1-106 Effexor and dementia and depression

TIPS Question:

Effexor - please elaborate on the benefits of the drug with dementia residents.

Response:

As we have discussed, often the elderly have a number of comorbid conditions. In the circumstance where a comorbid depression is evident in someone with dementia, certainly the treatment with an antidepressant is very useful.

Also, Alexopoulous has described vascular depression associated with strokes. Here antidepressants are useful but overall not as responsive as non-vascular depressions.

Effexor is a good choice in the elderly in comparison to traditional medications like Amitriptyline.

It has also found to be helpful in anxious depression. Remember it is one of the few antidepressants that can cause high blood pressure, which can be of benefit if you have an individual who is vulnerable to autonomic instability or orthostatic hypotension. Again, I think it is worth emphasizing that the selection of the antidepressant should be looked at in terms of the vulnerabilities of the individual and the likelihood that antidepressant will make these vulnerabilities worse, as well as looking at the overall tolerance, safety, and simplicity.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a textbook! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*