



# NeuRA

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## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

November 2021

### Why switch medications?

Achieving an optimum pharmacological response may require switching medications. Reasons for switching include individual differences in response, sensitivity to side effects, and peculiarities of bipolar disorder such as changes in mood over time.

### What is the evidence for switching medications?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests switching to lithium from quetiapine due to having had an affective event resulted in less time to recurrence of a mood episode (particularly depression) compared to patients who stayed on quetiapine. Switching to oral olanzapine from risperidone long acting injections found time to recurrence of any mood episode was significantly longer with olanzapine, particularly for depressive episodes.

Low quality evidence is unable to determine any benefits of switching between other medications.

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](http://neura.edu.au).

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