

Week 6 Discussion Post Quiz Answers

1. A patient returns to the office 3 weeks after starting a new antidepressant medication. She tells the NP, "I've been taking it every day like I'm supposed to and I don't feel any different. I don't think it's working." What would be the appropriate response?
 - a) "You might need a higher dose. Let's double the daily dosage and see what happens."
 - b) "Maybe a different antidepressant would work for you. We will try a new medication."
 - c) *"It can take several weeks and up to 2 months to see an effect. Keep taking it and we will schedule a follow-up appointment in 1 month."*
 - d) "If the medication is not working, then you might not have clinical depression."

Most antipsychotics and antidepressants must be taken for several weeks and up to 2 months before the full therapeutic effects are noted. Despite advanced research and medical knowledge, the exact relationship between the mechanism of action and the resulting effects is not completely understood, though there are plausible hypotheses based upon the scientific data that is known. The desired therapeutic effects are thought to be attributed to adaptive changes that occur in the brain after prolonged drug exposure. The delay in noted therapeutic effects occurs after the central nervous system has made those adaptive modifications in response to prolonged medication exposure (Rosenthal & Burchum, 2021, pp. 125-126).

2. Match each medication used in the treatment of Parkinson Disease to its mechanism of action: