



# NeuRA

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## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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### How is cognition relevant to relatives of people with bipolar disorder?

Cognitive deficits have been reported in people with bipolar disorder that are present early in the course of the disorder and may be stable over time. Relatives may show attenuated signs of cognitive deficits. If cognitive deficits found in people with bipolar disorder are also found in their relatives, this may be suggestive of an underlying genetic basis.

### What is the evidence for cognition in relatives of people with bipolar disorder?

High quality evidence suggests small to medium-sized effects of poorer processing speed, verbal fluency, executive functioning (speed tasks), and social cognition in relatives, with no differences in executive functioning (accuracy), IQ, verbal memory, visual memory, working memory or sustained attention, when compared to controls.

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests small to medium-sized effects of better IQ, verbal memory, working memory, processing speed, verbal fluency, and accuracy of executive functioning in relatives of people with bipolar disorder compared to relatives of people with schizophrenia, with no differences in executive functioning (on speeded tasks), visual memory or sustained attention.

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).