Antipsychotic Encyclopedia Article

Antipsychotic

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Antipsychotic

Any of a group of drugs, also termed *neuroleptics*, used medicinally in the therapy of schizophrenia, organic psychoses, the manic phase of manic-depressive illness, and other acute psychotic illnesses. The prototype antipsychotics are the phenothiazines, such as chlorpromazine (Thorazine), and the butyrophenones such as haloperidol (Haldol). The antipsychotics are tri-cyclic compounds, with chemical substitution at R_1 and R_2, which determine the selectivity and potency of the neuroleptic.

Figure 1 *Antipsychotics*

The "positive" symptoms of psychotic disorders, such as hallucinations, can often be effectively treated with antipsychotics; the "negative" symptoms, such as withdrawal, are less effectively managed by these drugs. Most of these drugs also have effects on movement, and a good response to the drugs' antipsychotic effects must often be balanced against motorside effects.

Bibliography

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