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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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What is risperidone?

The treatment of bipolar disorder is complex due to the presence of varying configurations of symptoms in patients. The primary treatments for bipolar disorder are pharmacological, and often involve second generation antipsychotic drugs, such as risperidone. Based on its affinity for dopamine and serotonin receptors, risperidone has been proposed as a treatment for bipolar disorder.

What is the evidence for risperidone as treatment for bipolar disorder?

Symptoms

Moderate quality evidence suggests small to medium-sized effects of greater improvement in acute mania symptoms with risperidone than with placebo, aripiprazole, lithium, valproate, lamotrigine, licarbazepine, or topiramate, although there was greater improvement with tamoxefin than with risperidone. Moderate to high quality evidence suggests small to medium-sized effects of greater improvement in depression symptoms and better response to treatment with quetiapine than with risperidone.

Relapses

Moderate quality evidence suggests a small effect of fewer relapses (any) with risperidone than with placebo.

Side effects

Moderate quality evidence suggests more somnolence and all cause treatment discontinuation with risperidone than with placebo. There was also less all-cause discontinuation with topiramate than with risperidone and more switching to mania with quetiapine than with risperidone.

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests greater increases in prolactin levels with risperidone than with lithium or valproate.

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

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.