

Class	Examples	Mode of Action	Side Effects
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors	Fluoxetine (Prozac) Sertraline (Zoloft) Citalopram (Celexa)	Inhibit uptake of serotonin, thus increasing levels of serotonin in the brain	Agitation, anxiety, nausea, dizziness, blurred vision, lowered libido
Serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors	Venlafaxine (Effexor) Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	Inhibit uptake of serotonin and norepinephrine, increasing the levels of serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain	Nausea, diarrhea, decreased libido, erectile dysfunction, weight gain, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, insomnia, serotonin syndrome
Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)	Amitriptyline (Elavil) Nortriptyline (Pamelor)	Affect several neurotransmitters in the brain, including serotonin and norepinephrine	Dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, orthostatic hypotension, weight gain, sexual dysfunction, increased risk of seizures, toxicity in overdose
Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)	Phenelzine (Nardil) Tranylcypromine (Parnate)	Inhibit the breakdown of norepinephrine, serotonin, dopamine, and tyramine, thus increasing their levels and allowing them to continue to influence the cells that have been affected by depression	Orthostatic hypotension, dizziness, drowsiness, insomnia, sexual dysfunction, weight gain, hypertensive crisis
Atypical antidepressants	Bupropion (Wellbutrin)	Shifts the levels of dopamine and norepinephrine in the brain	Gastrointestinal issues, orthostatic hypotension, sedation, weight loss, sexual dysfunction, increased risk of seizures
	Mirtazapine (Remeron)	Increases the levels of serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain	Drowsiness, sexual dysfunction, weight gain
Antipsychotics	Aripiprazole (Abilify) Quetiapine	Augment the therapeutic effects of antidepressants when they alone have	Weight gain, elevated blood sugar levels, metabolic syndrome,

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	(Seroquel) Olanzapine (Zyprexa)	proven insufficient in treating depressive symptoms	increased lipid profiles, tremors, akathisia, dystonia, sedation

**Table 16.3** Medications Used to Treat Depression (Moraczewski & Aedma, 2020; Rush, 2024; Sub Laban & Saadabadi, 2019)