

Psychopharmaceuticals

Psychotropic drugs are substances that affect brain function and lead to changes in perception, mood, consciousness, cognition, and behavior. We include various anaesthetics, analgesics, antidepressants, but also, for example, hallucinogens.

Use in medicine

They are mainly used in psychiatry, but also in other clinical areas (especially neurology), e.g. in the treatment of ADHD, insomnia, chronic pain, Parkinson's disease, etc.

Mechanism of action

Affected brain functions include in particular:

Vigilance [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

It denotes a state of wakefulness and a state of consciousness.

- Psychostimulants - positively affect alertness, therapeutically, for example, in narcolepsy and ADHD;
 - caffeine, ephedrine, meth/amphetamine.
- Hypnotics / sedatives - negatively affect alertness, induce sleep;
 - midazolam, nitrazepam, zopiclone, zolpidem.
- General anesthetics including propofol, thiopental, midazolam, isoflurane, N₂O.

Affectivity [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

It belongs to mood parameters.

- Antidepressants - positively;
- Anxiolytic - positively;
- Antimanic – negatively,

for a certain phase of (pathological) manic depression, they adjust the pathologically elevated mood.

Psychic Integration [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

- Antipsychotics (neuroleptics) – positively;
- Hallucinogens - negative.

Memory [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

- Cognitive - improve attention and memory, have so-called anti-amnesic substances (Alzheimer's disease);
- Dementogens - negatively.
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Links

References

- HYNIA, Sixtus. *Pharmacology in a nutshell*. 2nd edition. Prague: Triton, 2001. 520 pp. ISBN 80-7254-181-1 .
- LINCOVA, Dagmar, et al. *Basic and applied pharmacology*. 1st edition. GALÉN, 2002. 601 pp. ISBN 80-7262-168-8 .



Amitriptyline Nycomed