

Medications Used to Treat Depression in the Elderly

Classification	Medication	Dosage	Side effects
Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)	Nortriptyline (Elavil)	10-150 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticholinergic • Orthostatic hypotension • Cardiac arrhythmias
	Desipramine	10-250 mg/day	
Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	Tranylcypromine	10-40 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthostatic hypotension • Pedal edema • Weakly anticholinergic • Dietary restrictions
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)	Fluoxetine (Prozac)	10-60 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI complaints • Anxiety • Sedation • Agitation • Akathisia • Headache • Sexual dysfunction
	Sertraline (Zoloft)	25-200 mg/day	
	Paroxetine (Paxil)	10-40 mg/day	
	Fluvoxamine (Luvox)	25-300 mg/day	
	Citalopram (Celexa)	10-40 mg/day	
Dual Action Agents	Mirtazapine (Remeron)	7.5-45 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedation • Weight gain
	Venlafaxine (Effexor)	25-300 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypertension • Confusion • Lightheadedness
	Bupropion (Wellbutrin)	75-450 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures • Headache • Nausea
	Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	30-60mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea
Other Antidepressants			
	Trazodone	12.5-400 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedation • Orthostasis • Incontinence • Urinary retention • Priapism

	Nefazodone (Serzone)	50-600 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedal edema• Elevation of liver enzymes
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