Variables that Modify the Success of Prescription Medication Interventions for Families with ASD
Overview

Sample Patient Cases
Assessment Questions
How medications are used
Time course of medication treatments
Co-Morbidity
Sample Patient Cases – answers
Assessment Questions - answers
Outline

- Success – Definition?
- Medication
  - Dose
  - Dependence and Tolerance
  - Interactions and side effects
- Age / Time
  - Puberty
- Co-morbidity
Learning Objectives
Participants Should be familiar with...

- Adequate Dose and Optimal Dose
- Adequate Duration
- Treatment Algorithms
- Short and long term side effects
- Partial benefit and “baseline”
- Anticipated problems associated with a therapeutic BENEFIT from
  - Reduced anxiety
  - Improved attention
  - Improved expressive language
Sample Patient Cases

- 8 year old male whose Adderall stopped working
- 5 year old female who had severe, prolonged rage in response to stimulant medications
- 13 year old male who got manic (talkative, pushing limits, risk taking) on an antidepressant
- 10 year old female on 4 medications, none are working, considering stopping everything
Assessment Questions

- Answers at the end of presentation
A 6 year old patient is treated with Risperdal for behavioral outbursts and self-stimulatory behaviors. The patient improves but when seen at 2 week and 6 week follow-up has gained 8 then 15 pounds. The patient’s family report better behavior overall but more struggles around trying to limit the patient’s appetite for junk foods.

The patient and family should wait a few more weeks for this possible side effect to diminish?

- True
- False
Assessment Question 2

- In general, patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders should be treated with the single psychotropic medication that best treats the majority of their symptoms
  - True
  - False
Assessment Question 3

- Younger children should first be treated with supplements and diet changes. There is no risk in waiting until they are older to use psychotropic medications
  - True
  - False