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Perioperative Management of Psychotropics

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Introduction: About half of the patients undergoing surgery is chronically medicated and a significant percentage of them is treated with psychotropic drugs. Therefore, it is important to focus on psychiatric medication during the perioperative period in order to decrease the risk of intra- and postoperative complications.

Objectives and Aims: This review aims to develop updated guidelines on perioperative management of psychotropic drugs in patients undergoing elective surgery.

Methods: Review of literature collected from online medical databases under the issue.

Results: The literature collected revealed mostly non-systematic reviews, uncontrolled trials and case reports. Considering factors related to duration/extent of surgical intervention, physical status of the patient receiving the intervention, type of anesthesia/drug interaction and route of administration of medicines, the authors issue recommendations on the management of the following drug classes: mood stabilizers; antidepressants; antipsychotics; drugs used in the treatment of anxiety disorders; psychostimulant drugs and drugs used in the treatment of opioid dependence.

Conclusions: Knowledge of about the management of psychotropic drugs around the surgery is of great importance for psychiatrists working in liaison services as well as for all medical doctors leading with surgical patients, namely surgeons and anesthetists. Following the recommendations yielded by this review will allow professionals to take preventive actions and thus decreasing risks regarding psychiatric patients undergoing surgery.