

# Antipsychotic drugs

**Martin Votava**

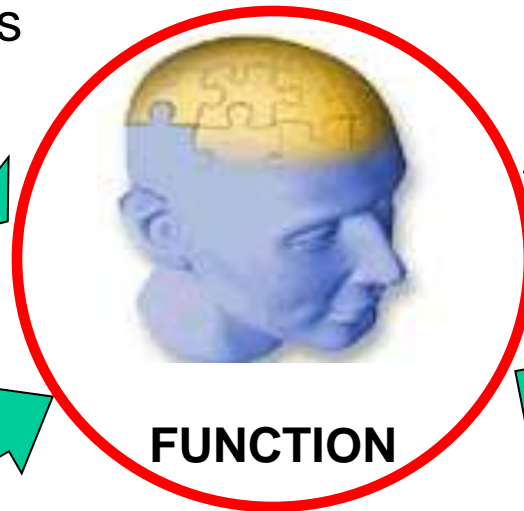
# Schizophrenia - symptoms

## Positive Symptoms

Hallucinations  
Delusions (bizarre, persecutory)  
Disorganized Thought  
Perception disturbances  
Inappropriate emotions

## Negative Symptoms

Blunted emotions  
Anhedonia  
Lack of feeling



**FUNCTION**

## Cognition

New Learning  
Memory

## Mood Symptoms

Loss of motivation  
Social withdrawal  
Insight  
Demoralization  
Suicide

- **Positive/active symptoms** include thought disturbances, delusions, hallucinations



- **Negative/passive symptoms** include social withdrawal, loss of drive, diminished affect, paucity of speech. impaired personal hygiene

# DSM-IV Diagnosis

- Schizophrenia
  - Symptoms  $\geq$  6 months
- Schizophreniform disorder
  - Symptoms 1 month - 6 months
- Brief psychotic disorder
  - Symptoms 1 day - 1 month

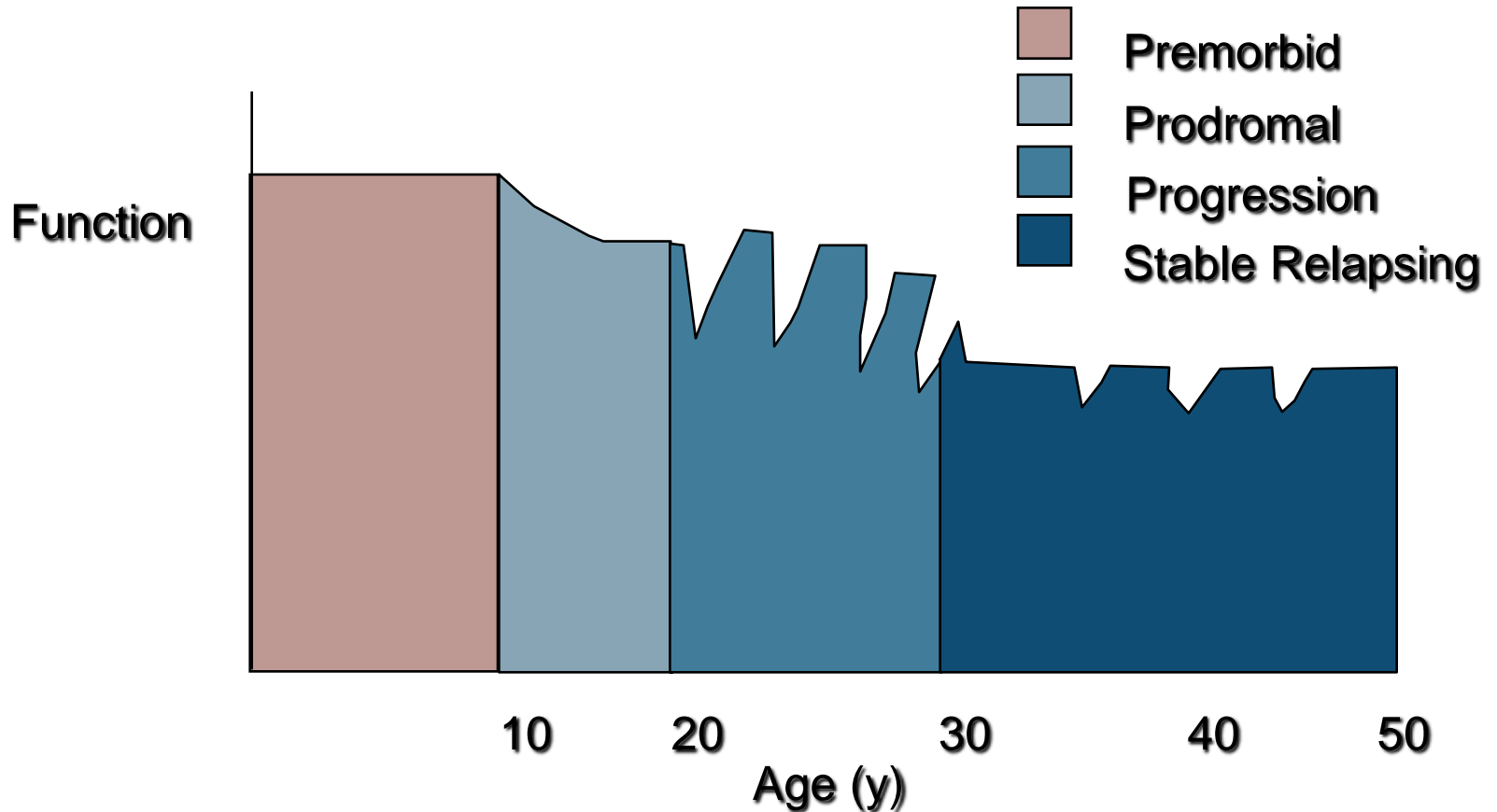
# Prevalence of Schizophrenia

- 1-2% of U.S. population
- 2 million diagnosed in U.S.
- Median age at diagnosis = mid-20's
- Men = Women prevalence
  - Men earlier diagnosis
    - Worse premorbid history
    - Worse prognosis

# Prognosis of Schizophrenia

- 10% continuous hospitalization
- $\leq 30\%$  recovery = symptom-free for 5 years
- 60% continued problems in living/episodic periods

# Personal history of schizophrenia



Lieberman JA. Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs As A First-Line Treatment of Schizophrenia: A Rationale and Hypothesis. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* 1996; 57 (suppl 11):68-71

# Etiology

- Hereditary Influences may account for 10% of schizophrenia cases
- Prenatal Biological Trauma 5-10% cases of schizophrenia
- Perinatal biological trauma
- Diathesis - Stress Model



# Biological Treatment

Insulin coma therapy, Prefrontal lobotomy,  
Electroconvulsive therapy

- Dr. Egas Moniz –Developed prefrontal lobotomy technique
- 1935 – heard about work on a chimp “Becky” – Performed surgery on many patients
- they were just calmer, but also more sluggish and apathetic
- Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine
- Next 15 years - 50,000 lobotomies

## ► Prefrontal Lobotomy Procedure of Moniz and Lima

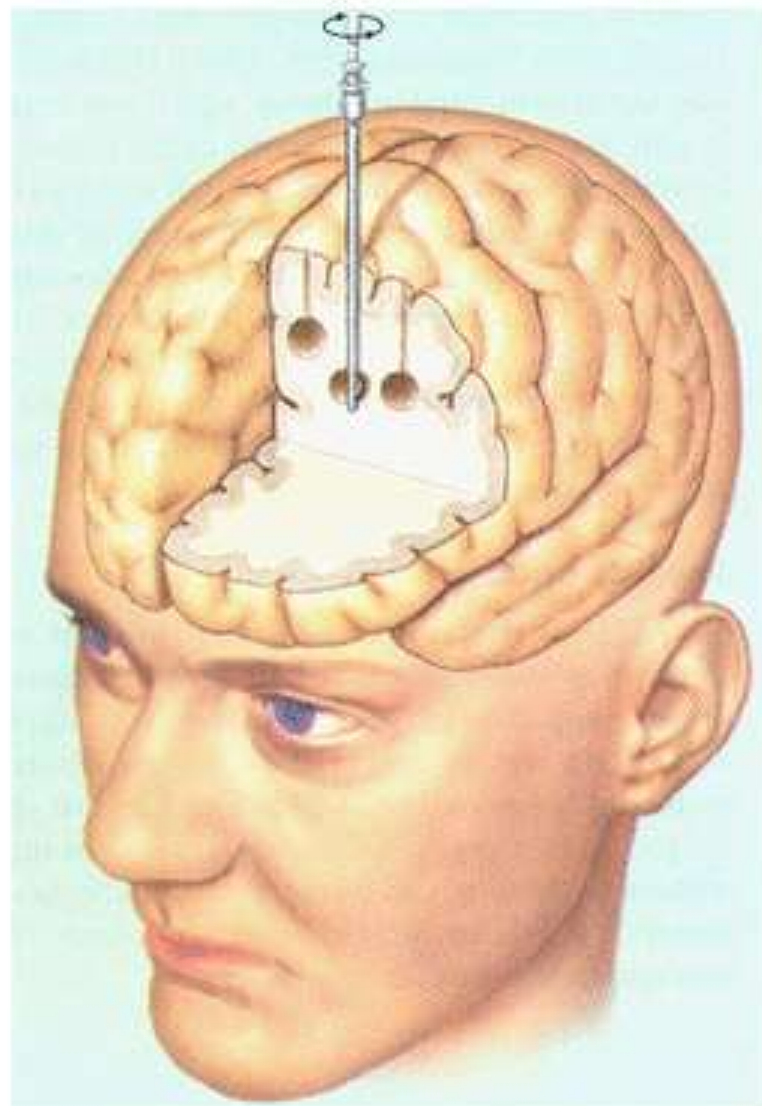
### The Prefrontal Lobotomy Procedure of Moniz and Lima



