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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

October 2021

How do parental psychological factors relate to risk for bipolar disorder?

Exposure to parental psychological factors in utero and after birth may be linked to risk of bipolar disorder in the offspring. However, studies investigating the relationship between parental psychological factors and bipolar disorder have yielded inconsistent findings.

What is the evidence for parental psychological factors during pregnancy?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests an increased risk of bipolar disorder in the offspring of mothers who were exposed to war stress during pregnancy. There was no association with exposure to maternal bereavement or famine.

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

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