

BIPOLAR DISORDER Factsheet

November 2021

What is bipolar disorder in older patients?

Older people with bipolar disorder constitute between 5 and 20% of patients presenting for acute treatment at geriatric psychiatry services. Although the psychopathologic manifestations of mania are similar in older and younger patients, response to treatment can be extremely variable.

What is the evidence for pharmaceutical treatments for older people with bipolar disorder?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests lithium may be effective and well-tolerated in older patients with bipolar disorder.



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.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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