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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

April 2019

How are obstetric complications related to risk of bipolar disorder?

Obstetric complications are a broad class of deviations from a normal course of events experienced during pregnancy, labour, delivery and the early neonatal period. Studies have attempted to investigate whether any deviation or combination of deviations are related to the subsequent development of bipolar disorder. Teasing out possible effects of obstetric complications is not simple because many other, and often unknown, contributing factors are most probably involved.

What is the evidence for obstetric complications as risk factors for bipolar disorder?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests a large effect of increased risk of bipolar disorder with gestational age under 32 weeks, and a medium-sized effect with gestational age between 32 and 36 weeks. Low birth weight (<2500g), accompanied by gestational age under 37 weeks may also increase the risk in female, but not male, offspring. A medium-sized effect was found for planned caesarean. There were no associations between bipolar disorder and emergency caesarean, gestational age, apgar score, birth presentation, birth type, uterine bleeding or induced labour.

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.