Trazodone

Trazodone is categorized as an atypical antidepressant medication, which is primarily indicated for insomnia. When administered at higher doses, it can be used as an antidepressant. The main mechanism of action by which trazodone works is it inhibits serotonin reuptake, but also displays serotonergic receptor antagonism.Side effects such as sedation and orthostatic hypotension are related to the ?₁ blockade effects of trazodone. Another serious, male-specific, side effect of this medication is priapism, which is defined as an erection lasting longer than 4 hours.



PLAY PICMONIC

Indications

Insomnia
Taped-awake-insomniac
Trazodone has strong sleep-inducing (hypnotic) effects and is primarily indicated for insomnia.

Depression
Depressed-emo
Trazodone can also be used in higher doses in the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD).

Mechanism of Action

Inhibit Serotonin Reuptake
Inhibiting-chains on Silver-tonic Reuptake-tube
Trazodone works to balance serotonin levels in depressed patients in two primary ways. First, Trazodone is considered a weak serotonin reuptake inhibitor and delays the metabolism of serotonin in the post-synaptic cleft, so there is more neurotransmitter available for use, the same mechanism of action utilized in SSRIs. Secondly, it potently inhibits the excitatory receptors of 5-HT2A, which are more numerous in depressed patients.

Trazodone inhibits specific serotonin receptors called 5-HT2A and 5-HT2C. Interestingly, this antagonistic effect only occurs in low doses, whereas it demonstrates agonist behavior in high doses.

Alpha-1 Blocker
Afro (1) Wand Block-guy
Though the mechanism isn't fully understood, part of Trazodone's effects is attributed to the drug's ?1-adrenergic receptor-blocking activity.

Histamine (H1) Blocker
History-man (1) Wand and Block-guy
This medication also inhibits histamine, or H1, receptors. It is thought that this effect is responsible for the associated sedation, which proves beneficial for use as a sleep aid.

Side Effects

Sedation
Sedation-dart
A common side effect of Trazodone is sedation, largely thought to result from the histamine (H1) receptor blockade.

Orthostatic Hypotension
Oar Hippo-BP
Trazodone may cause orthostatic hypotension in some patients, possibly due to its blockage of ?1-adrenergic receptors.

Sign up for FREE at picmonic.com

Dry Mouth

Cotton Mouth

While Trazodone's antihistamine effect proves useful in treating insomnia, it can also commonly cause dry mouth as a side effect.

Priapism

Pitching-a-tent

Priapism is a side effect of Trazodone that is a common exam question regarding potential adverse effects of this medication and may be remembered by the mnemonic, TrazoBONE. This condition occurs when the erect penis does not return to the flaccid state within four hours and is thought to be facilitated by Trazodone's inhibition of ?1-adrenergic receptors.

Arrhythmias

Broken-arrhythmia-drum

While it remains a rarely seen side effect, it is important to be aware that there have been cases of atrial and ventricular arrhythmias in patients treated with Trazodone. As such, exercise caution when considering prescribing Trazodone to cardiac patients.

Sign up for FREE at picmonic.com