

## SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SSRI)

- to overcome shortcomings of first generation antidepressants.
- 1<sup>st</sup> line drugs in depression & allowed their extensive use in anxiety, phobias, panic, OCD & related disorders.
- Devoid of  $\alpha$  adrenergic blocking action.
- Gastrointestinal side effects prominent.
- Interfere with ejaculation or orgasm.
- Because of freedom from psychomotor & cognitive impairment, SSRI are preferred over TCA for prophylaxis of recurrent depression.
- Inhibit transporter (SERT)  $\rightarrow$  block reuptake of 5-HT into the neuron  $\rightarrow$  increase the availability of 5-HT at receptors in the CNS & enhance serotonergic activity.

- SSRI inhibits metabolism of ~~an~~ <sup>a</sup> no. of drugs such as TCA, antipsychotics,  $\beta$  blockers & increase their plasma levels.
- SSRI are preferred over TCA because of
  - ↳ better tolerability
  - ↳ less side effects
  - ↳ longer duration of action
- Uses:
  - Antidepressant
  - Anxiety disorders
  - Obsessive compulsive disorders
  - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorders
  - Nocturnal enuresis.
  - Prophylaxis of migraine.
  - Atopic dermatitis
  - Premature ejaculation