

Medication for Depression

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

The most common groups are serotonin specific re-uptake inhibitors (SSRI), tricyclics, and monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI).

TRANQUILIZERS

Tranquilizers are used to treat specific symptoms that often go along with depression. There are two types – major and minor.

- Major tranquilizers (called neuroleptics) treat anxiety, hallucinations and delusions.
- Minor tranquilizers are often used with other medication primarily to treat anxiety and phobias. Valium is an example of a minor tranquilizer.

SIDE EFFECTS

Antidepressants (Tricyclics and MAOIs*)	Major Tranquilizers	Minor Tranquilizers
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Drowsiness <input type="checkbox"/> Blurred vision <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle stiffness <input type="checkbox"/> Restlessness <input type="checkbox"/> Faintness <input type="checkbox"/> Weight gain <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity to the sun *Use of MOAI requires dietary restrictions. New reversible MOAI's do not.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Drowsiness <input type="checkbox"/> Blurred vision <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle stiffness <input type="checkbox"/> Restlessness <input type="checkbox"/> Faintness <input type="checkbox"/> Weight gain <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity to the sun Other medications may be used to treat some of the side effects of major tranquilizers.	<input type="checkbox"/> Drowsiness <input type="checkbox"/> Blurred vision <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle weakness <input type="checkbox"/> Slurred speech

You will notice that some symptoms are the opposite to each other – especially restlessness versus lack to energy. Either can be a symptom, if others are present.