The leucotome was inserted 6 times into the patient's brain with the cutting wire retracted.



After each insertion the cutting wire was extruded and the leucotome rotated to cut out a core of tissue.



# Schizophrenia Pathophysiology

## Schizophrenia Pathophysiology

## Pharmacologic Profile of APDs

**Past** Excess dopaminergic activity

Dopamine D<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists

### Present

Renewed interest in the role of serotonin (5-HT)

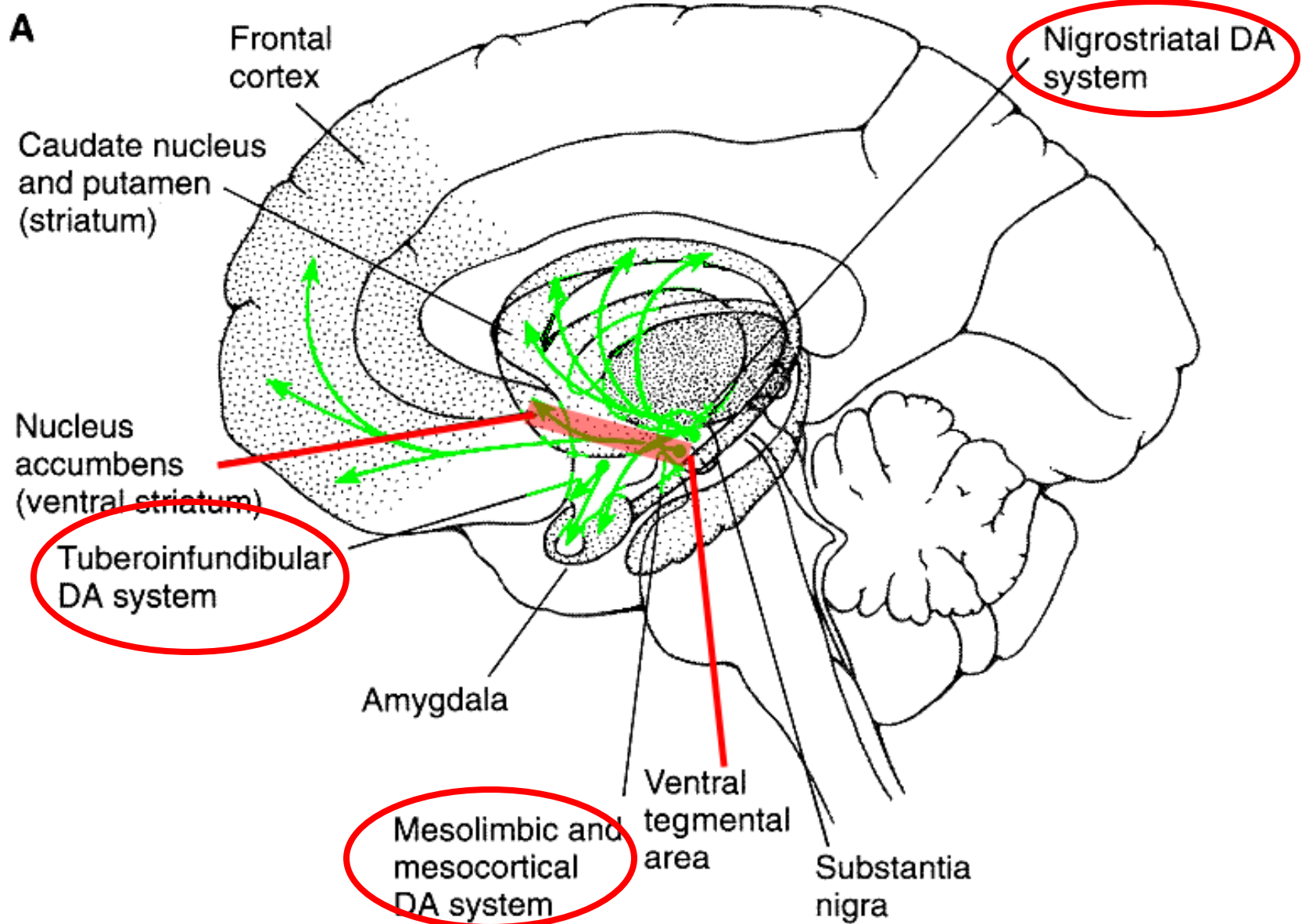
Combined 5-HT<sub>2</sub>/D<sub>2</sub> antagonists

### Future

Imbalance in cortical communication and cortical-midbrain integration, involving multiple neurotransmitters

More selective antagonists  
Mixed agonist/antagonists  
Neuropeptide analogs

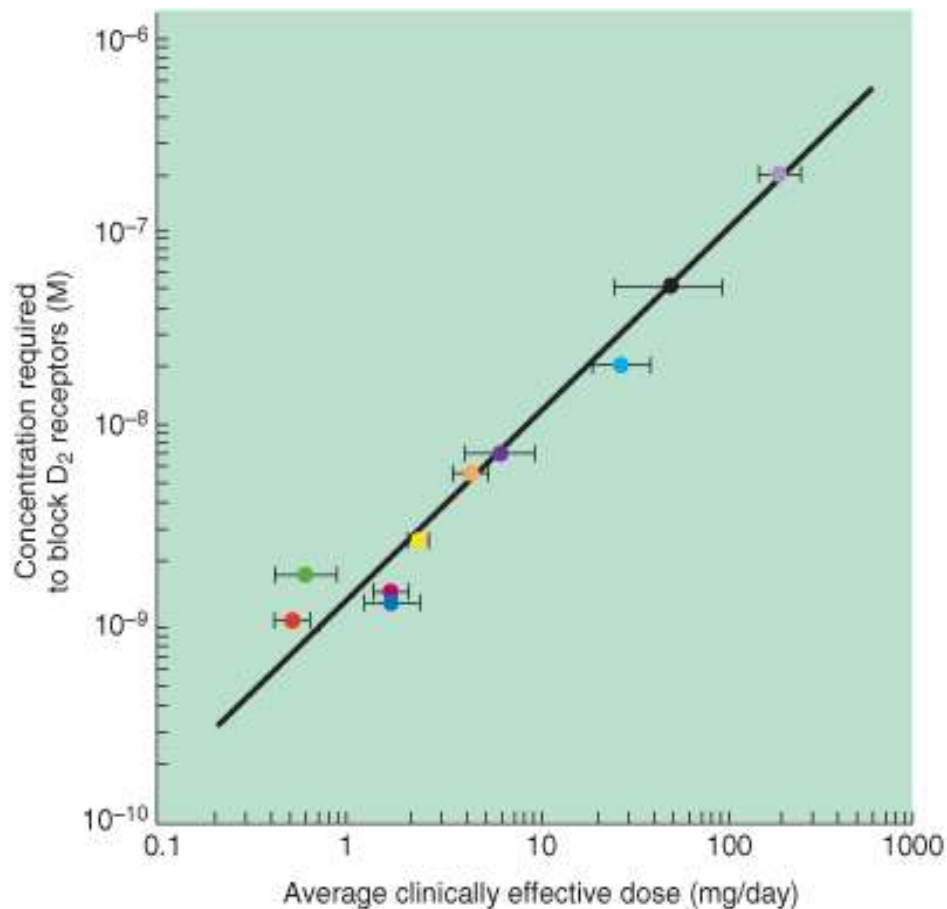
# Dopaminergic Pathways and Innervation



# Pathophysiology: ‘Dopamine Hypothesis’ of Schizophrenia

- ‘Dopamine hypothesis’:
  - Schizophrenia is caused by excess dopaminergic activity*
  - We now know that this hypothesis is not really true
- Arose in 1950s - 1960s: First effective antipsychotic drugs = dopamine antagonists
- Other supporting evidence:
  - Reserpine = “dopamine depleter” has some weak antipsychotic activity
  - DA enhancers (anti-Parkinson drugs, amphetamine) mimic some positive Sx: hallucinations, delusions

