# DEPRESSION IN THE ELDERLY

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# Diagnostic Approach to Clinical Depression

Sleep disturbance

I Interest diminished

**G** Guilt excessive and inappropriate

**E** Energy diminished

**C** Concentration impaired

A Appetite disturbance

P Psychomotor disturbance

Suicidal ideation



# Medications causing symptoms of depression

- Anabolic steroids
- Digitalis
- Glucocorticoids
- H2 Blockers
- Metoclopramide
- Opioids
- Some Betablockers

- Anti-arrythmics
- Anti-convulsants
- Barbituates
- Benzodiazepenes
- Carbidopa/Levodopa
- Clonidine



# Comorbid Conditions with High Risk Depression

- Alcohol dependency/Substance abuse
- Cerebrovascular/neurodegenerative disease
- Cancer
- COPD
- Chronic pain
- CHF/CAD/MI
- DM/electrolyte imbalance
- Head trauma/ Orthostatic hypotension
- Abuse
- Schizophrenia



### تشخیص در بیماران مسن تر دشوار است، زیرا آنها...

- اغلب علائم جسمي را گزارش مي كنند •
- ممکن است بخشی از پیری طبیعی در نظر گرفته شود •
- اختلال شناختی ممکن است در تشخیص اختلال ایجاد کندپزشکان ممکن است بیشتر روی علائم فیزیکی تمرکز کنند
  - كمتر حالت افسرده، احساس گناه را گزارش مي كنند •
- » که با نگرانیهای جسمانی پوشانده شده و maskedممکن است با افسر دگی « با همپوشانی علائم جسمی و عاطفی پیچیده است، ظاهر شود.

# Screening Tools

- Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS; validated) 15 item scale ( > 5 points or positive responses is diagnostic)
- Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (scoring system: >12 means probable depression)
- Center for Epidemiologic Studies of Depression Scale (CES-D)
- Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (9 item self-rating scale)

**AMDA Clinical Practice Guideline** 



### درمان:

- هداف درمان:
- بهبود خلق و خو، عملکرد و کیفیت زندگی •
- اهداف درمان یک دوره افسر دگی حاد، دستیابی به بهبودی و جلوگیری از دوره های بعدی افسر دگی است
  - نتیجه مورد نظر باید رفع کامل علائم باشد، نه صرفاً کاهش علائم •

#### Treatment

- Acute Phase (reverse current episode)
  - Duration: about 3 months: Goal is <u>complete recovery</u> from signs and sx of acute episode
- Continuation Phase (prevent a relapse)
  - Duration: 4-6 months: Goal is to prevent relapse as sx continue to decline and functionality improves
- Maintenance Phase (prevent future recurrence)
  - Duration: 3 months or longer: Goal is to prevent recurrence of a new depressive episode



# TYPES OF THERAPY FOR DEPRESSION

Psychotherapy

Pharmacotherapy

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)



### **PSYCHOTHERAPY**

رویکردهای استاندارد

درمان شناختی- رفتاری

روان درمانی بین فردی

درمان حل مسئله

با یک داروی ضد افسردگی ترکیب شود



#### **PHARMACOTHERAPY**

- Individualize choice of drug on basis of:
  - Patient's comorbidities, age
  - Drug's side-effect profile
  - Patient's sensitivity to these effects
  - Drug's potential for interacting with other medications
  - Drug cost
  - Prior med use and response



- SSRIs First line Generally well tolerated Consider drugdrug interactions with the P450 system
- SNRIs Also considered first line, though might be less well tolerated in the very old – May be helpful for comorbid neuropathic pain
- Bupropion (Wellbutrin) Dopamine and NE reputake inhibitor
- Mirtazapine Helpful for patients with insomnia and decreased appetite
- TCA Higher dropout rate than with the above because of tolerability – Cardiac side effects

- SSRI
- Citalopram: start 10mg, increase to 20mg dose max
- Sertraline: start 50mg, increase up to 200mg
- Paroxetine: avoid
- Fluoxetine: start 10mg qday, increase up to 60mg
- Fluvoxamine: avoid
- Escitalopram: start 5mg, increase to 10mg
- SNRI
- Venlafaxine: start 75mg qday, increase to 225mg
- Duloxetine: start 15mg qday, increase to 60mg
- Desvenlafaxine: start 50mg qday, increase to 100mg



- SARI
- Vilazodone: start 10qd x 7d, then 20qd x7 days; may go to 40qday
- Nefazodone: start 50mg bid up to 150mg bid
- Atypical Antidepressants
- Bupropion: start 75mg qday, up to 300mg
- Mirtazapine: 7.5mg qHS up to 60mg
- Atypical Antipsychotics
- Aripiprazole: 2.5mg to 5.0mg as adjunct
- TCAs: avoid
- MAOIs: avoid without referral to psychiatry



## SELECTIVE SEROTONIN-REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SSRIs)

#### Side effects:

Anxiety, agitation, nausea & diarrhea, sexual effects, pseudoparkinsonism, 1 warfarin effect, other drug interactions, hyponatremia/SIADH, anorexia



