Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychopharmacology Made Simple

A 12-Hour Home Study Program for Health Professionals | 184-Page Book

Issues in Psychopharmacological Treatment of Children and Adolescents

- Diagnosing and treating children and adolescents
- Informed consent and addressing parental concerns
- Medications and the media
- Drug research and outcome studies
- Medication metabolism in young clients
- Approved drugs and off label use
- Attitudes and realities

Depressive Disorders

- Diagnostic issues
- Signs of major depression in children
- Indications of bipolar disorder
- Efficacy of antidepressants
- Comparing SSRIs, SNRIs, SRIs, NDRIs and Atypicals
- Common side effects of each type
- Antidepressants and suicidality
- Treatment of depressive subtypes
- Medication discontinuation and relapse prevention

Bipolar Disorders

- Diagnostic issues
- Signs and symptoms of early-onset mania
- Differentiating bipolar disorder from ADHD
- Bipolar disorder combined with ADHD
- Bipolar disorder combined with anxiety disorders
- Neurobiology of bipolar disorder
- Psychopharmacology: mood stabilizers and anticonvulsants
- Guidelines for pharmacological treatment
- Mania, depression and manic switching
- Doses and side effects
- Relapse prevention
- Interactions with drugs commonly used in pediatrics

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Autism Spectrum Disorders

- Diagnostic issues of pervasive developmental disorders
- Rett’s disorder
- Childhood disintegrative disorder
- Pervasive development disorders
- Pathophysiology
- Psychopharmacology: serotonin medications, antipsychotics, beta-blockers, mood stabilizers, stimulants, opioid antagonists, oxytocin, miscellaneous agents

Psychotic Disorders

- Childhood schizophrenia: positive and negative symptoms and disorganization symptoms
- Psychotic mood disorders
- Psychosis associated with medical conditions
- Neurobiology
- Psychopharmacology
- Side effects of antipsychotic medications: extrapyramidal, anticholinergic, antiadrenergic, tardive dyskinesia, metabolic
- Guidelines for the pharmacological treatment of psychotic disorders
- Relapse prevention

Miscellaneous Disorders: Diagnosis and Pharmacology

- Tic disorders and Tourette Syndrome
- Conduct disorder
- Anorexia nervosa
- Substance abuse: alcohol, stimulants, opiates, hallucinogens

Appendix: Patient and Caregiver Information

Psychiatric Medications

Anxiety Disorders

- Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Panic disorders
- Social phobia
- Specific phobias
- Generalized anxiety
- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Separation anxiety disorder
- Inhibited temperament
- Neurobiology of other anxiety disorders
- Pharmacology of obsessive-compulsive disorders
- Psychopharmacology of other childhood anxiety disorders

Psychotic Disorders

- childhood schizophrenia: positive and negative symptoms and disorganization symptoms
- psychotic mood disorders
- psychosis associated with medical conditions
- neurobiology
- psychopharmacology
- side effects of antipsychotic medications: extrapyramidal, anticholinergic, antiadrenergic, tardive dyskinesia, metabolic
- guidelines for the pharmacological treatment of psychotic disorders
- relapse prevention

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

- Differential diagnosis
- Neurobiology of ADHD
- Pharmacology of stimulants: immediate versus sustained release, generic, brand and typical dose information
- Guidelines for pharmacological treatment of ADHD including side effects and solutions
- Consequences of misdiagnosis of ADHD as an anxiety disorder, agitated disorder, pre-schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or situational stress
- Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists used to treat ADHD
- Antidepressants used to treat ADHD
- Combined behavioral treatment and psychopharmacology

Primary Author

John D. Preston, Psy.D., ABPP, is Professor at Alliant International University, and has been Associate Clinical Professor at University of California, Davis. A Board Certified Neuropsychologist, he is the author of numerous texts concerning brain and behavior including Counseling Survivors of Traumatic Events, Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology, Handbook of Clinical Psychopharmacology, and is co-editor of Empirically Validated Approaches to Psychotherapy. Dr. Preston received the Mental Health Association’s President’s Award for exceptional contributions to the mental health community.

An outstanding and inspiring speaker, Dr. Preston has given over 500 invited seminars to health professionals in North America and abroad. Participants commend his ability to communicate key insights and practical information with clarity, enthusiasm and warmth.
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