# D2 affinity correlates with clinical dose to treat positive Sx



# Dopamine Receptor Subtypes

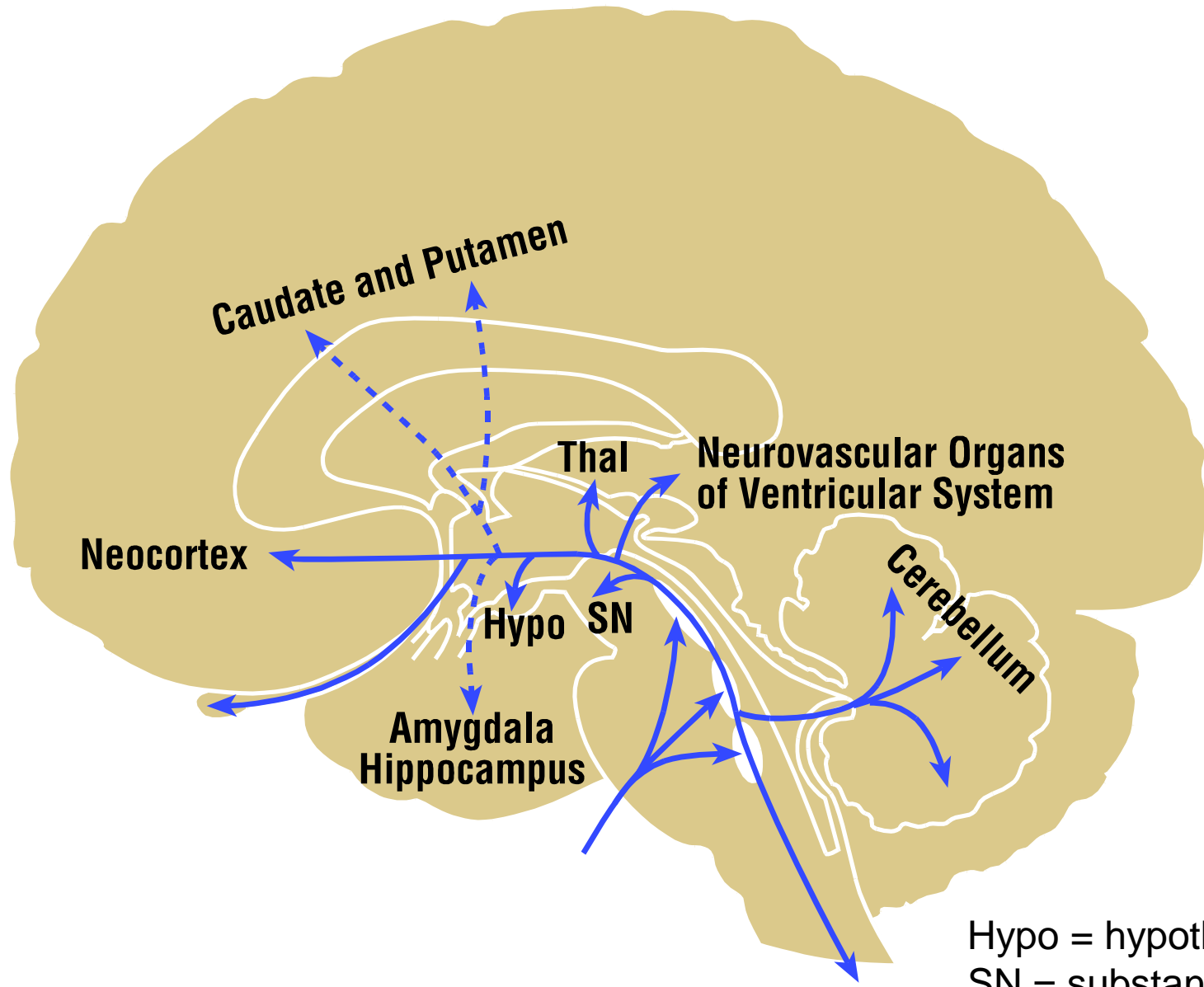
- D1, D5: Gs coupled - increase cAMP
- D2, D3, D4: Gi coupled - decrease cAMP
- D2 mediates much of 'typical APD' therapeutic action . . .  
. . . and side effects

# Other transmitter systems involved..

- **Glutamatergic** system dysfunction
    - e.g. effect of phencyclidine – blocker of NMDA type of glutamate receptors
  - **G-protein** signaling abnormalities
  - **Serotonergic** system abnormalities
    - most antipsychotics also affect serotonin receptors
- Dopamine and serotonin theory of schizophrenia**



# Serotonergic Pathways and Innervation



Hypo = hypothalamus  
SN = substantia nigra  
Thal = thalamus

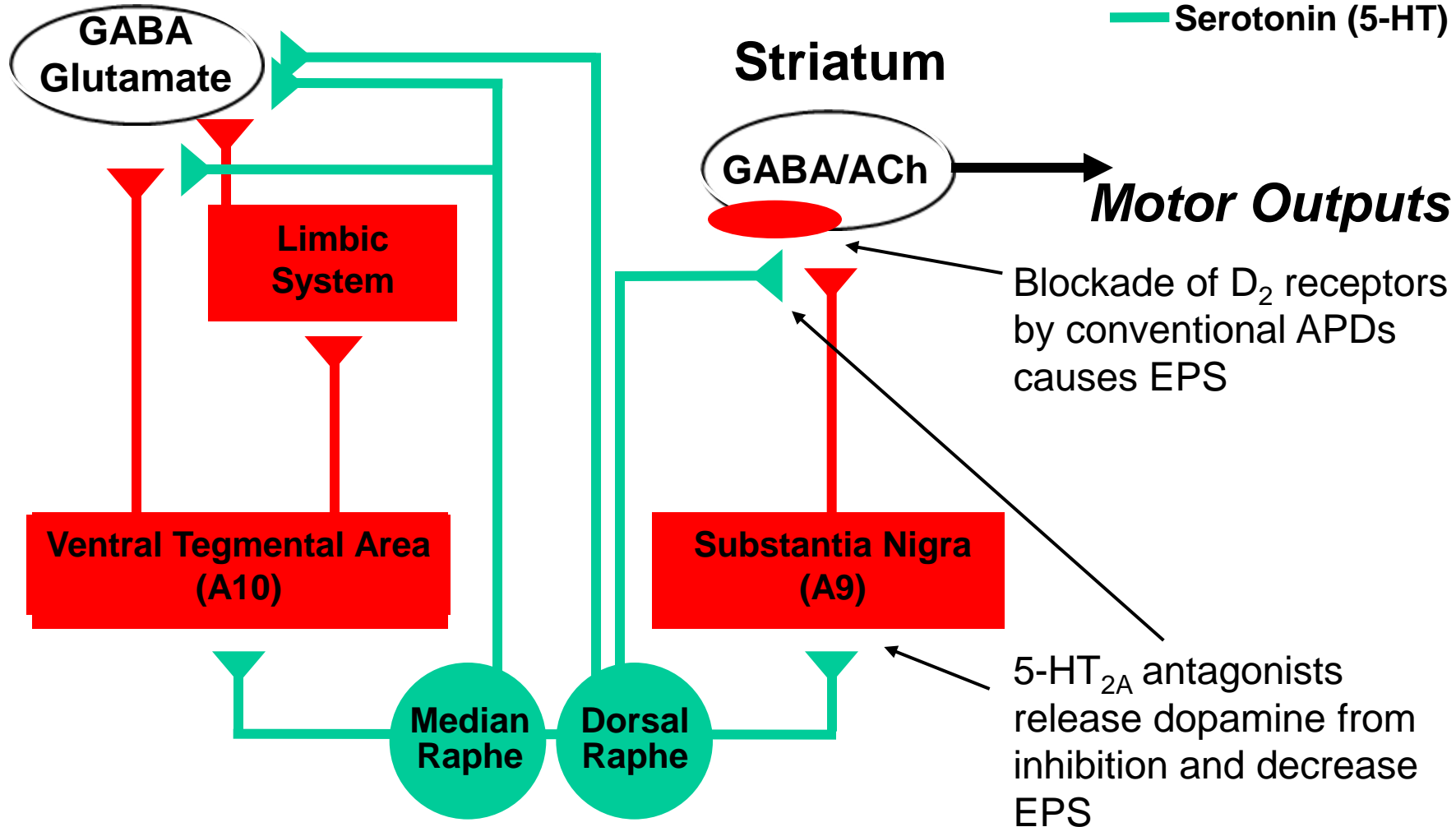
# Schizophrenia - Serotonin Hypothesis

- correlation between DA affinity and antipsychotic efficacy has become weaker as a result of recently developed atypical antipsychotic medications that also show **substantial affinity for 5HT<sub>2</sub> receptors**
- Alteration of 5-HT transmission in the brains of schizophrenics patients have been reported in post-mortem studies and serotonin-agonists challenge studies
- There are widespread and complex changes in the 5-HT system in schizophrenics patients
- These changes suggest that 5-HT dysfunction is involved in the pathophysiology of the disease

