



Variables that Modify the Success of Prescription Medication Interventions for Families with ASD

Overview



Sample Patient Cases

Assessment Questions

How medications are used

Time course of medication treatments

Co-Morbidity

Sample Patient Cases – answers

Assessment Questions - answers

Outline

- ▶ Success – Definition?
- ▶ Medication
 - ▶ Dose
 - ▶ Dependence and Tolerance
 - ▶ Interactions and side effects
- ▶ Age / Time
 - ▶ Puberty
- ▶ Co-morbidity

Learning Objectives

Participants Should be familiar with...

- ▶ Adequate Dose and Optimal Dose
- ▶ Adequate Duration
- ▶ Treatment Algorithms
- ▶ Short and long term side effects
- ▶ Partial benefit and “baseline”
- ▶ Anticipated problems associated with a therapeutic BENEFIT from
 - Reduced anxiety
 - Improved attention
 - Improved expressive language

Sample Patient Cases

- ▶ 8 year old male whose Adderall stopped working
- ▶ 5 year old female who had severe, prolonged rage in response to stimulant medications
- ▶ 13 year old male who got manic (talkative, pushing limits, risk taking) on an antidepressant
- ▶ 10 year old female on 4 medications, none are working, considering stopping everything

Assessment Questions

- ▶ Answers at the end of presentation

Assessment Question 1

- ▶ A 6 year old patient is treated with Risperdal for behavioral outbursts and self-stimulatory behaviors. The patient improves but when seen at 2 week and 6 week follow-up has gained 8 then 15 pounds. The patient's family report better behavior overall but more struggles around trying to limit the patient's appetite for junk foods.
- ▶ The patient and family should wait a few more weeks for this possible side effect to diminish?
 - ▶ True
 - ▶ False

Assessment Question 2

- ▶ In general, patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders should be treated with the single psychotropic medication that best treats the majority of their symptoms
 - ▶ True
 - ▶ False

Assessment Question 3

- ▶ Younger children should first be treated with supplements and diet changes. There is no risk in waiting until they are older to use psychotropic medications
 - ▶ True
 - ▶ False

