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## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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### What are pervasive developmental disorders?

Pervasive developmental disorders are a group of conditions that are characterised by abnormal development in social interactions, communication, behavioural flexibility and repetitive patterns of behaviour and activities. These are core features of autism and are usually apparent by the age of 2 to 4 years. Autism involves impaired socialisation, poor communication and behavioural inflexibility, whereas Asperger's syndrome involves an absence of an intellectual disability. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified shares the socialisation symptoms of autism but allows for atypical presentations.

Pervasive developmental disorders affect up to 0.5% of individuals and may co-occur in people with bipolar disorder. Such comorbid conditions may influence treatment and so it is important to have an accurate diagnosis and understanding of the prevalence and outcomes of having both disorders.

### What is the evidence for comorbid pervasive developmental disorders?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests that the co-occurrence of autism spectrum and bipolar disorders is between 7% and 19%.

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](http://neura.edu.au).