

Medications and Seizure Threshold

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Certain medications can lower the seizure threshold and should be used cautiously or avoided in patients with a history of seizures.

Risk of seizure can be further increased if:

- The medication is taken in combination with a medication that inhibits their metabolism, resulting in higher concentrations of the medication in the body.
- The patient has underlying liver or renal disease and is unable to eliminate the medication properly.
- The medication is taken with alcohol.
- The medication is taken with multiple medications that have the potential to lower the seizure threshold.
- Other factors that can contribute to lowering the seizure threshold besides medications include: older age, illicit drug use, herbs and supplements, and abrupt withdrawal from certain medications or chronic alcohol use.

Medication Category	Specific Examples
Analgesics	Tramadol (Ultram), Tapentadol (Nucynta) Meperidine (Demerol) Fentanyl (Duragsic)
Antibiotics	Imipenem Penicillins Cefepime Fluoroquinolones (eg Ciprofloxacin) Isoniazid Linezolid
Antidepressants	Bupropion (Wellbutrin) Tricyclics (Imipramine) SSRIs/SNRIs (do not increase risk when used at therapeutic doses, but may increase risk at toxic doses)
Antipsychotics	Clozapine (higher risk than most other antipsychotics) Haldol Olanzapine
Decongestants	Phenylephrine Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed)
Hypoglycemics	Any diabetic agent that can cause hypoglycemia
MAOI's	Rasagiline, Selegiline
Pulmonary	Theophylline
Stimulants	Amphetamines Methylphenidate (Ritalin)

**This is not an all-inclusive list, but includes those medications commonly seen in LTC.

Did You Know?

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References:

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