# Serotonin-Dopamine Interactions

## Prefrontal Cortex

— Dopamine (DA)  
— Serotonin (5-HT)



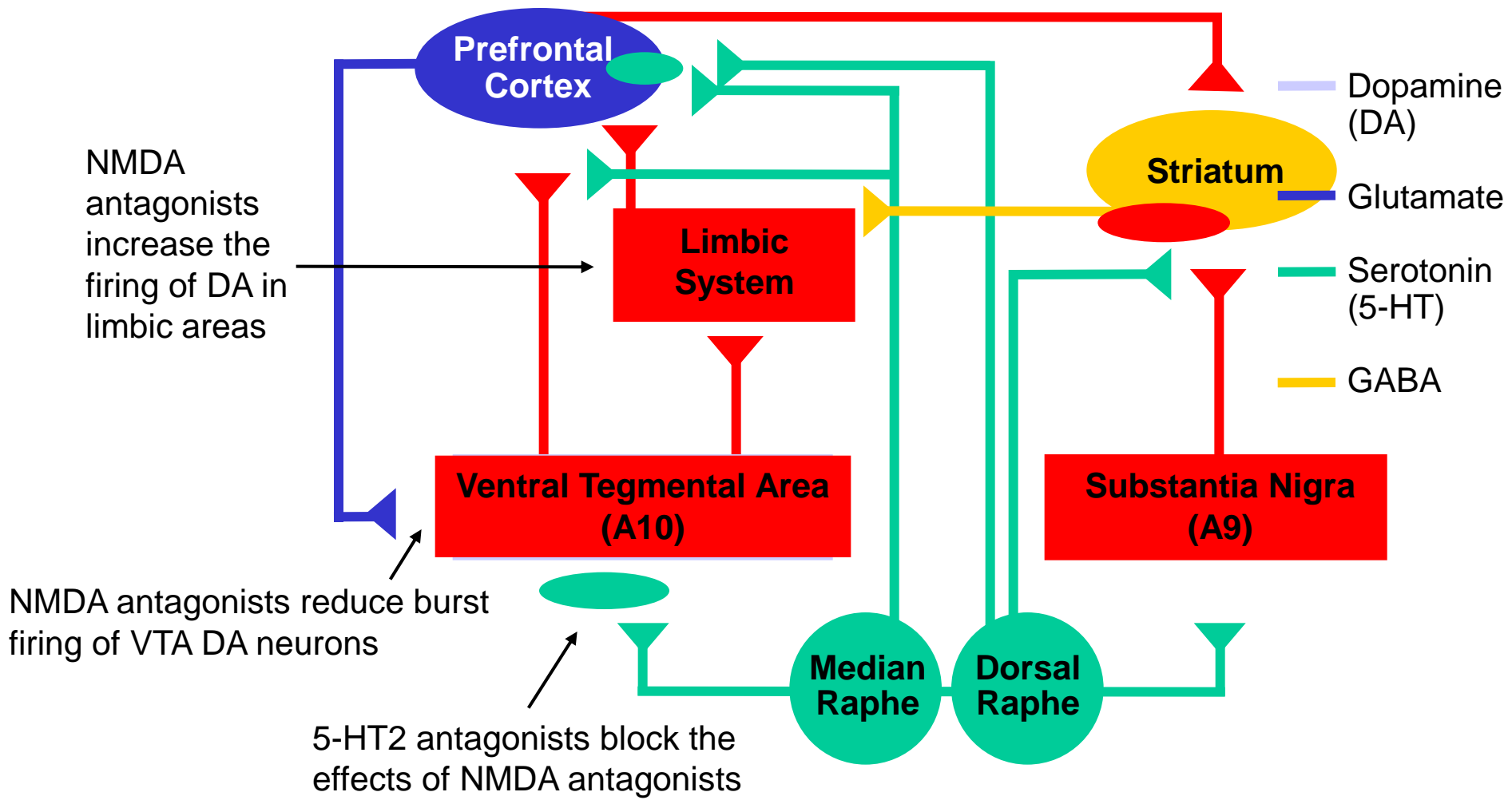
# Schizophrenia May Involve Glutamate Hypofunction

- Dopamine stimulant (amphetamine) abuse:
  - Mimics some Positive Sx
- Glutamate NMDA type receptor antagonist (PCP, Ketamine) abuse:
  - Mimics some Positive Sx
  - Mimics some Negative Sx
    - (e.g. Cognitive Sx = Wisconsin card sorting test)
  - Ketamine Sx antagonised by clozapine (atypical antipsychotic) not by typical antipsychotics
- No Glutamate drugs for schizophrenia yet . .

# Serotonin-Glutamate-Dopamine Interactions

NMDA antagonists elevate extracellular brain levels of 5-HT in the prefrontal cortex

5-HT2A antagonists restore dopaminergic function in the prefrontal cortex



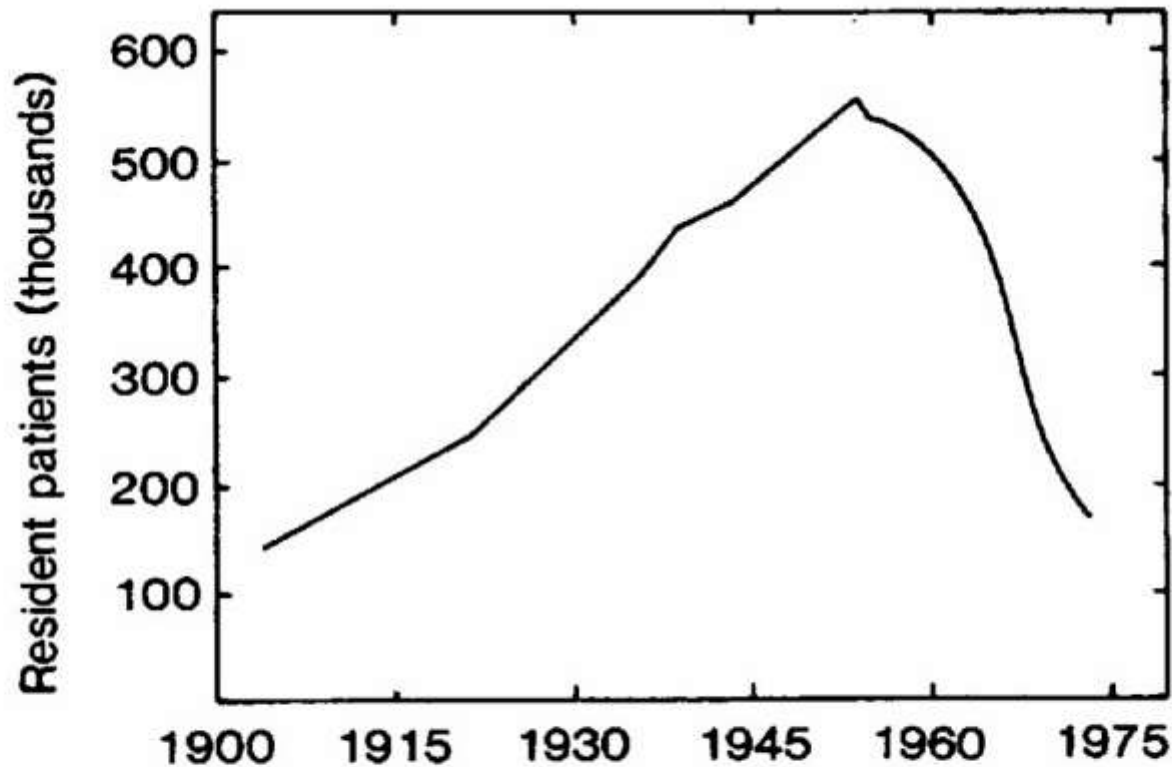
# ANIMAL MODEL OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

- High doses of **amphetamine** produce a syndrome of **repetitive behaviours** (sniffing, head movements, gnawing and licking) known as stereotypy or stereotyped behaviour.
- Because stereotyped behaviour also occurs in humans after higher doses of amphetamine and is similar to the repetitions of meaningless behaviour seen in schizophrenia, the amphetamine-induced stereotypy has been used as an animal model of schizophrenia.
- **DA receptor antagonists block amphetamine stereotypy** and there is a strong correlation between their potency in this model and in ameliorating schizophrenic symptoms.
- Other more complicated models are based on **attentional and cognitive abnormalities** observed in schizophrenia.

