

Sedative Encyclopedia Article

Sedative

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Sedative is a general term used to describe a number of drugs that decrease activity, moderate excitement, and have a calming effect. The primary use for these drugs is to reduce ANXIETY, but higher doses will usually cause sleep (a drug used primarily to cause sleep is called a *hypnotic*). Although the term *sedative* is still used, the drugs usually prescribed to produce this calming effect are BENZODIAZEPINES, which are more commonly known as antianxiety agents, or minor tranquilizers.

See Also

Barbiturates; Drug Types; Sedative-Hypnotic)

Bibliography

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