



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

BIPOLAR DISORDERS LIBRARY

Image: ©Tashatuvango – stock.adobe.com

BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

February 2022

What are movement disorders?

Catatonia was originally categorised as a subtype of schizophrenia, but it is found in people with other medical, neurological, and psychiatric disorders, including bipolar disorder. Catatonia is characterised by repetitive non-goal-directed movements or goal-directed movements that are executed in an idiosyncratic way, often affecting gait. Other forms of catatonia include immobility, mutism, staring, and rigidity. Tardive dyskinesia is a 'hyper-kinetic' (excessive movement) disorder, characterised by jerky, involuntary movements, usually of the face and/or limbs. Parkinsonism is another common movement disorder associated with schizophrenia and is a 'hypo-kinetic' (reduced movement) disorder, characterised by slowness of movement and rigidity. These movement disorders are associated with antipsychotic medications but can arise independent of medication status.

What is the evidence for movement disorders in people with bipolar disorder?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds the prevalence of abnormal involuntary movements in people with bipolar disorder is between 7% and 14%, while catatonic symptoms are found in around 20% of patients.

For more information see the technical table



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

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.