# ANTIPSYCHOTICS

- Pre-90's
  - “Typical”, conventional, traditional neuroleptics, major tranquilizers
  - Modeled on D2 antagonism
  - EPS/TD
- Post-90's
  - “Atypical”, novel, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation
  - Modeled on 5-HT<sub>2</sub>/D<sub>2</sub> antagonism
  - Less EPS, prolactin effects
  - Weight gain, sedation, diabetes

# Impact of antipsychotics..



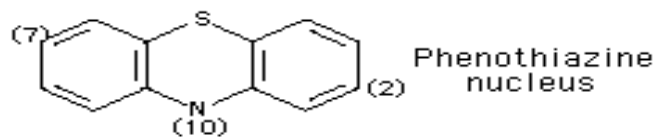
**Fig. 28.6 Patient population in public mental hospitals in the U.S.A. (From: Bassuk E L, Gerson S 1978 Scientific American 238: 46)**



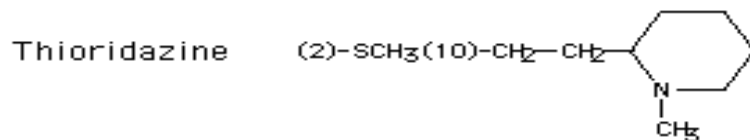
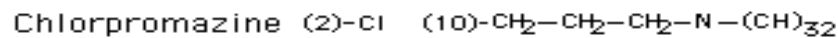
# Typical antipsychotics

- Phenothiazines
  - e.g. chlorpromazine, fluphenazine, thioridazine
- Butyrophenones
  - e.g. haloperidol, droperidol
- Thioxanthines
  - e.g. chlorprotixen, thiothixene

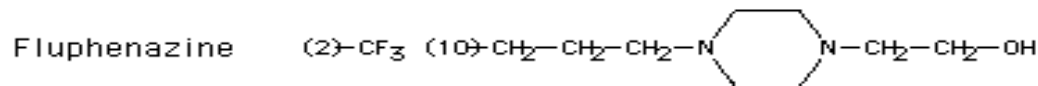
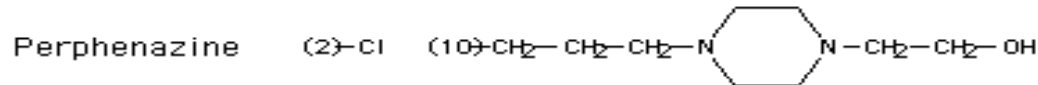
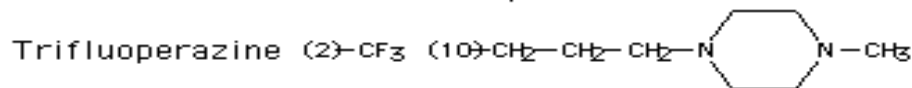
## PHENOTHIAZINE DERIVATIVES



### Aliphatic side chain



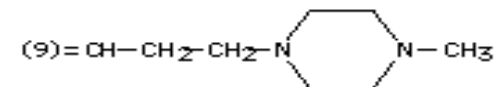
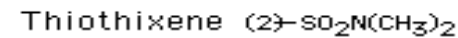
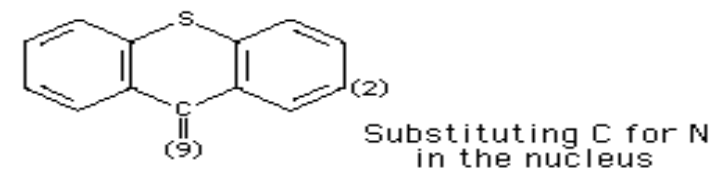
### Piperazine side chain



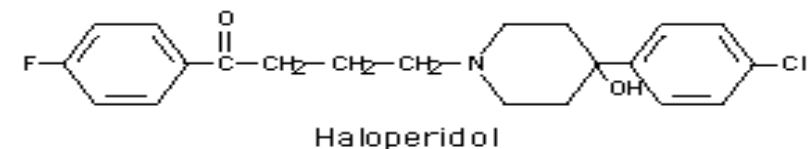
# Atypical antipsychotics

- receptor profile
  - MARTA
  - SDA
  - D2/D3 antag.
  - Partial DA antag.

## THIOXANTHENE DERIVATIVE



## BUTYROPHENONE



# Antipsychotics – „classical“

## Basal - phenothiazines

- Chlorpromazine
- Thioridazine
- Levopromazine

## Basal - thioxanthines

- Chlorprothixene

# Antipsychotics – „classical“

## **Incisive** – phenothiazines

- Fluphenazine

## **Incisive** – thioxanthenes

- Flupenthixole

## **Incisive** – butyrophenones

- Haloperidol

# Comparisons Between the Two Classes of Drugs

- **Phenothiazines**

- Low potency
- Are sedative
- Block D2 receptors
- metabolism and removal of phenothiazines is complex and among the slowest of any group of drugs
- cause extra pyramidal symptoms

- **Butyrophenones**

- High potency
- Non-sedative
- Block D2 receptors
- Metabolism and removal is quicker
- Cause extra pyramidal symptoms

# Adverse Effects - EPS

Details on two main extrapyramidal disturbances (EPS):

- Parkinson-like symptoms
  - tremor, rigidity
  - direct consequence of block of nigrostriatal DA<sub>2</sub> R
  - reversible upon cessation of antipsychotics
- Tardive dyskinesia
  - involuntary movement of face and limbs
  - less likely with atypical antipsychotics (AP)
  - appears months or years after start of AP
  - ? result of proliferation of DA R in striatum
    - » presynaptic?
  - treatment is generally unsuccessful

# Neurological Side Effects of antipsychotics

REACTION	FEATURES	TIME OF MAXIMAL RISK	PROPOSED MECHANISM	TREATMENT
Acute dystonia	Spasm of muscles of tongue, face, neck, back; may mimic seizures; <i>not</i> hysteria	1 to 5 days	Unknown	Antiparkinsonian agents are diagnostic and curative
Akathisia	Motor restlessness; <i>not</i> anxiety or "agitation"	5 to 60 days	Unknown	Reduce dose or change drug: antiparkinsonian agents, benzodiazepines or propranolol may help
Parkinsonism	Bradykinesia, rigidity, variable tremor, mask facies, shuffling gait	5 to 30 days	Antagonism of dopamine	Antiparkinsonian agents helpful
Neuroleptic malignant syndrome	Catatonia, stupor, fever, unstable blood pressure, myoglobinemia; can be fatal	Weeks; can persist for days after stopping neuroleptic	Antagonism of dopamine may contribute	Stop neuroleptic immediately: dantrolene or bromocriptine may help: antiparkinsonian agents not effective
Perioral tremor ("rabbit syndrome")	Perioral tremor (may be a late variant of parkinsonism)	After months or years of treatment	Unknown	Antiparkinsonian agents often help
Tardive dyskinesia	Oral-facial dyskinesia; widespread choreoathetosis or dystonia	After months or years of treatment (worse on withdrawal)	Excess function of dopamine hypothesized	Prevention crucial; treatment unsatisfactory

# Adverse Effects Summary

- **Sedation** - initially considerable; tolerance usually develops after a few weeks of therapy; dysphoria
- **Postural hypotension** - results primarily from adrenergic blockade; tolerance can develop
- **Anticholinergic effects** - include blurred vision, dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention; results from muscarinic cholinergic blockade
- **Endocrine effects** - increased prolactin secretion can cause galactorrhea; results from antidopamine effect
- **Hypersensitivity reactions** - jaundice, photosensitivity, rashes, agranulocytosis can occur
- **Idiosyncratic reactions** - malignant neuroleptic syndrome
- **Weight gain**
- Neurological side effects - see next

