restlessness, sedation, weakness, constipation, dry mouth, tremor, very high appetite stimulation effect.

Quetiapine (Seroquel): sleepy, dizzy, weight gain, more sedation at low doses.

Ziprasidone (Geodon): dizzy, sleepy, restless, constipation or diarrhea, nausea, very little weight gain.

Clozapine (Clozaril): dizzy, sedation, constipation

Mood Stabilizers: (Educational concerns: daytime enuresis, sedation, vision issues)

Use: to help stabilize manic episodes and irritability.

Possible adverse events for Mood Stabilizers: Long term lithium use can affect renal function in children and adolescents, produce hypothyroidism, and affect cardiac function. Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) affects 20-25% of females taking Valproate (Depakote), and in rare cases pancreatitis and liver failure. Carbamazepine (Tegretol) has been associated with aplastic anemia, hyponatremia, and Stevens-Johnson syndrome (white blood cell levels should be monitored closely). Lamotrigine (Lamictal) has been associated with lupus, leucopenia, agranulocytosis, and hepatic failure.

Side effects (sedation, nausea, and dizziness are common):

Lithium Carbonate (Lithium): - FDA approved 12-17: Nausea, diarrhea, abdominal distress, sedation, tremor, polyuria, weight gain, and acne.

Valproate (Depakote): nausea, weight gain, sedation, thrombocytopenia, transient hair loss, tremor, vomiting.

Carbamazepine (Tegretol): sedation, ataxia, dizziness, blurred vision, nausea and vomiting.

Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal): dizzy, sleepy, double vision, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, ataxia, tremor, abdominal distress.

Topiramate (Topamax): sedation, fatigue, psychomotor slowing, impaired concentration, word-finding difficulty.

Lamotrigine (Lamictal): dizzy, tremor, sleepy, nausea, asthenia, and headache.