



# NeuRA

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## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

July 2020

### What is licarbazepine?

Licarbazepine is an anticonvulsant used primarily in the treatment of epilepsy. Anticonvulsant medications influence the actions of neurotransmitters leading to a decrease in brain cell (neuron) excitability.

### What is the evidence for licarbazepine as a treatment for bipolar disorder?

Moderate quality evidence suggests licarbazepine is less effective than tamoxefin or risperidone for acute mania symptoms. There may be more discontinuation of treatment with licarbazepine than with olanzapine. There were no significant differences in acute mania symptoms between treatment with licarbazepine and placebo or other medications.

For more information see the technical table

### 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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*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.*