# Haloperidole

- entered US market in 1967
- more potent than phenothiazines, so doses are lower
- also have long half-life
- like phenothiazines, they block dopamine and norepinephrine receptors and show the related side effects
- extrapyramidal effects are worse (due to low blockade of ACh and thus worse ratio)
- but blood pressure effects are less
- reduced sedation
- no blood abnormalities or jaundice



# Limitations Of Conventional Antipsychotics

- Approximately one-third of patients with schizophrenia fail to respond
- Limited efficacy against
  - Negative symptoms
  - Affective symptoms
  - Cognitive deficits
- High proportion of patients relapse
- Side effects and compliance issues
- Some safety issues are prominent

# Antipsychotic Drugs – New Generations „atypical“

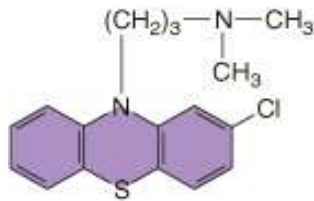
About 40-60% do not respond to phenothiazines or cannot handle side effects

- Questions remain about the efficacy of phenothiazines and haloperidole for negative symptoms
- Drugs needed that are low in extrapyramidal side effects and at least equal in efficacy for positive symptoms, perhaps better for negative

# Atypical Antipsychotics

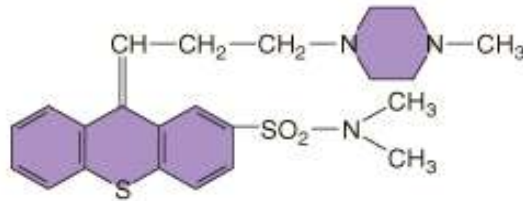
## Typical (Traditional) Antipsychotics

PHENOTHIAZINE



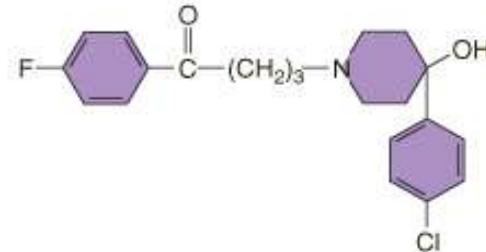
Chlorpromazine

THIOXANTHINE



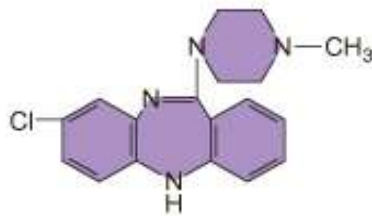
Thiothixene

BUTYROPHENONE

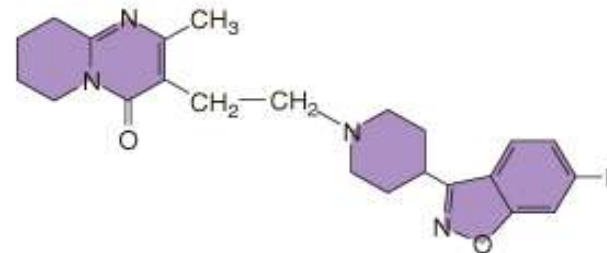


Haloperidol

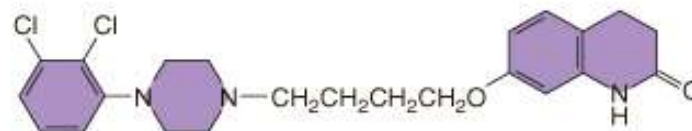
## Atypical (Novel) Antipsychotics



Clozapine



Risperidone



Aripiprazole

# What Defines “Atypical” Antipsychotics?

Atypical APD's have some of the following:

- Positive Sx: Increased Therapeutic Efficacy
  - i.e. in treatment resistant patients
- Negative Sx: Some Therapeutic Efficacy
  - motivation, social withdrawal, cognition
- Side Effects: Generally less than typical drugs
  - Acute EPS: Parkinsonian, Dyskinesias, Akathisia
  - Chronic EPS: Tardive Dyskinesia
  - Endocrine: Hyperprolactinemia

# Atypical APD's: Efficacy

- Positive Symptoms of Schizophrenia
  - Typical:
    - Significant help for about 70% of patients
    - Reduces relapse rate from ~75%/yr to ~20%
  - Clozapine:
    - Helps about 80 - 85% of patients
    - Helps ~ 1/3 to 1/2 of those not helped by typicals
    - Reduces relapse rates to ~10 - 15%
  - Other atypicals may be more effective than typical agents, but less effective than clozapine

# Antipsychotic Drugs – New Generations „atypical“

- clozapine
- risperidone
- olanzapine
- sertindole
- quetiapine
- aripiprazole
- ziprasidone etc.

# Atypical antipsychotics

## **MARTA (multi acting receptor targeted agents)**

- clozapine, olanzapine, quetiapine

## **SDA (serotonin-dopamine antagonists)**

- risperidone, ziprasidone, sertindole

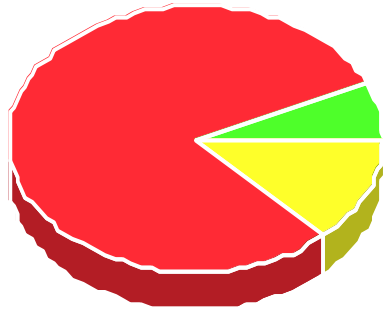
## **Selective D2/D3 antagonists**

- sulpiride, amisulpiride

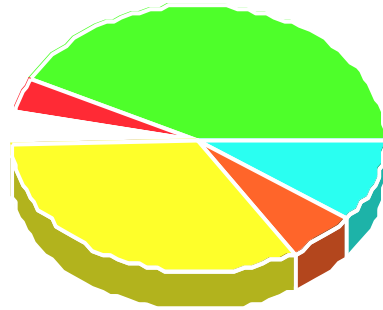
## **Partial Dopamine antagonists**

- aripiprazole

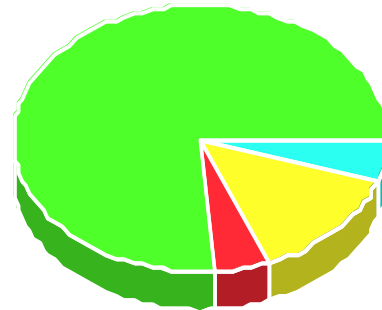
# Atypical Antipsychotics In Vivo Binding Affinities



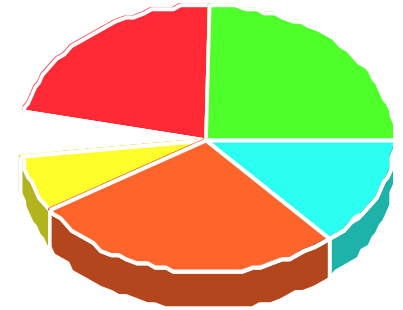
Haloperidol



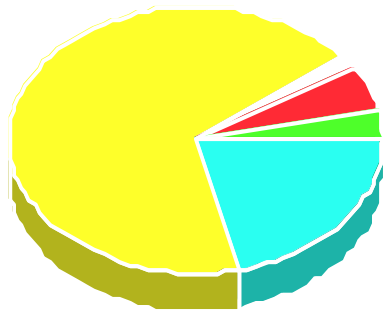
Clozapine



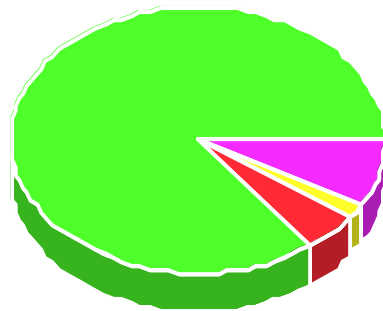
Risperidone



Olanzapine



Quetiapine



Ziprasidone





# Clozapine (1989)

- Selectively blocks dopamine D2 receptors, avoiding nigrostriatal pathway
- Also blocks NE
- More strongly blocks 5-HT2 receptors in cortex which then acts to modulate some dopamine activity
- Among non-responders to first generation meds or those who cannot tolerate side effects, about 30% do respond to Clozapine

# Clozapine

- Extrapyrarnidal side effects are minimal
- May help treat tarditive dyskinesia
- Still shows orthostatic hypotension effects, sedation, weight gain, increased heart rate
- Increased risk for seizures (2-3%)
- **Agranulocytosis in 1%**
- Agranulocytosis risks increase when co-administered with carbamazepine
- Interactions with SSRIs and valproic acid increase Clozapine levels and risks

