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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

November 2021

What is mode of administration?

Mode of administration with reference to bipolar disorder usually refers to oral or injection administration. Studies have shown that people with bipolar disorder can relapse due to lack of adherence to prescribed medications. Long-acting injectable medications are a treatment option for those who are not adhering to, or do not remember to take, their prescribed oral preparations. This topic assesses whether injectable medications are more effective than placebo or oral preparations for treating symptoms of bipolar disorder.

What is the evidence for mode of administration for people with bipolar disorder?

High quality evidence suggests a small to medium-sized effect of fewer relapses with long-acting injection second generation antipsychotics than with placebo, with less all-cause treatment discontinuation.

Moderate to low quality evidence found no differences in relapse rates or all-cause discontinuation between long-acting injection second generation antipsychotics and oral antipsychotics or treatment as usual, although prolactin-related adverse events were found less often with long-acting injection second generation antipsychotics.

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.