

## Clinical prescribing guide

I enjoyed Dr. Henry A. Nasrallah's editorial ("3 Types of 'EBM': Which do you practice?" *Current Psychiatry*, April 2007, p. 15-16), which reminded me of a rough guide to clinical prescribing that I often refer to when teaching residents. According to a bell-shaped curve, approximately 80% of your patients should be on "normal" doses and medication combinations. However 10% should be on abnormally low or high doses, or an unusual combination of medications. If all your patients are on similar standard or FDA-approved doses, seek consultation.

Obviously, this guideline does not apply to clinicians working with atypical patient populations.

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### Dr. Nasrallah responds

*Dr. Thomas' dose distribution guideline would also correlate with the slow, regular, and rapid cytochrome metabolism found in the general population.*

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