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## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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### What are cholinesterase inhibitors?

Cholinesterase inhibitors, or anti-cholinesterase, have been proposed as an additional therapy to standard treatments in an attempt to improve functional outcomes and treat symptoms that are not addressed by the other medications. Cholinesterase receptors are known to be involved in cognition, and the use of cholinesterase inhibitors has previously shown some efficacy for improving cognition in Alzheimer's disease. Aspects of cognition have also been shown to be impaired in bipolar disorder.

### What is the evidence for cholinesterase inhibitors?

There is only low quality evidence currently available from small trials that show no consistent improvements in symptoms or cognition in people with bipolar disorder with cholinesterase inhibitors donepezil or galantamine.

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).