Antidepressants

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/antidepressants.html

Also called: Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, SSRIs, Tricyclic antidepressants

Antidepressants are medicines that treat depression. Your doctor can prescribe them for you. They work to balance some of the natural chemicals in our brains. It may take several weeks for them to help. There are several types of antidepressants. You and your doctor may have to try a few before finding what works best for you.

Antidepressants may cause mild side effects that usually do not last long. These may include headache, nausea, sleep problems, restlessness, and sexual problems. Tell your doctor if you have any side effects. You should also let your doctor know if you take any other medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements.

It is important to keep taking your medicines, even if you feel better. Do not stop taking your medicines without talking to your doctor. You often need to stop antidepressants gradually.

NIH: National Institute of Mental Health

Start Here

  Also available in Spanish [http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocs/home/common/mentalhealth/treatment/012.printerview.html]

Overviews

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.consumerreports.org/health/resources/pdf/best-buy-drugs/2pager_SpanishAntidepress.pdf]
- Antidepressants: Selecting One That's Right for You [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/antidepressants/HQ01069/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
  Also available in Spanish [http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productid=1292&PC=EHCIT9]
- Understanding Antidepressant Medications [http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm095980.htm] (Food and Drug Administration)

Latest News

- Some Common Prescriptions Linked to Impotence

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/antidepressants.html
Antidepressants: MedlinePlus (Print Version)


Alternative Therapy
- Time to Talk: 5 Things to Know about St. John's Wort and Depression [http://nccam.nih.gov/health/tips/depression] NIH (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Nutrition

Coping

Specific Conditions
- Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs) [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/maois/MH00072/METHOD=print] Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research
- Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/ssris/MH00066/METHOD=print] Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research
- Serotonin and Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/antidepressants/MH00067/METHOD=print] Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research

Related Issues

Cytochrome P450 (CYP450) Tests [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/cyp450-test/MY00135/METHOD=print&DSECTION=all] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Medications and Side Effects [http://www.dbsalliance.org/pdfs/medications.pdf] (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance) - PDF


Serotonin Syndrome [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/serotonin-syndrome/DS00860/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Clinical Trials


Research


Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)


Organizations

NAMI [http://www.nami.org/]
Also available in Spanish [http://www.nami.org/template.cfm?section=NAMI_en_espa%F1ol]


Statistics


MedlinePlus Magazine

Children

- Antidepressants for Children and Teens [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/antidepressants/MH00059/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Women

- Depression—Medicines To Help You [http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ByAudience/ForWomen/ucm118473.htm] (Food and Drug Administration)

Patient Handouts

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000570.htm]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:


You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Depression [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/depression.html]

The primary NIH organization for research on Antidepressants is the National Institute of Mental Health [http://www.nimh.nih.gov]

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