



**THIS IS YOUR BRAIN .....**

# This is your Brain on Drugs



# Role of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist (CAP)

- Education on the effects of various disabilities (neurological and other) on human development, behavior, adaptation and psychopathology, family development and society
- Understand how the ID/DD may modify the presentation of a mental disorder
- Work part of a multidisciplinary team

# Role of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist (CAP)

- No single discipline possesses all the skills necessary to care for persons with ID/DD or can claim an exclusive "ownership" of this interdisciplinary field.
- CAPs in their clinical, preventive, research and teaching roles, will function as members of an interdisciplinary team of professionals.
- Collaborations with other disciplines such medical (such as pediatrics) and nonmedical (such as psychology, social work, probation, special education, speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, and social service).

# Role of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist (CAP)

- We are your partners
- Diagnostic Assessment
- Provide Clinical Care
- Psychopharmacological Management
- Advocacy
- Forensic Consultation
- Facilitate Treatment Linkage and Referral

# Common Clinical Presentations and Symptoms

- Depression
- Poor Concentration
- Hyperactivity
- Obsessive and compulsive behaviors
- Aggression
- Irritability
- Psychosis
- Self-harm and Self-injurious behaviors
- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Impulsivity
- Tantrums and Emotional Outbursts
- Rigidity

# Common Disorders in Individuals with DD/ID

- ADHD
- Anxiety
- Depression and Bipolar Disorder
- Psychotic Disorders (Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder)

# Medications

- Stimulants
- SSRIs
- Anti-Anxiety Medications
- Antipsychotic Medications



# Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

- A general psychiatric syndrome characterized by the child displaying developmentally inappropriate failures of attention and pervasive impulsivity, along with excessive motor activity.

# Medications for ADHD

- ADHD is most commonly treated with psychostimulants
- Increase norepinephrine and dopamine levels (prefrontal, striatal areas) through multiple mechanisms of action
- Methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta, Metadate, Methylin) Short acting
- Dextroamphetamine (Adderall, Dexedrine, Dextrostat) Mechanism of Action

# Side Effects related to Stimulants

- Usually limited to the beginning in most cases
- Difficulty falling asleep
- Decreased appetite
- Headache
- Activation
- Increase (typical very minimal and not clinical significant) in BP and HR
- Rebound ADHD symptoms as medication wears off

# Anxiety Disorders

- Separation Anxiety  
(infant/toddler)
- School Refusal (school-age child)
- Panic Disorder  
(adolescent/young adult)
- Selective Mutism
- Tic Disorders
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Somatoform Disorders
- Social Phobia
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Post traumatic Stress Disorder

# Anxiety Symptoms

- Worries about things before they happen
- Constant worries or concerns about family, school, friends, or activities
- Restlessness
- Difficulty concentrating
- Irritability, constantly on edge
- Sleep disturbance
- Easily fatigued

# Anxiety Symptoms

- Some individuals are more likely to manifest anxiety **somatically** (headaches, stomachaches, bowel/bladder control problems)

# Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

- Frequent and intense obsessions and/or compulsions that the minor feels are difficult to control and
- Severe enough to interfere with the activities of daily life and day to day functioning

# Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

## Obsessions

- Unwanted thoughts
- These thoughts can be repeated and intrusive

## Compulsions

- Repeated purposeless behaviors
- Typically performed to relieve the anxiety caused by the obsessive thoughts



# Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

## Obsessions

- Fear of dirt or germs
- Need for order, things must be in a certain place
- Thoughts of nonsense words or images
- Religious obsessions
- Sexual or aggressive thoughts/fears
- Fear of harm to self or family member
- Preoccupation with body waste

## Compulsions

- Excessive hand washing, showering, bathing, toothbrushing
- Touching rituals
- Ordering and arranging
- Repetition of rituals
- Hoarding and collecting
- Counting rituals
- Checking

# Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

- Cognitively most Minors (especially those with ID/DD) do not have the cognitive skills or life experiences to recognize that the obsessions or compulsive behavior are unreasonable

# Anxiety Treatment

- Not all sedatives treat anxiety (Benadryl)
- Not all anxiolytic agents treat sleep (sertraline)
- Mainstay for medical management of anxiety disorders are “**antidepressants**” (SSRIs, SNRIs)
- Sometimes SSRIs are supplemented with benzodiazepines (BDZ) used at the start (while waiting for SSRI to “kick in”)
- Cautions about addiction potential, and withdrawal seizures of BZDs

# Anxiety Treatment

- Is the anxiety coming from a discreet source? (Parent[s], bullying, learning problems, trauma)
- Can you use social means: education of parents, modification of environment?
- Non-pharmacological: Cognitive behavior therapy, exposure response prevention, psychotherapy
- Medication (bio. treatment): SSRIs, SNRIs

# Benzodiazepines

- Act on GABA receptors
- Indicated for early treatment of severe anxiety (while waiting for SSRI to work),
- Seizures
- Detoxification from ETOH, benzo, or barbiturates
- Rapid development of tolerance
- Abuse/addiction potential, amnesia

# Common Benzodiazepines

- Lorazepam (*Ativan*)
- Temazepam (*Restoril*)
- Diazepam (*Valium*)
- Clonazepam (*Klonopin*)
- Alprazolam (*Xanax*)

