Chapter 38:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. List the most common types of dementia in late life.
2. Distinguish between younger-onset and late-onset Alzheimer’s disease (AD).
3. Discuss genetic and environmental causes that may play a role in the etiology of AD.
4. Identify the hallmark pathophysiologic lesions in AD.
5. Describe the neurotransmitter systems affected by AD.
6. Discuss the importance of brain vascular health in AD.
7. Describe the signs and symptoms of various stages of AD.
8. Discuss the diagnostic criteria for AD.
9. Explain the primary treatment goals of both pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies for AD.
10. Describe the general approach to nonpharmacologic strategies for managing behavioral symptoms in patients with AD.
11. Discuss the mechanism of action, dosing, administration, and side-effect profiles of the cholinesterase inhibitors.
12. Discuss the mechanism of action, dosing, administration, and side-effect profile of memantine.
13. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of estrogen, antiinflammatory agents, lipid-lowering agents, and dietary supplements (vitamin E, Ginkgo biloba, huperzine A, polyphenols, omega-3 fatty acid, and medical foods) as treatments for patients with AD.
14. Develop a treatment and monitoring plan for cognitive symptoms in a patient newly diagnosed with mild AD.
15. List available pharmacologic treatment options and recommended dosages for behavioral symptoms of AD.
16. Explain the risks associated with antipsychotic use in patients with AD.