

Guide to the Extrapyramidal Side Effects of Antipsychotic Drugs

Antipsychotic drugs are a mainstay in the treatment of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. However, these medications can also cause a variety of side effects, including extrapyramidal side effects (EPS).



A Guide to the Extrapyramidal Side-Effects of Antipsychotic Drugs by D. G. Cunningham Owens

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 17552 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 385 pages



EPS are a group of movement disorders that can range from mild to severe. They are caused by the blockade of dopamine receptors in the brain, which can lead to muscle spasms, tremors, and other movement problems.

EPS can be a significant problem for patients taking antipsychotic drugs. They can interfere with daily activities, reduce quality of life, and even lead to discontinuation of treatment.

Types of EPS

There are four main types of EPS:

- **Tardive dyskinesia** is a movement disorder that develops after long-term use of antipsychotic drugs. It is characterized by involuntary movements of the face, mouth, and tongue.
- **Dystonia** is a movement disorder that causes muscle spasms and twisting movements. It can affect any part of the body, but it is most common in the neck, face, and limbs.
- **Akathisia** is a movement disorder that causes restlessness and an inability to sit still. It can lead to pacing, rocking, and other repetitive movements.
- **Parkinsonism** is a movement disorder that causes rigidity, tremors, and slow movement. It is similar to the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Causes of EPS

EPS are caused by the blockade of dopamine receptors in the brain. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that is involved in movement, reward, and motivation.

When dopamine receptors are blocked, it can lead to a decrease in dopamine activity in the brain. This can cause muscle spasms, tremors, and other movement problems.

Risk factors for EPS

The following factors can increase the risk of developing EPS:

- **Older age**
- **Female sex**

- **History of EPS**
- **Use of high doses of antipsychotic drugs**
- **Rapid dose escalation**
- **Certain medical conditions, such as Parkinson's disease**

Management of EPS

The management of EPS depends on the severity of the symptoms.

For mild EPS, simple measures such as reducing the dose of the antipsychotic drug or switching to a different medication may be sufficient.

For more severe EPS, medications may be necessary. These medications can help to reduce muscle spasms, tremors, and other movement problems.

In some cases, surgery may be necessary to treat severe EPS.

EPS are a serious side effect of antipsychotic drugs. They can interfere with daily activities, reduce quality of life, and even lead to discontinuation of treatment.

It is important to be aware of the risk of EPS and to monitor patients for these side effects.

If EPS develop, there are a number of treatment options available. These treatments can help to reduce the symptoms of EPS and improve quality of life.

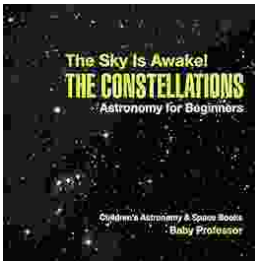


A Guide to the Extrapyraxidal Side-Effects of Antipsychotic Drugs

by D. G. Cunningham Owens

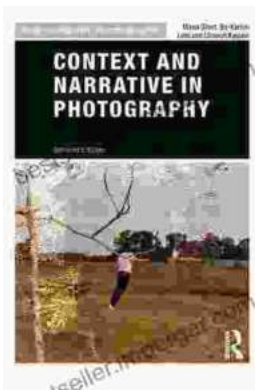
★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 17552 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 385 pages



The Sky Is Awake: Astronomy for Beginners

Embark on an enchanting journey through the cosmos with 'The Sky Is Awake: Astronomy for Beginners.' This captivating book is designed to ignite...



Unveiling the Essence of Photography: Context and Narrative in the Art of Image-Making

Photography, the art of capturing moments in time through the lens of a camera, extends beyond mere technical proficiency. It is an intricate interplay of context...