# Risperidone (Risperdal; 1994)

- Fewer side effects than Clozapine
- Marketed as first line approach to treatment
- Blocks selective D2, norepinephrine, and 5-HT2
- Argued as effective for positive and negative symptoms (controversial)
- Extrapyramidal side effects low (but are shown at high doses) - controversial
- Shares sedation, weight gain, rapid heart beat, orthostatic hypotension, and elevated prolactin
- No agranulocytosis risks
- May cause anxiety/agitation (possible OCD)

# Risperidone (Risperdal)

- Research designs clearly stacked in favor of Risperidone re showing better profile for extrapyramidal side effects and for symptom reduction
- Advantages unclear other than agranulocytosis issue

# Olanzapine - Zyprexa – 1996

- Same poorly supported arguments about improved negative symptom reduction
- Argued to be better than risperidone in extrapyramidal issues
- Does not cause prolactin elevation
- Same claim to fame reduced agranulocytosis risks

# Sertindole – Serlect – 1995

- Some poorly supported arguments about improved negative symptom reduction
- Low risk for extrapyramidal side effects – major advantage
- No sedation and very mild prolactin elevation– major advantages
- Shares orthostatic hypotension, tachycardia, and weight gain
- Common side effects are rhinitis and reduced ejaculatory volume (not associated with disturbed function)
- concern about sudden cardiac death or episodes due to cardiac arrhythmia led to its voluntary removal in 1998

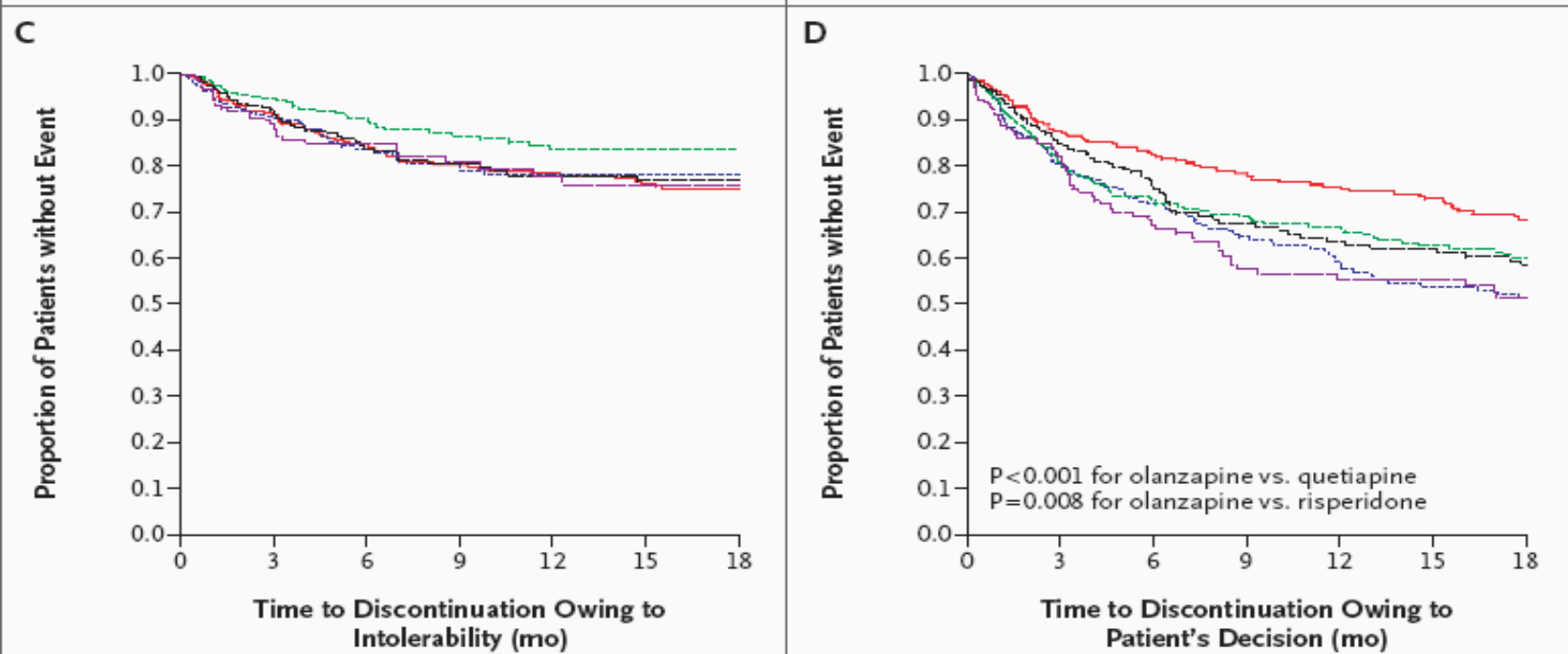
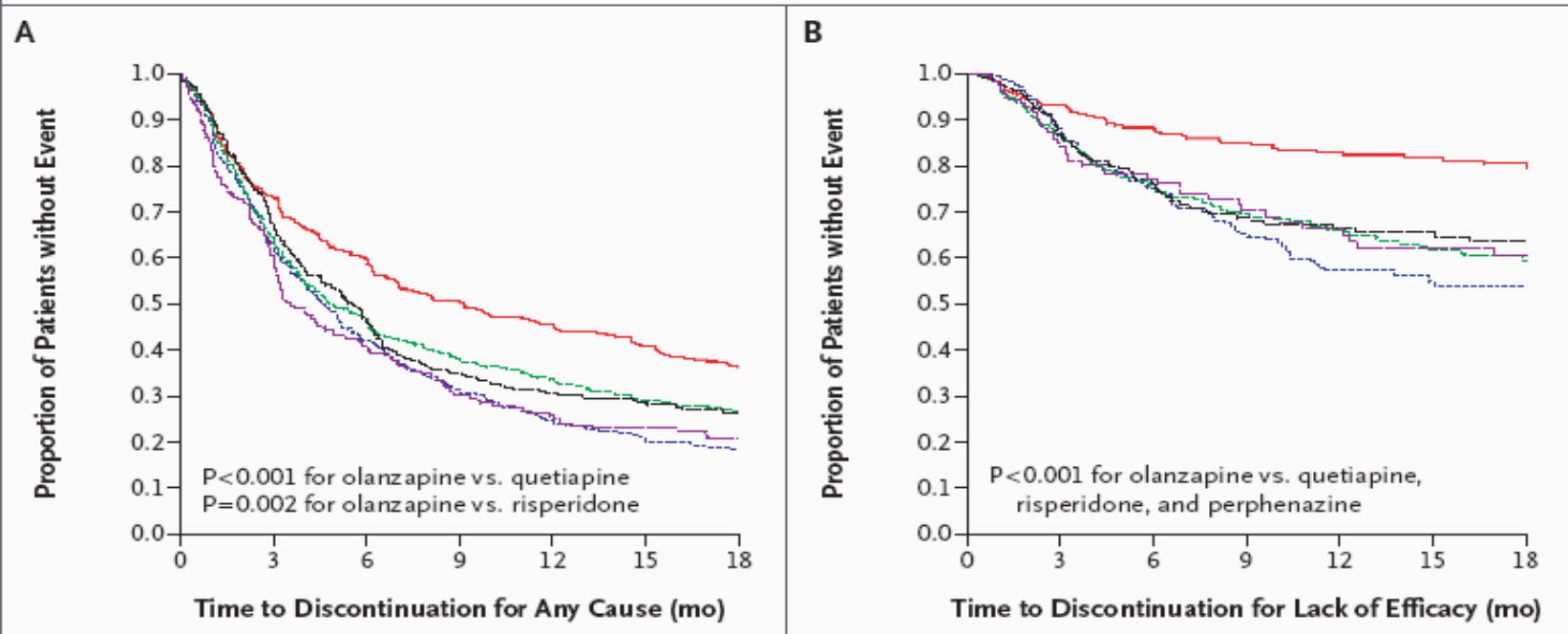
# Quetiapine – Seroquel - 1997

- No increased risks for extrapyramidal symptoms
- Shares sedation, orthostatic hypotension, weight gain
- Does cause anticholinergic side effects (like older and Clozapine) – dry mouth, constipation
- Does not elevate prolactin

## Ziprasidone - 2001

- Similar to advantages of others, but argued not to cause weight gain

— Olanzapine (N=330)     - - - Risperidone (N=333)     — Ziprasidone (N=183)  
- - - Perphenazine (N=257)     - - - Quetiapine (N=329)





