

## 13.1. ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUGS

### 13.1.1. Introduction

Depression most commonly causes the effective disorders characterised by either depressed (depression) or elevated (mania) mood swings. Depression is the result of deficiency of amines (NA, 5HT, dopamine) etc.

Depression is of the following two types:

- 1) **Unipolar Depression:** In this type of depression, mood swings are always in the same direction.
- 2) **Bipolar Affective Disorder:** In this type, depression alters with mania. Mania is exactly the opposite of excessive enthusiasm and self-confident.

The **symptoms** of depression include sleep disturbance, feeling of guilt, ugliness, and loss of libido. A major **drawback** of depression is that it leads to tendency of attempting suicide.

Antidepressants are drugs which improve alertness and also result in an increased output of behaviour, i.e., they can remove or lessen various disorders in psychoemotional realm called as depressive syndrome in psycho-neurological practice.

### 13.1.2. Classification

Antidepressants are classified as follows:

- 1) **Reversible Inhibitors of MAO-A (RIMAs):** Moclobemide and Clorgyline.
- 2) **Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs):**
  - i) **NA + 5-HT Reuptake Inhibitors:** Imipramine, Amitriptyline, Trimipramine, Doxepin, Dothiepin, and Clomipramine.
  - ii) **Predominantly NA Reuptake Inhibitors:** Desipramine, Nortriptyline, Amoxapine, and Reboxetine.
- 3) **Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs):** Fluoxetine, Fluvoxamine, Paroxetine, Sertraline, Citalopram, and Escitalopram.
- 4) **Atypical Antidepressants:** Trazodone, Mianserin, Mirtazapine, Venlafaxine, Duloxetine, Tianeptine, Amineptine, and Bupropion.