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**BIPOLAR DISORDERS LIBRARY**

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## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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### What are antecedents?

Antecedents, including cognitive anomalies, are usually subtle 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 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 on cognitive anomalies as antecedents of bipolar disorder?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests a medium-sized effect of low IQ in childhood, particularly measured on attention and working memory scales, in people who developed bipolar disorder or mania in adulthood. However, this finding is not consistent across studies, and there is also evidence of a large association between high childhood IQ and mania in adulthood.

For more information see the technical table



**NeuRA**  
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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).

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