

BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

How is maternal diet during pregnancy related to risk for bipolar disorder?

Consumption of a balanced diet during pregnancy aids the development of a healthy fetus which may act as a preventative factor for the development of bipolar disorder in adulthood. In contrast, consumption of substances or poor diet during pregnancy can be harmful to the developing fetus.

What is the evidence for maternal diet during pregnancy?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests a medium-sized effect of increased risk of bipolar disorder in offspring of mothers who smoked during pregnancy. There were no associations between alcohol or caffeine use during pregnancy and bipolar disorder in the offspring.

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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.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) Foundation T 1300 888 019 F +61 2 9399 1082 ABN 57 008 429 961 Margarete Ainsworth Building Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031 PO Box 1165 Randwick Sydney NSW 2031 Australia