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Psychiatry Sequence (PSY614)

Topic: Antianxiety & Hypnotic Medications

Faculty: Margaret E. Gnegy, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Pharmacology

Recommended

Reading: Goodman & Gilman's *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, 11th Ed., Ch. 16

Lecture: Monday, 10/27/08; 11:00 am -12:00 noon

Learning Objectives:

After reviewing the material on antianxiety drugs, the student should know and understand:

- 1. The mechanism of action of benzodiazepines at the GABA_A receptor and understand that many drugs act at the GABA_A receptor.
- 2. The pharmacokinetics of the drugs with particular attention paid to mechanisms involving lipophilicity, redistribution and metabolism.
- 3. The major therapeutic uses of the drugs.

- 4. The major side effects of the drugs, including concepts of dependence and withdrawal.
- 5. Other drugs used to treat anxiety (buspirone) and insomnia (nonbenzodiazepine hypnotics) and their key actions.

Primary drugs to know are: diazepam, lorazepam, zolpidem

Sample question:

Which of the following is NOT an effect of diazepam?

- A. Ataxia
- B. Amnesia
- C. Severe respiratory depression
- D. Anti-convulsive
- E. Muscle relaxation

Answer: C