

## Learning unit: Anxiolytic drugs

### Impact of the learning unit:

Anxiolytics are one of the most frequently prescribed and used drugs worldwide. Some groups of these psychopharmacs are associated with high risk of dependence development. The aim of this learning unit is to make students familiar with the individual groups of anxiolytics and their selected representatives. Moreover, the use of anxiolytics in other indications (beside the psychiatric ones) will be emphasized too. The knowledge of these substances is considered to be the basic knowledge of each student of medicine.

### Important terms

benzodiazepine anxiolytics

alprazolam

bromazepam

oxazepam

chlordiazepoxide

non-benzodiazepine anxiolytics affecting GABA-ergic neurotransmission

gabapentin

pregabalin

non-benzodiazepine anxiolytics of other pharmacologic groups

antidepressant drugs

SSRI – citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, sertraline

SNRI – venlafaxine

other – mirtazapine, trazodone

H1-antihistamines

hydroxyzine

beta-blockers

propranolol

other

guaifenesin

bupirone

## **Learning outcomes**

Student knows clinically used anxiolytics and can divide them into main groups.

Student knows basic pharmacological profile (mode of action, unwanted effects, indications and contraindications) of anxiolytic groups.

Student can classify benzodiazepine anxiolytics, non-benzodiazepine anxiolytics and substances of other pharmacologic groups used for treatment of anxiety including their representatives.

Student can list non-psychiatric indications of anxiolytics.

## **Recommended study materials:**

Rang & Dale's Pharmacology E - Book, Humphrey Rang, 8th edition, 2016

Chapter 44: Anxiolytic and hypnotic drugs, pp. 536-545; Chapter 47: Antidepressant drugs, pp. 570-588

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1160493&lang=cs&site=ehost-live>

Study materials of the course aVLFA0822c and aVLFA0822p

## **Exam questions**

Special pharmacology: Hypnotosedatives, anxiolytics

„Essential“ drugs: buspirone, escitalopram, mirtazapine