



NeuRA

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BIPOLAR DISORDERS LIBRARY



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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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How are relationships impacted by bipolar disorder?

Mental illness can have an intrusive effect on personal relationships, social interactions and on libido. People with a mental illness may have difficulty forming and maintaining relationships, which may be a direct consequence of the disorder. Medications may also impact on sexual function.

What is the evidence for relationships?

Moderate quality evidence suggests increased rate of risky of sexual behaviors in people with bipolar disorder, particularly during manic episodes compared to patients to other psychiatric disorders.

Reviews authors report that the literature suggests people with bipolar disorder are more similar to controls than to other psychiatric patients in establishing and maintaining couple relationships. Studies of couples with one bipolar partner found decreased levels of sexual satisfaction associated with the diagnosis, varying levels of sexual interest across polarities, increased incidence of sexual dysfunction during depressive episodes, and disparate levels of satisfaction in general between patients and their partners.

For more information see the technical table



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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about bipolar disorder or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au.

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