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BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

October 2021

How are optical alterations related to bipolar disorder?

People with bipolar disorder may show increased rates of co-occurring conditions. These can include short-sightedness (impaired long distance signt) and long-sightedness (impaired near distance sight), as well as reductions in the peripapillary retinal nerve fibre layer, and in macular thickness and volume.

What is the evidence for optical alterations in people with bipolar disorder?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds a large reduction in overall peripapillary retinal nerve fibre layer thickness in people with bipolar disorder, particularly in the inferior retinal nerve fibre layers.



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.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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