



## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

November 2021

### What is asenapine?

The treatment of bipolar disorder is complex due to the presence of varying configurations of symptoms in patients. The primary treatments for bipolar disorder are pharmacological, and often involve second generation antipsychotic drugs, such as asenapine. Based on its high affinity for serotonin receptors, asenapine has been proposed as a treatment for bipolar disorder.

### What is the evidence for asenapine as a treatment for bipolar disorder?

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests small to medium-sized effects of greater improvement in mania and depression symptoms with asenapine monotherapy than with placebo. However, there were more extrapyramidal side effects, somnolence, dizziness, sedation, blood glucose, and weight gain with asenapine.

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests no differences between asenapine monotherapy and olanzapine monotherapy for mania symptoms. There was no analysis of depression symptoms. There was more dizziness and parkinsonism with asenapine, and more weight gain and higher prolactin levels with olanzapine.

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.*

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