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Principles and Problems in Establishing the Efficacy of Psychotropic Agents
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Aims
Clinicians, investigators, industry, regulatory agencies, and the general public all are interested in safe and effective medications for the treatment of mental illness. All have a role to play in the development and proper utilization of these medications. Because these roles are overlapping and interrelated (but not identical, and because multiple pressures influence the roles played, it is not surprising that what constitutes "proof of efficacy" and how evidence of efficacy should be accumulated differs among those concerned with drug development. Unfortunately, clinical evaluation is not an exact science; there are no absolute answers, formulas, or clear procedures which can be routinely applied and be expected to give definitive answers with regard to efficacy or safety. This volume, as its title states, seeks explicitly to express the principles and problems involved in establishing the efficacy of psychotropic agents, circa 1970 (Preface, page 1).

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