



BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

April 2019

How is irritable bowel syndrome related to bipolar disorder?

People with bipolar disorder often have increased rates of co-occurring disorders, including irritable bowel syndrome. Irritable bowel syndrome is characterised by abdominal pain, bloating, and disturbances in bowel habits, without significant organic causes. Some people with irritable bowel syndrome also have bloody stools, weight loss, and fever. There is currently no consensus regarding clinical presentations, diagnosis, management or pathophysiology of irritable bowel syndrome.

What is the evidence for irritable bowel syndrome?

High quality evidence suggests a medium-sized increased rate of bipolar disorder in people with irritable bowel syndrome compared to people without irritable bowel syndrome.

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.