# Expanding Indications ...

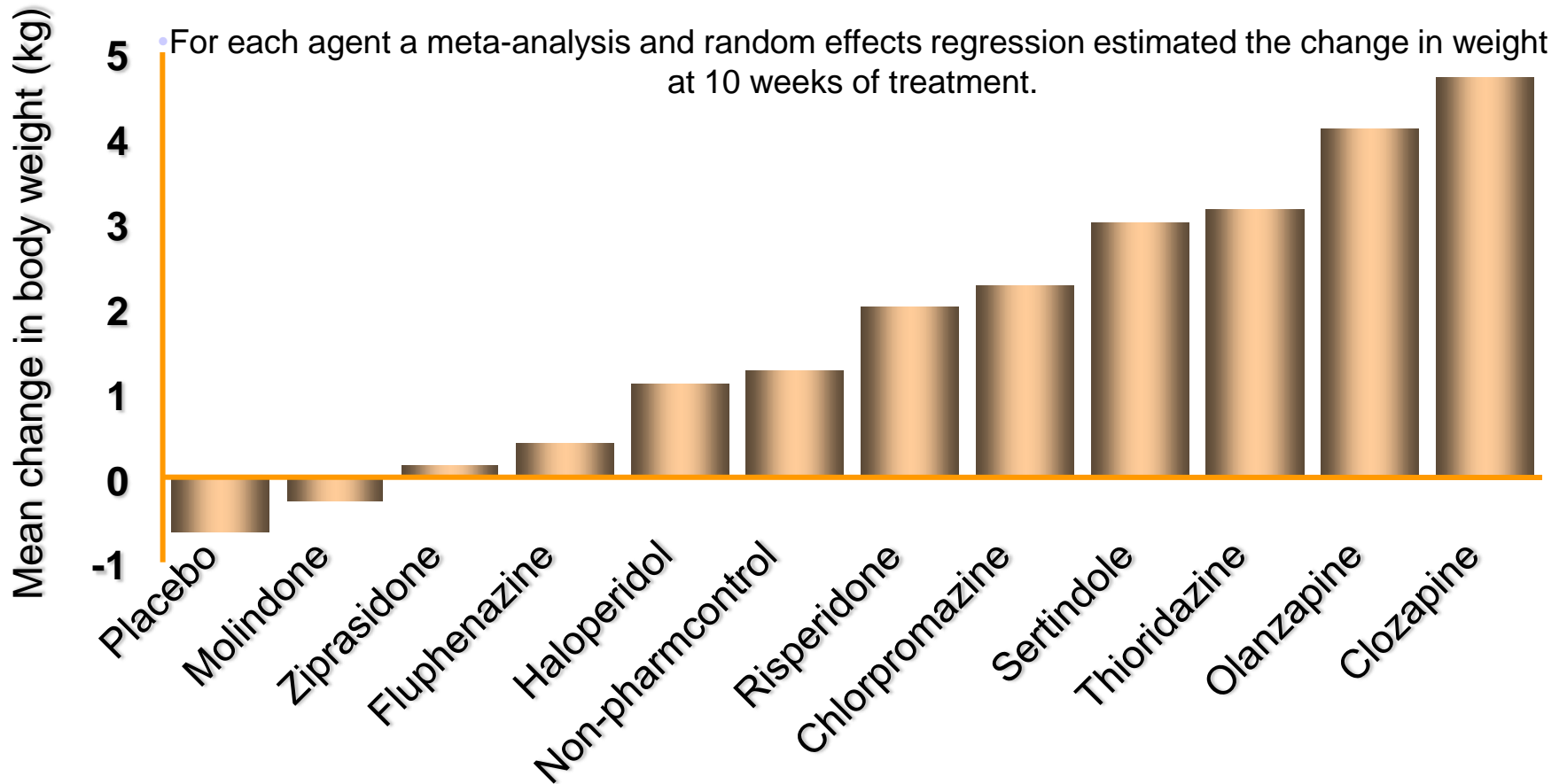
- Psychosis
- Schizophrenia
- Mania – mostly adjunctive benefits
- Aggression
- Tourette's
- Delirium
- Affect instability in BPD

# Side effects

- weight gain
- type II diabetes mellitus
- hyperlipidemia
- extrapyramidal side effects
- QTc interval prolongation
- myocarditis
- sexual side effects
- cataract

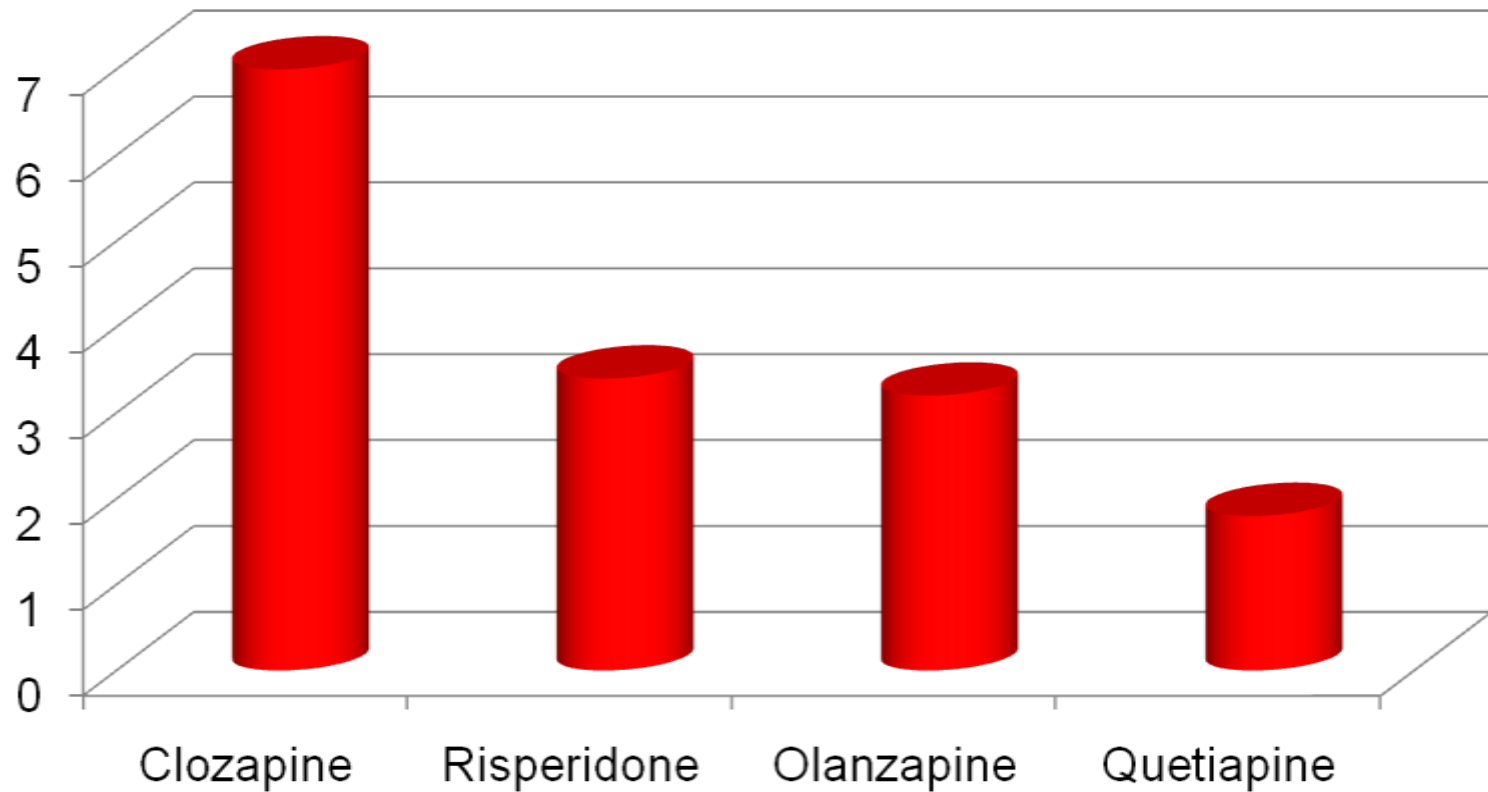
# Estimated mean weight gain at 10 weeks

- A comprehensive literature search identified 78 studies that included data on weight change in patients treated with a specific antipsychotic.



Allison DB, Mentore JL, Heo M, et al: Weight gain associated with conventional and newer antipsychotics: a meta Analysis. AJP, 1999.

# Risk of diabetes mellitus (HR vs. conventional AP)



# Hyperlipidemia

**High risk** - chlorpromazine, thioridazine  
atypical antipsychotics, quetiapine,  
olanzapine and clozapine

**Low risk** – haloperidol  
atypical antipsychotics, ziprasidone,  
risperidone and aripiprazole

# Parkinsonism events