#### **SSRI DOSING**

Citalopram 10–40 mg/day

Escitalopram 10–40 mg/day

Fluoxetine 10–40 mg/day

Paroxetine 10–40 mg/day

Sertraline 50–200 mg/day

# TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS (TCAs)

- Avoid in the presence of conduction disturbance, heart disease, intolerance to anticholinergic side effects
- Most patients achieve target concentrations at:
  - Nortriptyline: 50–75 mg per day
  - Desipramine: 100–150 mg per day



# Treatment: Pharmacotherapy

- Antidepressants
  - SNRI and SSRI
    - Cymbalta (duloxetine)

30-60 mg/day

- Norepinephrine, 5HT<sub>2</sub> and 5HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist
  - Remeron (mirtazapine)
  - Can cause serotonin syndrome when given with other SSRI's



# Treatment: Pharmacotherapy

- Antidepressants
  - Stimulants
    - Ritalin (methylphenidate)
    - Provigil (modafinil)
    - Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine)

20mg BID

400mg q am

2.5-5mg 7am and noon

#### **VENLAFAXINE**

- Acts as SSRI at low doses; at higher doses SNRI (selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor)
- Effective for major depression & generalized anxiety
- Side effects:
  - Nausea
  - Hypertension
  - Sexual dysfunction
- Dose range: 75–225 mg per day



#### **DULOXETINE**

- Effective for major depression and FDA- approved for neuropathic pain
- Precautions: drug interactions (CYP450 1A2, 2D6 substrate), chronic liver disease, alcoholism, serum transaminase elevation
- Dose range: 15–60 mg per day

#### **NEFAZODONE**

- Has SSRI and 5-HT<sub>2</sub> antagonist properties
- Approved for depression & anxiety
- Not associated with insomnia, sexual dysfunction
- Potent inhibitor of CYP-450 3A4 system—use with caution with other medications

 Dose range for young adults: 300–500 mg per day; older adults may not tolerate same doses due to sedating side effects



#### **MIRTAZAPINE**

- Norepinephrine, 5-HT<sub>2</sub>, and 5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist
- Associated with weight gain, increased appetite
- May be used for nursing-home residents with depression & dementia, nighttime agitation, weight loss
- Dose range: 15-45 mg per day
- May be given as single bedtime dose (sedative side effects); available in sublingual form



### **METHYLPHENIDATE**

هیچ داده کنترل شده ای وجود ندارد که اثربخشی را برای افسردگی نشان دهد •

برای دهه ها برای درمان افسردگی اساسی استفاده می شود

ممکن است در معکوس کردن بی تفاوتی، کمبود انرژی در بیماران مبتلا به • زوال عقل یا ناتوان کردن شرایط پزشکی نقش داشته باشد

استفاده کوتاه مدت،



# Treatment: Pharmacotherapy

- Antidepressants
  - Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)

Marplan (isocarboxazid)
 30 mg/day

Nardil (phenelzine)
 30–45 mg/day

Parnate (tranylcypromine)
 30–40 mg/day

- Orthostatic hypotension, falls
- Life-threatening hypertensive crisis if taken with tyraminerich foods, cold remedies (pressor amine)



درمان خط اول برای بیمارانی که در معرض خطر جدی خودکشی قرار دارند

مناسب برای افسردگی روان پریشی (سایکوتیک) در افراد مسن.

نرخ پاسخ ۸۰%

اثرات جانبي:فراموشي

موارد منع مصرف:

وجود مشكلات قلبى عروقى و انفار كتوس

افزایش فشار داخل جمجمه

#### PHARMACOLOGIC ALGORITHM

Initiate citalopram, escitalopram, or sertraline

If response is inadequate, switch to fluoxetine, OR switch class based on symptom profile

| Apathy, retardation | Insomnia, anxiety, anorexia | Pain       | Atypical, melancholic, anxious        |              |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| •                   | •                           | <b>V</b>   | •                                     |              |
| bupropion           | mirtazapine                 | duloxetine | venlafaxine<br>If inadequate response |              |
|                     |                             |            | <b>V</b>                              | Ψ            |
|                     |                             |            | Atypical anxious                      | Melancholic, |
|                     |                             |            | <b>V</b>                              | Ψ            |
|                     |                             |            | MAOI                                  | TCA          |

- نظارت بر پاسخ بیمار به درمان
  - اهداف احتمالی درمان •
  - رفع علائم و نشانه ها •
- بهبود نمره در ابزار غربالگری •
- بهبود حضور و مشارکت در فعالیت های معمول
  - بهبود الگوی خواب

# **Adjuvant Medical Treatment**

- Anxiety
- Insomnia
- Constipation
- Shortness of Breath
- FAMILY!!





# Nonpharmacologic Treatment



- Physical/Occupational therapy
- Touch massage
- Increased social interaction
- Support groups if patient is able



#### **SUMMARY**

- In older adults, depression is
  - Common (especially "minor" depression)
  - Associated with morbidity
  - Difficult to diagnose because of atypical presentation, more somatic concerns, overlap with symptoms of other illnesses
- Differential diagnosis: medical illnesses, dementia, bereavement

#### SUMMARY

 Suicide is a serious concern in depressed older patients, particularly older white males



### SUMMARY

- Treatment (acute & preventive) should be individualized and may include:
  - Psychotherapy
  - Pharmacotherapy
  - > ECT
- Choice of antidepressant should be based on comorbidities, side-effect profiles, patient sensitivity, potential drug interactions

