

# Antipsychotic drugs

- Antipsychotic drugs (also called **neuroleptics** or **major tranquilizers**) are **used primarily to treat schizophrenia (a biologic illness)**, but they are also effective in other **psychotic states**, including **manic states** with psychotic symptoms such as grandiosity, paranoia, and hallucinations, and delusions.
- Antipsychotic drugs are **not curative and do not eliminate the chronic thought disorder**, but they often decrease the intensity of hallucinations and delusions and permit the person with schizophrenia to function in a supportive environment.

# *History of antipsychotic drugs*

- Antipsychotic drugs have been used in Western medicine for more than 50 years.
- **Chlorpromazine (1952)** and **Reserpine** were the first drugs found to be useful in schizophrenia.
- Tricyclic and MOA inhibitor antidepressant in 1957-58.
- Major novel antipsychotics are selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor and it has been introduced in 1980s.
- Little attention was paid to Cade's report in 1949 that Lithium could be used for excitement and mania: its effective use started in the 1960s and now it has a unique place in psychiatry.

# Psychoses

- **Psychoses:** These are severe psychiatric illness with **serious distortion of thought, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality and of perception (delusions and hallucinations)**. There is **inexplicable misperception and misevaluation**; the patient is unable to meet the ordinary demands of life .
- Types:
  - Acute and chronic organic brain syndromes (cognitive disorders)
  - Functional disorders
    - Schizophrenia
    - Paranoid states
  - Mood (affective) disorders
    - Mania
    - Depression

# *Psychoses*

- **Acute and chronic organic brain syndromes**
  - Delirium and dementia.
  - Cases: Exposure to toxic substances or pathological changes.
  - Prominent features are confusion, disorientation, defective memory and disorganized behaviour.
- **Functional disorders**
  - Causes: No underlying cause can be defined.
  - Memory and orientation are mostly retained but emotion, thought, reasoning and behaviour are seriously altered.

# Psychoses - *Schizophrenia* and *Paranoid states*

- *Schizophrenia* is a particular type of psychosis (that is, a mental disorder caused by some **inherent dysfunction of the brain**). It is characterized by **delusions, hallucinations** (often in the form of voices), and **thinking or speech disturbances**. This mental disorder is a common affliction, occurring in about 1 percent of the population.
- *Paranoid states* with marked persecutory or other kinds of fixed delusions (false beliefs) and loss of insight into the abnormality.

# *Psychoses - Affective disorders*

- **Mania**- elation or irritable mood, reduced sleep, hyperactivity, uncontrollable thought and speech, may be associated with reckless or violent behaviour,

or

- **Depression**- sadness, loss of interest and pleasure, worthlessness, guilt, physical and mental slowing, melancholia, self-destructive ideation.
- A common form of mood disorders is bipolar disorder with cyclically alternating manic and depressive phase. The relapsing mood disorder may be unipolar (mania or depression) with waxing and waning course.

# Neuroses

- less serious, depending on the predominant feature
  - **Anxiety** (unpleasant emotional state with worry, tension)
  - **Phobic states** (fear of unknown)
  - **Obsessive-compulsive disorder** (limited abnormality of thought or behaviour)
  - **Reactive depression** (due to physical illness, loss, blow to self-esteem or bereavement)
  - **Post-traumatic stress disorder** (varied symptoms following distressing experiences like war, riots, earthquakes, etc..)
  - **Hysterical** (Dramatic symptoms resembling serious physical illness)