



BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

November 2021

What is atomoxetine?

Atomoxetine is a norepinephrine (noradrenaline) reuptake inhibitor used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Studies on people with bipolar disorder show rates of comorbid ADHD range from 12.8% to 16%, which is higher than observed in the general population. Having both ADHD and bipolar disorder is associated with more severe symptoms and worse outcomes of both conditions, including earlier onset of bipolar disorder, more mood episodes, shorter inter-episodic phases, and generally, greater functional impairment.

What is the evidence for atomoxetine?

Low quality evidence is unable to properly determine any benefits of atomoxetine for people with comorbid ADHD and bipolar disorder.

Review authors conclude that atomoxetine could be effective in the treatment of ADHD symptoms in this population, however there is a small increased risk of manic switches and destabilisation of the mood disorder.

For more information see the technical table



NeuRA
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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.