1-110 Psychotropics and Alzheimer Disease

TIPS Question:

What is the best psychotropic for a person with Alzheimer Disease who is anxious, worrisome, and verbally abrupt? She is not aggressive with others but continues to slap her own lap.

Response:

Good question. At present a number of psychotropics are used for behavioural problems in dementia. Antipsychotics, antidepressants, mood stabilizers, and more recently cognitive enhancers have been identified as potentially helpful. Some experts suggest looking at behavioural clusters. In the one that you described, depressive/anxious cluster, an SSRI is a good first choice.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! 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.*