LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the most common theories regarding the etiology of schizophrenia.
2. Outline the neurotransmitters thought to be involved in schizophrenia.
3. List the three categories of symptoms seen in schizophrenia and give examples of each.
4. List the types of nonpharmacologic therapies that should be offered to individuals with schizophrenia.
5. Discuss the major areas included in the initial evaluation of a patient suspected of having schizophrenia.
6. Discuss the considerations for choosing initial drug therapy for a patient with schizophrenia.
7. Recommend methods to improve treatment adherence in a patient with schizophrenia.
8. Discuss treatment approaches for individuals with treatment-resistant schizophrenia.
9. Discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of antipsychotic polypharmacy.
10. Discuss the two major hypotheses regarding second-generation antipsychotic mechanism of action, and give an example of a drug with each mechanistic approach.
11. Compare the side effect profiles of antipsychotics, and apply this information to the selection of an appropriate antipsychotic regimen for an individual patient.
12. Recommend a treatment plan for a patient with Parkinson’s symptoms secondary to a first-generation antipsychotic, secondary to a second-generation antipsychotic.
14. Evaluate a patient profile of a patient with schizophrenia and co-occurring general medical disorders for potential drug interactions.
15. Outline a pharmacotherapeutic treatment plan for a patient with schizophrenia in acute exacerbation, including appropriate monitoring and followup.