# Common Manifestations of Depression and Anxiety

- Depression
- Can present as irritability
- Changes in Sleep and Appetite
- Crying spells
- Poor concentration
- Low energy
- Change in Self-care habits
- Social Withdrawal and Isolation
- Can be associated with Menses (Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder)
- Anxiety
- Worrying all the time
- Nervousness
- Inflexibility when it comes to shift in routines
- Low energy, easily fatigued
- May have change in sleep pattern
- Poor Concentration
- Obsessive and compulsive behaviors and rituals

# Other Anxiety Treatments

- Antipsychotic medications (low doses)
- Gabapentin (Neurontin)
- Antihistamines (Benadryl) - short term
- Beta-blockers (propranolol)
  - “performance anxiety”



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# Common SSRIs

- Fluoxetine\* (Prozac) 20-80 mg/d
- Sertraline\* (Zoloft) 50-200 mg/d
- Paroxetine\* (Paxil) 20-60 (CR 25-62.5) mg/d
- Fluvoxamine\* (Luvox) 50-300 mg/d
- Citalopram\* (Celexa) 20-40 [60] mg/d
- Escitalopram (Lexapro) 10-20 mg/d

# SSRIs- Side Effects

- Common Side Effect Issues
  - GI upset, esp when taken on an empty stomach
  - “Activation” or sedation, depending on agent and pt
  - Sexual - delayed orgasm, erectile dysfunction
  - Weight gain - esp mirtazapine & paroxetine, but can occur with any of them
  - Generally, Side Effects are most pronounced in the first 1-2 weeks of administration ... ironically, prior to onset of clear improvement in depressive symptoms, *so instruct patients about what to expect in order to minimize self-discontinuation from frustration*

# Examples of Medication Use by Symptoms

- Stimulants (examples: Ritalin, Adderall)
  - Often used to address hyperactivity and impulsivity
  - Issues in concentration
  - Difficulty staying on Task or completing work
  - Distractibility and Focus
  - Impulsivity can result in errors or danger

# Antidepressant Agents

- First line medication treatment for Depressive disorder and for Anxiety disorders are **SSRIs** (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) and **SNRIs** (selective serotonin & norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors)
- Examples include: Prozac, Zoloft, Celexa, Lexapro, Paxil
- Lots of Research that shows Serotonin and Norepinephrine play a role in regulating mood
- Need 4-6 weeks at a therapeutic dose before determining whether or not it works

# SSRI's

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# Antidepressant Agents

FDA “Black Box” warning about suicide risk -  
need for monitoring (particularly in children and adolescents)

Discontinuation syndrome - taper off gradually  
(weeks-to-months), not “cold turkey”

Some bipolar patients may “flip” into mania or  
mixed state if given AD as monotherapy - one  
must ask about bipolarity in patient and family (and  
h/o “bad rxn” to ADs)

Other uses - anxiety (including OCD), PMDD, pain



# Antipsychotic Agents

- Not just for psychosis
  - Bipolar disorder
  - Severe OCD
  - Treatment resistant depression
  - Delirium

FDA approved for self-harmful behavior, aggression and irritability in PDDs.

# Antipsychotics

- Aggression
- Irritability
- Emotional Outbursts
- Self-injurious behavior
- Head banging, hitting, aggressive or self-stimulating behavior that is harmful
- Auditory Hallucinations
- PRN (as needed) basis for Agitation or Acute episodes of Aggression
- Sedation

# Common Antipsychotics

- Olanzapine (Zyprexa, Zydis)
  - Risk of weight gain, metabolic syndrome
- Risperidone (Risperdal, M-Tabs)
  - EPS risk = typical at doses >6mg
  - Hyperprolactinemia - greater D<sub>2</sub> antagonism than other agents (similar to Haldol)

## Quetiapine (Seroquel)

- sedating
- risk of hypotension, rare cataracts
- Ziprasidone (Geodon)
  - Prolonged QTc
  - Tends to be activating - tolerability issues

# Common Antipsychotics

- Aripiprazole (Abilify)
  - mixed DA agonist/antagonist
  - Serotonergic effects as well
  - Less sedating
  - Probably less weight-gain concerns
  - May be activating - not as commonly used on inpatient settings
  - Consider for non-agitated patients
  - Consider if TD or other SEs have been an issue

# Antipsychotic Side Effects

- Weight Gain
- Increase in Appetite
- Metabolic Changes (Changes in Cholesterol, Triglycerides, Fasting Blood Sugar)
- Sedation
- Muscle Stiffness
- Movement Disorders

# Questions for Medication Visits

- *Prior to starting any new psychotropic medication*
  - Informed consent for medication treatment is documented
- *When a new psychotropic medication is prescribed,*
  - At least one target symptom that medication treatment is anticipated to address is documented.
- Client education about reason for medication and possible side effects
  - Clinical rationale for selection or for use of antipsychotic medication
- *When a new atypical antipsychotic medication is prescribed,*
  - Baseline height and weight or BMI
  - Baseline laboratory tests to screen for metabolic abnormalities are ordered or results are recorded
- Baseline assessment for extrapyramidal symptoms
- ***For adults,*** if **2 or more** antipsychotic medications are **concurrently** prescribed, the clinical rationale use is documented.

# Vignette I

- 9 year old
- No history of medication
- Can't keep hands to self, always touching other children and "bothering them"
- Irritable
- Moving all over the place

# Vignette II

- Down's Syndrome
- Depression
- Poor Self Care
- Apathy
- Low motivation
- Doesn't want to shower or get dress
- Sometimes talking to self