



NeuRA

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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

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How is substance use related to bipolar disorder?

Various lines of evidence suggest an association between substance use and psychiatric disorders. In particular, substance use during adolescence or early adult life is now thought to be one of a number of environmental stressors that interact with genetic factors to predispose an individual to later bipolar disorder.

What is the evidence for substance use as a risk factor for bipolar disorder?

Moderate quality evidence suggests a medium to large effect of increased risk of bipolar disorder with prior cannabis use, and a small to medium-sized effect of increased risk of bipolar disorder with prior opioid use.

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests medium-sized to large effects of increased risk of bipolar disorder with prior cocaine or tranquiliser use.

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.