



NeuRA

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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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What are antecedents?

Antecedents, such as behavioural disturbances and psychopathology, are deviations in development that may become evident during childhood or adolescence. The presence of these deviations may foreshadow the later development of bipolar disorder, however most children who exhibit these antecedents do not develop the disorder. Studies exploring antecedents are ideally based on representative, population-based samples that follow the group from birth through childhood and adolescence to adulthood.

What is the evidence from long-term studies for behavioural disturbances and psychopathology as antecedents of bipolar disorder?

Moderate quality evidence suggests an increased risk of bipolar disorder in adulthood with a childhood history of attention problems (including ADHD), aggressive behaviour (but not irritability), internalising or externalising behaviour, social isolation, or peer rejection. There may also be an increased risk of bipolar disorder with prior conduct or oppositional defiant disorder, disruptive or criminal behaviour, impulsivity, or anxiety disorders (e.g. generalised, separation, panic, PTSD).

People with a history of mood swings, subclinical depression or mania, cyclothymic disorder, higher frequency and loading of depression, early onset of depression disorders or episodes, or psychotic symptoms (particularly if accompanied by depression), may also be at an increased risk of developing bipolar disorder.

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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